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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PRICE of Georgia).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 18, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM PRICE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) for 5 minutes.

THROUGH FOGGY LONDON TOWN THE SUN WAS SHINING EVERYWHERE

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express sorrow and solidarity for the London subway and the bus bombing of Thursday, July 7.

I also wish to express my incredulity at the continued brazenness of the pockets of terrorists who attack noncombatants, civilians, and commuters going about their everyday lives.

Certainly, the murder of civilians for political statement did not just begin on September 11, 2001. Nearly 20 years ago, my colleagues, October 1985, four Palestinian terrorists shot Leon Klinghoffer, a retired disabled appliance manufacturer of New York. He was peacefully celebrating his wedding anniversary on a cruise ship on the *Achille Lauro*.

They then threw him overboard in his wheelchair. He was still alive. And his wife, Marilyn, watched in horror as did all civilized people.

Today's terrorists are pursuing a distinct route. They are increasingly attacking civilians in symbolic targets, such as those of economic importance, or venues of bustling life like public transportation or entertainment, like nightclubs. From New York, Arlington, and Pennsylvania, to Morocco, Istanbul, Bali, Madrid, London, and this week in Kusadasi, a popular beach resort in Turkey, where a bomb on a tour bus killed five and wreaked havoc.

Indeed, this approach of disrupting commerce has been advocated by bin Ladin in his recent recorded speeches. In his videotaped speech to the American people last November, on the eve of the United States elections, he boasted of ''The success of the bleeding until bankruptcy plan.''

Well, they are failing because the markets are resilient. Markets rebounded quickly from morning jitters after the London Thursday terrorist bombing. By week's end, stock markets had more than recovered from the initial sell-off, while oil prices fell back below $60. The markets had become inured to the effects of the terrorist attacks.

Fundamentalist terrorists are slipping in combating other so-called evils to their way of thinking. First, they think a woman's place is under wraps, both physically, financially, and figuratively. Well, today women are prominent leaders in two formerly oppressed nations. Dr. Massouda Jalal is Afghanistan's Minister of Women's Affairs. In Iraq that position is held by Narmin Othman.

Another defeat for terrorists? Some of them decry technological innovation as instruments of consumerism and capitalism. And yet even as the debris fell on Londoners, the images of the carnage were captured immediately by bystanders and even victims themselves on cell phone cameras. This is happening in Communist China too, where it is even harder for autocrats to quell protests, as the dissenters can broadcast it around the world. The message to take from this technology exposes, shares and liberates all of us.

Why do they harm us? Maim us? Obviously they dislike our way of life, our freedoms, our opportunities our joys, our liberties and our freedom of religion, and they kill with no particular target. On September 11, the murders of World Trade Center employees and visitors took the lives of numerous nationalities, ethnic groups and religious followers.

As London's mayor, Ken Livingstone, said, ''The London bombings were aimed at ordinary working class Londoners, black and white, Muslin and Christians, Hindu and Jew, young and old, it was indiscriminate slaughter.''

How bittersweet that just the day before, they celebrated the selection of their city to host the Olympic Games, the very showcase of multiethnic excellence and talents.

In the days last week, I recalled a song by the great American composers, the Gershwin Brothers. The song appeared in the 1937 film, A Damsel in Distress. The song is by Americans, the movie and screenplay is a product of notable campy British writer, P.G. Wodehouse.

What a delightful combination of American and English artists. The song is A Foggy Day in London Town. I thought it was appropriate and I will give it this afternoon in recognition of the pain that they feel in London. ''A foggy day in London Town had me low,

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had me down. I viewed the morning with much alarm, the British Museum, had lost its charm. How long I wondered could this thing last, but the age of miracles had not passed. For suddenly, I saw you there, and through foggy London Town, the sun was shining everywhere.''

I offer to you, our ally, our partner, our friend, as long as you in England and we in the United States continue to show strength and resolve against enemies of our peace and prosperity and our freedom, both on our soil, and in foggy London Town, and lands of all people, the sun is shining and will be shining everywhere.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 37 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Often when we are called to prayer, Lord, we bow our heads and close our eyes. We do this out of reverence and close the windows of this world to focus our attention on the spiritual, which cannot be seen.

But when Your spirit quickens our spirit within, Your holiness penetrates our being and illumines everything around us. For this reason, prayer is truly an awakening. Our minds and hearts are lifted and we become more aware of sin and grace within us and around us.

Prayer itself helps us face the tasks of the day and the problems to be solved with new determination and the gift of creation of new possibilities. Therefore, send Your spirit of prayer upon the House of Representatives today, this week, and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OFFICER ANDREW PHILLIPS

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Marietta police officer Andrew Phillips. On July 13 he received the National Public Safety Medal of Valor from President Bush at a White House ceremony. Officer Phillips is the first officer from Georgia to receive the award, the Nation's highest accolade for bravery.

The award was created by the U.S. Justice Department, and it honors public safety workers who show exceptional courage in the line of duty.

Officer Phillips was recognized for saving the lives of two fellow officers last year after they were shot upon entering a house with a search warrant. Instead of retreating, Phillips returned gunfire until the man threw down his weapon and surrendered.

As an officer on the Narcotics Task Force, Officer Phillips is the epitome of the kind of courageous and valiant men and women we want on our police forces. I thank him for going to work every day and putting his life on the line for all of us. It is because of his type of heroic actions that we all feel protected in our communities.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to say Officer Phillips is from Georgia's Sixth District. He is a leader in our community, and I am thrilled to honor his service and his accomplishments. Congratulations, Officer Phillips.

THE PEOPLE OF ALEXANDER COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA HAVE PLENTY TO CELEBRATE

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Paragon Films, Incorporated, which is scheduled to open a new 40,000-square foot manufacturing facility in Alexander County, North Carolina, in October.

The company, which is the sixth largest manufacturer of stretch film products in America, will create 25 new jobs during its first 2 years of operation and will invest $10 million into the county. Paragon Films predicts that within 8 to 10 years it will produce $100 million in revenue and employ 150 people.

Madam Speaker, I am confident that Paragon Films is making a wise investment and am pleased they are bringing a high-quality company with great career opportunities to the hard-working people in Alexander County.

I am also impressed by the values of this company. Paragon plans to establish a Paragon for Christ trust fund shortly after opening to help reach those who are in need. The company's president and CEO, Mike Baab, said, ''We take care of people. If your focus is on the almighty dollar, then you lose sight of the people.''

Madam Speaker, the people of Alexander County have plenty to celebrate.

PASSING CAFTA IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO

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

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, this morning I heard on National Public Radio a report of a survey, a bipartisan survey, that was conducted in which people were saying that while they feel good about their own economic situation, they are less optimistic about the overall economy.

I think it is very important for us to note that the underlying figures that we have, as well as empirical evidence, show that we have a very strong, bold, and dynamic economy that has been brought about, in large part, due to the tax cuts proposed by President Bush and that we in this Republican Congress have implemented.

We now have an unemployment rate of 5 percent, which is lower than the average for the 1970s, the 1980s, and the 1990s; a 3.8 percent gross domestic product growth, and 146,000 jobs created in the last month. That is a number that has been continuing to grow, and we need to recognize that it has been our policies that have created that.

We have on the horizon a very important issue in the coming days that we are going to be voting on, and that is a market-opening opportunity for us with passage of the Central American Free Trade Agreement.

The world has access to the U.S. consumer market, Madam Speaker, and unfortunately, because of the tariff structure, and a tariff is a tax, we are unable to sell into other parts of the world. Ninety-four percent of the world's consumers are outside of our border.

We need to do everything we can to pass the CAFTA so that we, immediately upon implementation of it, will see 80 percent of our products get into these Central American countries tariff-free. It is the right thing for the American consumer, and it is the right thing for political stability in this hemisphere.

SOUTHWESTERN BREEDS FUTURE LEADERS

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, this weekend, I had a really wonderful opportunity. The Southwestern Company of Nashville, Tennessee, a company that I worked with through my college years and then as soon as I graduated from college, celebrated their 150th anniversary.

What we did was bring together alums of this great company for a reunion. We had a great time. Our focus was on the principles and the skills that Southwestern teaches that have not only made it a great company, but have also added to this country's free enterprise system.

We talked about how this is a company that builds character in young people. It builds the skills that are necessary to become entrepreneurs: tenacity, perseverance, self-reliance, vision, how to be self-reliant in your business, to be small business people, to build an understanding that hard work pays off, and that you should seek risk and the rewards that go with that risk.

This is all an understanding of free enterprise and how free enterprise works.

Madam Speaker, this Nation has the best, the greatest free enterprise system on the face of the planet. That is why we have seen 146,000 jobs created, we have had 25 consecutive months of economic growth, and unemployment is at near historic lows.

Madam Speaker, I commend the Southwestern Company, and I commend the small business people and entrepreneurs of this great Nation who build this free enterprise system.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 3 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 3 p.m.

□ 1500

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina) at 3 o'clock p.m.

RECOGNIZING 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF ESTABLISHMENT OF VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 361) recognizing the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the Veterans Administration on July 21, 1930.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 361

Whereas in the history of the United States, more than 48,000,000 citizen-soldiers have served the Nation in uniform, of whom more than 1,000,000 gave their lives as a consequence of their duties;

Whereas as of July 21, 2005, there are more than 25,000,000 living veterans;

Whereas the Nation's obligation to its veterans is encapsulated in the following words of President Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address, delivered on March 4, 1865, ''. . . to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan'';

Whereas on July 21, 1930, President Herbert Hoover issued an executive order creating a new agency, the Veterans Administration, to ''consolidate and coordinate Government activities affecting war veterans'';

Whereas on October 25, 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed into law the Department of Veterans Affairs Act (Public Law 100–527) under which, effective as of March 15, 1989, the Veterans Administration was established as an executive department and redesignated as the Department of Veterans Affairs, with the mission of providing Federal benefits to veterans and their families; and

Whereas in 2005, the 230,000 employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs continue the tradition of their predecessors, caring for the Nation's veterans with dedication and compassion and upholding the high standards required of them as stewards of the public's gratitude to those veterans: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the Veterans' Administration; and

(2) acknowledges the achievements of the employees of the Veterans Administration and the Department of Veterans Affairs and commends them for their contributions to the Nation's veterans.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN).

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

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 361 recognizes the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the Veterans Administration, the forerunner of today's Department of Veterans Affairs, that will be observed on Thursday of this week.

Throughout the history of the United States, more than 48 million men and women have served America well and faithfully in military uniform. More than 1 million made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom, and 25 million veterans are living among us today. These men and women selflessly set aside their civilian lives to put on the uniform and serve us.

The Nation's obligation to its defenders is as old as the Nation itself. Thomas Jefferson noted in 1809 that ''the care of human life is the first and only legitimate object of good government.'' And in his second inaugural address in 1865, President Abraham Lincoln clearly expressed the obligation ''to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan.''

On July 21, 1930, pursuant to a congressional authorization, President Hoover issued an executive order to ''consolidate and coordinate Government activities affecting war veterans,'' creating the Veterans Administration. The new agency was charged with ensuring that America's veterans received the benefits and services they had earned from their military service.

The Department of Veterans Affairs was subsequently created from the Veterans Administration on March 15, 1989, when President Ronald Reagan signed P.L. 100–527, the Department of Veterans Affairs Act. Today, the 230,000 public servants of the Department of Veterans Affairs continue in the noble tradition of their predecessors to carry out the words of Jefferson and Lincoln by serving veterans and their families.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution would not only recognize the anniversary of the VA as an organization, but it would also acknowledge and commend the achievements and contributions of the men and women who have dedicated themselves to the mission of the VA. In war and in peace, they have always been there for our veterans to provide them the benefits, the care, and the support of a grateful country.

These are the men and women who man the phones at the call centers, work the claims, provide high-quality medical care, and keep the cemeteries looking like national shrines. They are the real VA, and too often we forget to thank them for their dedicated work.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) for his remarks, and I rise also in support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, 3 days from now the Department of Veterans Affairs, formerly called the Veterans Administration, will mark 7½ decades as a government agency. But the measure before us is not just to acknowledge a mere milestone of existence. On July 21, we will recognize 75 years of a consolidated, organized and formal national effort to carry out what I and many others believe is our most noble mission, to care for those, as Lincoln said, who have borne the battle and for their dependents and survivors. That is why we strongly support H. Res. 361.

More than half of the citizen soldiers who have ever served in uniform in the Nation's lifetime are living today. That is 25 million living veterans to whom we owe the greatest debt, our freedom for their sacrifices. This measure

serves to recognize the significance of this debt while acknowledging the agency that is responsible for administering the benefits and services intended to help repay it.

Many Americans might not realize that the Department of Veterans Affairs, its health care system and other programs, are in fact a national resource for all Americans, veterans and nonveterans alike. It is in fact a national treasure. Nationally, VA's health care system has become what one prestigious medical journal called ''a bright star'' within the U.S. health care industry.

With more than 1,300 sites of care, VA operates the largest integrated health care system in the county. VA facilities provide a broad spectrum of medical, surgical, and rehabilitative care. It manages the largest medical education and health professions training program in our country. Each year, about 83,000 health professionals are trained in our VA medical centers. More than half of the physicians practicing in the United States had some of their professional education in the VA health care system. In fact, three recipients of the Nobel Prize in medicine were VA doctors.

While providing high-quality health care to the Nation's veterans, VA also conducts an array of research on some of the most difficult challenges facing medical science today. They have become a world leader in such research areas as aging, women's health, AIDS, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other mental health issues.

VA researchers played key roles in developing the cardiac pacemaker, the CT scan, and improvements in artificial limbs. The first liver transplant in the world was performed by a VA surgeon researcher. VA clinical trials established the effectiveness of new treatments for tuberculosis, schizophrenia, and high blood pressure. In fact, my brother, an anesthesiologist, participated in one of the first open heart surgeries in the world at the VA Medical Center in LaJolla, CA.

We know that VA research has improved medical care for veterans and the Nation. It also has a fourth critical mission: it serves as a backup to the Department of Defense during national emergencies and is a Federal support organization during major disasters.

The VA also helps repay the debt to our veterans by administering disability compensation to those disabled by injury or disease incurred or aggravated during their active military service, and pension benefits to veterans with low incomes who are permanently and totally disabled. Spouses, children, and parents of deceased veterans also receive these benefits.

There is one group, however, that does not receive these benefits: those who fought for us during World War II who were Filipinos and drafted into our armed services. They fought a great battle. They had to surrender after the Battle of Bataan and Corregidor, but they slowed up the Japanese advance for many months and allowed America to prepare. When General MacArthur returned to the Philippines, it was the actions of the Filipino guerillas that had weakened the Japanese forces there and allowed us to regain the Pacific and finally win World War II. We are still struggling to give those veterans, whom we promised benefits when they were drafted in the 1940s, their benefits today. Sixty years later, they have still not achieved equity. We will continue to try to do so.

Since 1944 when the first GI bill began, more than 21 million veterans, servicemembers and family members, have received $72 billion in GI benefits for education and training. That number includes 7.5 million veterans from World War II, including my father. We bought the first home we could afford to live in in 1950 because of the GI bill that my father was entitled to after his service in World War II. We had the American Dream. For the first time after living with relatives, we had our own home, and we were able to move on with education and achieve what we all call the American Dream.

Not only veterans from World War II, but 2½ million veterans from the Korean War and over 8 million post-Korean and Vietnam era veterans, plus active duty personnel. The VA has also assisted in the education of more than 700,000 dependents of veterans whose deaths or total disabilities were service connected.

The GI bill has helped veterans purchase homes. With a total of $866 billion for loan guarantees, many people have called the GI bill the most important piece of legislation ever passed due to its impact on the economic, cultural, industrial, educational, and moral framework of our society.

Mr. Speaker, the VA is a strategic, vital national resource in responding to the needs of veterans and also in responding to the needs of the Nation.

Established in 1930 by President Hoover, the Veterans Administration officially became a member of the President's cabinet on March 16, 1989. It was at that precise moment, as our renowned and beloved former chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, Sonny Montgomery from Mississippi remarked, that veterans were allowed to enter the front door of the White House rather than being relegated to standing hat in hand at the back door.

Mr. Speaker, it is right that we honor the institution, its purpose, and its staff members who provide so much care to our veterans on this day.

However, I would have preferred the cash rather than the proclamation. It is regretful that as we commemorate the establishment of the VA, we should be in the midst of a battle to restore adequate funding. Veterans were given the opportunity to approach the front door of the White House. Today, the Office of Management Budget and that same White House have chosen to turn off the lights, draw the curtains, and pretend no one is ringing the bell. Begrudgingly, in the last 3 weeks after the revelation that VA health care had been severely underfunded, it has sent two requests to Capitol Hill for supplemental funding which still shows that the OBM and this administration cannot or do not want to comprehend the severity of the shortfall that is denying thousands upon thousands the timely health care that they deserve. This is a strain on the VA system, and it must be fixed quickly.

Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would agree to a unanimous consent request, I would move that we add $3 billion of supplemental funding right here to his resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair is constrained not to entertain such a unanimous consent request.

Mr. FILNER. Why is that, we cannot help our veterans on this day we are agreeing to a resolution honoring them?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The power to modify the motion rests with the proponent of the motion.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, once again it is out of order to help the veterans of our Nation.

While this resolution, H. Res. 361, is the right thing to do, a more appropriate action would have been for this body, this Congress and this administration, to provide the resources necessary for the 230,000 dedicated employees of the department to do their jobs right and keep this bright star shining without having to struggle to meet the needs of all veterans who seek to enter VA's doors.

Hopefully, that day will come soon with passage of full funding for veterans programs, budget reforms that prevent a recurrence of the current emergencies, and what we would call ''guaranteed funding'' for veterans rather than have them depend on a discretionary battle every year in this Congress.

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS).

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and am delighted to be here to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the modern-day Department of Veterans Affairs, and I am here to speak in a positive way on this matter.

I think it has been brought out earlier that it was President Hoover who created the VA by signing executive order 5398. This implemented the legislation. But when we look at this, it did not just begin there. This Nation has always provided the most comprehensive package of benefits and care to our men and women who have served, better, I believe, than any other nation when we look at all of the details.

Reflecting on our Nation's priorities, we have been caring for and compensating our veterans since before we were even the United States. A lot of people do not realize this. Our veterans

benefits began as early as our budding Nation did. In 1636, when the Pilgrims of Plymouth Colony were at war with the Pequot Indians, the Pilgrims simply passed a law that members of the colony would provide support for disabled soldiers. We were helping our disabled veterans even back in 1636.

Then the Continental Congress of 1776 offered pensions for soldiers who would become disabled fighting British Redcoats in the Revolutionary War. Lacking both authority and funding, the Continental Congress left it to the different colonies to make good on the promise, and colonies in place offered grants of public land to supplement the promised pensions.

After the U.S. Constitution was ratified in 1789, the very first Congress assumed the responsibility of paying veterans benefits even way back then. However, we still had no Federal benefits program for veterans. Individual States and communities were doing the job rather than the Federal Government. They provided medical and hospital care to veterans in the Republic's early stages. The Civil War ended in 1865 and resulted in almost 2 million veterans on the rolls. Of course being a Federal program, only veterans who had fought for the Union forces were eligible at that time.

□ 1515

In 1958 Congress pardoned and extended federal benefits to the sole remaining Confederate veteran. That is a little known fact that I think we should be reminded about.

Mr. Speaker, as our Nation fought for freedom and defense in more wars, so grew our obligations of course to meet more needs for our growing veteran population, resulting in institutional care for disabled and indigent veterans of the Civil War, Indian War, Spanish-American War, and Mexican border wars.

Of course, by the 1920s various benefits were administered by three separate government agencies: the Veterans Bureau, the Bureau of Pensions of the Interior Department, and the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. Therefore, in 1930 Congress authorized the President to ''consolidate and coordinate government activities affecting war veterans.'' And that, of course, brings us to the resolution of today.

But it still does not end in 1930: In 1973 we added a National Cemetery system. And on March 15, 1989, President Bush One, George H.W. Bush, was the individual who elevated the Veterans Administration to Cabinet status. No one before him had thought about it. He was the one who initiated it. And it was renamed, of course, the Department of Veterans Affairs. It is third largest and, of course, the most important of the President's Cabinet departments, in my opinion.

For myself I am honored to serve on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs throughout my tenure here in Congress, almost 16½ years. I have had the opportunity to serve our Nation's veterans as Chair of the Health Subcommittee in the 105th and 106th Congress, and, of course, I am proud to be a veteran myself and the son of a World War II veteran who fought in Iwo Jima. But, above all, I am here today to register gratitude for the 48 million citizen-soldiers who have served this Nation in uniform, 1 million of whom have given the ultimate sacrifice of their lives. So I want to show my admiration for the 230,000 employees who work diligently at the Department of Veterans Affairs. In my congressional district and in the surrounding area, I am proud of the VA employees at the Malcom Randall VA Medical Center; the Community Outpatient Clinics in Leesburg, Ocala, and soon, Summerfield; those who assist our veterans with processing disabilities and education and survivor benefits; and four, last but not least, the National Cemetery employees at Bushnell and soon in Jacksonville, Florida. Each and every one embodies the commitment and compassion that President Abraham Lincoln called ''him that shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan.''

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

I appreciate the glowing words of the gentlemen from Florida and from Arkansas. We heard glowing words on Memorial Day; on the July 4 holiday; and I guarantee that we will hear them on Veterans Day, November 11. But as I said earlier, I think the veterans and the employees whom we honor today with this resolution would much prefer the cash; that is, adequate funding for the mission in which they are embarked upon. We simply have not done that.

This Congress over the last 3 or 4 years has vastly increased the amount of money to be given to the Veterans Administration. But the demands have increased at an even faster rate: the aging of our veterans, the new diseases that we find like hepatitis C, the new approaches that we have to such disorders as post-traumatic stress disorder, the increasing number of people affected, and inflation, of course, running at 13 to 14 percent a year. The demands have far outpaced the appropriations, even though we have done better over the past decade.

When OMB Director Joshua Bolten testified just last week at the House Committee on the Budget, he actually said that the VA had more money appropriated than was actually needed. Can you imagine that, Mr. Speaker? With waiting lists for months and months and months for services are common, with vacancies that are not being filled, with maintenance and construction efforts delayed for years and years, with adjudication claims taking several years, he says that we had more money in the VA than was actually needed. Let me quote him directly: ''The appropriations have exceeded the VA medical care needs in the preceding 3 years by over half a billion dollars in each of the preceding 3 years.'' That is a completely irresponsible statement, and if the head of OMB is saying that, we know why this administration is not adequately funding our VA system. To say that we have half a billion more than we need over the last 3 years in each of those last 3 years is irresponsible and not consonant with the facts that we know. How can we say we have as much money as we need when we turn people away from the VA system? We have people now not being encouraged to register because we have no place for them. In my City of San Diego, the VA Medical Center has almost 1,000 people on the waiting list. People wait for a year for a dental appointment; 3, 4, 5, 6 months for other kinds of appointments. We cannot get the nursing care that we need. We cannot do the construction efforts that are needed and the rehabilitation of our aging hospitals and other clinics. To say that we have more money than we need is completely ridiculous, and I would hope that the administration would apologize to the veterans of this Nation for that statement.

We have been engaged in the Congress on the floor, in the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, on the Committee on Appropriations, on the Committee on the Budget for many weeks trying to find what the chairman of our Committee on Veterans' Affairs calls ''the right number.'' The right number. How do we fund the VA health care system? And we had the Secretary of the VA system testify to our committee just a couple weeks ago that it was because they had a bad mathematical model. They are using an outdated mathematical model. It did not account for the war that was going on. I asked for the gentleman's resignation because of that. We do not know a war is going on; so we have a bad mathematical model. That is the second most irresponsible statement I have heard this week, Mr. Bolten's being the most.

In fact, we know how to define the needs of our veterans. We know how to get a right number. Every year all of the veterans groups in America come together to come up with what is called the Independent Budget, a budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs that is arrived at through a very professional, technical, mathematical way to say here is what we need for our veterans. We have underfunded our veterans' care, not overfunded it, as Mr. Bolten says, every year that I have been in this Congress. We have tried to add over time literally billions of dollars that we have short-changed the VA. This year Democrats have tried at every level, whether it was on the Committee on Appropriations, the authorizing committee which I sit on, the floor of this House, the Committee on the Budget, we have tried to bring up motions to adequately fund this year's and last and next year's budget. Every time we were rebuffed by the majority

party. When I tried to bring up the Independent Budget on the authorizing committee, they said we cannot have a vote on that. When they tried to bring it up on the Committee on Appropriations, they were voted down. When they tried to bring it up in the Senate, it was voted down. When I tried to add 3 billion dollars to the health care budget, as I just did earlier today with a unanimous consent request, I was ruled out of order, and when I challenged the ruling of the Chair, on a straight party-line vote we were defeated. I was ruled out of order because I tried to give adequate funding to our health care budget in the VA, adequate funding to the veterans whom we are praising so profusely in today's resolution.

That is wrong, Mr. Speaker, and now the administration has been found out. The Secretary had to announce that they were first $1 billion short, now $1.3 billion. They are still searching for the right number. And yet when the Senate actually voted to put $1.5 billion additional funds in this year's budget, fiscal year 2005, we could have given the veterans that money immediately and had that resolution signed by the President several weeks ago. But what did the chairman of our committee do? He said no, we only can put in $975 million. That is the right number. So this House passed one number, the Senate passed another number, and we still do not have adequate funding for the veterans today. Veterans are still being turned away. Vacancies are still not being filled. Waiting lists are still being added to. Maintenance needs are still being inadequately addressed. Nursing stations still go unfilled, while we fight because we do not have a ''right'' number.

Democrats tried to get in fiscal year 2006 the right number. We were denied. Now it appears that the Senate will add a couple billion dollars to their fiscal 2006 budget, and I hope that we follow.

But we are fighting over numbers that should not have to be fought over. We know what the right number is, and we would not have to fight at all if we passed the bill offered by the gentleman from Illinois' (Mr. EVANS), our ranking member, to institute guaranteed medical funding for the VA. That is, take it out of the discretionary budget, and make it a guaranteed part of our budget so we don't have to fight over the ''right'' number. There would be guaranteed funding for the health care needs of our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, as we look at the brave young men and women whom we honor so much in Iraq and Afghanistan, the President says support our troops, support our troops, support our troops, and yet when they come home the proper support is not there. I know of veterans who have come home probably with post-traumatic stress disorder, PTSD, lacking the ability to get services or lacking the outreach that is necessary to convince our Marines and soldiers that they may actually have some mental disorder. We have seen an increase in domestic violence. We have seen an increase in the kinds of societal problems that come from returning veterans with mental disorders, and yet we are not taking the action that we should to meet the needs of these brave young men and women. They may not even get an appointment for months and months and months.

Mr. Speaker, this is wrong. We saw after Vietnam tens of thousands of soldiers returning did not get the proper treatment either physically or mentally. Half of the homeless on the street tonight are Vietnam vets because we did not take care of them the way we should have. We are repeating the same mistake as we look at our brave young men and women returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. They are not getting the care they need. They are not getting the support from our Nation that everybody pays lip service to. We pass resolutions like we do today rather than giving them adequate funding, and we will have the same problems in the coming decade if we do not do it now. This is not the way, Mr. Speaker, to deal with our veterans. Let us pass this resolution today, but let us get adequate funding to the health care budget for both fiscal 2005 and 2006.

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I have no further requests for time. I would just again ask all the good gentlemen on the other side, led by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), my friend, let us get this out of the political rhetoric of who has the right number. Let us get these veterans the adequate support they need. Let us pass this resolution but go back to work and provide the cash.

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

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

I would like to thank the gentleman from Indiana (Chairman BUYER) for cosponsoring this resolution and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS), ranking member, for his cosponsorship. I also would like to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) for his hard work on this also.

Recently I was in Landstuhl, Germany, and we were there on a NATO parliamentary trip, and I had the opportunity to see a young soldier who had been wounded in Iraq only literally the evening before. I was there at about 2 o'clock in the afternoon; this young man had been injured at about 4 o'clock. They cleaned him up, sent him to Landstuhl, gave him extra good care, as we are demanding of these types of situations. But I got to visit with him right after he came out of recovery. And this young man, literally he wanted to tell his story. His speech was slurred. He was apologizing to us because he could not speak clearly, but he wanted to tell his story. He told us all about what had happened. And then he said two things: He asked about his wife. He had not been married very long, and he lost both his legs. And we assured him that he would be with his family the next day at Walter Reed or Bethesda. The other thing he asked, he looked up and said, I saw this happen to my buddies. I saw it happen to my friends, other guys in the unit, and I never thought it would happen to me.

□ 1530

Then he looked and said, ''You know, do you have the ability to help me walk again?''

I could look him in the face and say, ''Absolutely. You are going to get the finest care that is provided anywhere in the world, and we will get you walking again.''

Well, the reality is that those kind of things do take money, and we are putting lots of money in the system. The commitment is to put whatever money we need in the system.

Another thing that is happening is my favorite uncle passed away a few weeks ago. He was a World War II veteran, a great patriot, and probably in the last 6 months we have spent more on medical care for him than his entire previous life. Again, he was not injured in battle. He was a guy like one of the guys fighting alongside this injured young man.

So our commitment is to support everybody; the guys that are severely injured in this case, but also the rank and file veteran. I think we are doing a good job of that, and I know in a very bipartisan way we are committed to getting whatever funding it takes.

Right now, health care is in such a state that if you look at Medicare, we have got significant problems there in shoring that up. Medicaid, the same situation, as with private insurance. Our employers cannot absorb 15, 20 percent increases in health care costs each year. We have to do something about the underlying inflation costs in health care. I think again as a Congress we are working in a bipartisan way to do that.

Mr. Speaker, again, I look forward to working with the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) and the rest of the committee in a very bipartisan way to put whatever funding that we need to in the health care system for our veterans, and very much so to get back to the business at hand.

I want to thank our Veterans Administration, all of its employees, all of the workers that volunteer on a daily basis that are so important, thank them for their service, and thank them in this very important recognition.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to unanimously support H.R. 361.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina). The question is on the motion offered by the

gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 361.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOOZMAN. 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 H. Res. 361.

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

There was no objection.

CALLING FOR FREE AND FAIR PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 326) calling for free and fair parliamentary elections in the Republic of Azerbaijan, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 326

Whereas the Republic of Azerbaijan is scheduled to hold elections for its parliament, the Milli Majlis, in November 2005;

Whereas Azerbaijan has enjoyed a strong relationship with the United States since its independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991;

Whereas international observers monitoring Azerbaijan's October 2003 presidential election found that the pre-election, election day, and post-election environments fell short of international standards;

Whereas the International Election Observation Mission (IEOM) in Baku, Azerbaijan, deployed by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Council of Europe, found that there were numerous instances of violence by both members of the opposition and government forces;

Whereas the international election observers also found inequality and irregularities in campaign and election conditions, including intimidation of opposition supporters, restrictions on political rallies by opposition candidates, and voting fraud;

Whereas Azerbaijan freely accepted a series of commitments on democracy, human rights, and the rule of law when that country joined the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe as a participating State in 1992;

Whereas, following the 2003 presidential election, the Council of Europe adopted Resolution 1358 (2004) demanding that the Government of Azerbaijan immediately implement a series of steps that included the release of political prisoners, investigation of election fraud, and the creation of public service television to allow all political parties to better communicate with the people of Azerbaijan;

Whereas, since the 2003 presidential election, the Government of Azerbaijan has taken a number of positive steps by releasing some political prisoners and working toward the establishment of public service television;

Whereas a genuinely free and fair election requires that citizens be guaranteed the right and opportunity to exercise their civil and political rights free from intimidation, undue influence, threats of political retribution, or other forms of coercion by national or local authorities or others;

Whereas a genuinely free and fair election requires government and public authorities to ensure that candidates and political parties enjoy equal treatment before the law and that government resources are not employed to the advantage of individual candidates or political parties; and

Whereas the establishment of a transparent, free and fair election process for the 2005 parliamentary elections would be an important step in Azerbaijan's progress toward full integration into the democratic community of nations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) calls upon the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan to hold orderly, peaceful, and free and fair parliamentary elections in November 2005 in order to ensure the long-term growth and stability of the country;

(2) calls upon the Government of Azerbaijan to guarantee the full participation of opposition parties in the upcoming elections, including members of opposition parties arrested in the months leading up to the November 2005 parliamentary elections;

(3) calls upon the opposition parties to fully and peacefully participate in the November 2005 parliamentary elections, and calls upon the Government of Azerbaijan to create the conditions for the participation on equal grounds of all viable candidates;

(4) believes it is critical that the November 2005 parliamentary elections be viewed by the people of Azerbaijan as free and fair, and that all sides refrain from violence during the campaign, on election day, and following the election;

(5) calls upon the Government of Azerbaijan to guarantee election monitors from the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Azeri political parties, candidates' representatives, nongovernmental organizations, and other private institutions and organizations, both foreign and domestic, unimpeded access to all aspects of the election process;

(6) supports recommendations made by the Council of Europe on amendments to the Unified Election Code of Azerbaijan, specifically to ensure equitable representation of opposition and pro-government forces in all election commissions;

(7) urges the international community and domestic nongovernmental organizations to provide a sufficient number of election observers to ensure credible monitoring and reporting of the November 2005 parliamentary elections;

(8) recognizes the need for the establishment of an independent media and assurances by the Government of Azerbaijan that freedom of the press will be guaranteed; and

(9) calls upon the Government of Azerbaijan to guarantee freedom of speech and freedom of assembly.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. 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 H. Res. 326, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 326 is a resolution calling on the government of Azerbaijan to ensure that their upcoming parliamentary elections in November are peaceful, free and fair.

In the most recent elections in Azerbaijan, the 2003 presidential elections, international election observers concluded that they fell well short of international standards. The observers found numerous instances of voting fraud, restrictions on political rallies and intimidation against political opponents.

Since that election, Azerbaijan has taken a number of positive steps, such as releasing some political prisoners, opening their airwaves to opposing viewpoints and allowing greater freedom of speech and assembly. However, much more needs to be done before the people of Azerbaijan and the international community can have confidence in the outcome of the November elections.

As stated in H. Res. 326, the government needs to take several steps to ensure fairness in the election process. First, it must permit the full participation of all opposition parties in the upcoming elections.

Second, and perhaps most importantly, the government of Azerbaijan must allow election monitors from the OSCE, Azeri political parties and other political organizations unimpeded access to all aspects of the election process. The government simply cannot pick and choose which organizations will be allowed to verify that the election is free and fair.

Finally, the resolution supports the international efforts to change the election code of Azerbaijan to provide all political forces with equitable representation in the country's election commissions.

Azerbaijan and the United States have enjoyed a strong, bilateral relationship since Azerbaijan gained its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. We look forward to this friendship growing even closer in the coming years. In the long term, however, the strength of the relationship between our two nations, as well as the stability of government in Azerbaijan, will largely depend on Azerbaijan becoming a more free and more democratic nation.

I therefore urge the government of Azerbaijan to hold free and fair elections, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, the Republic of Azerbaijan will hold parliamentary elections this coming November. Our legislation calls on Azerbaijan's government to hold orderly, peaceful, free and fair elections in the interests of ensuring the long-term growth and stability of the country. Our resolution calls for full and peaceful participation in the process by all opposition parties and urges the ample presence of election observers with unfettered access to ensure the credibility of the elections.

Our measure is necessary, Mr. Speaker, after Azerbaijan disenfranchised its citizens and made mockery of its promises to the international community to hold a free and fair presidential election in October 2003. After a campaign troubled by intimidation and countless irregularities and violent incidents on election day, election observers concluded that the vote in 2003 was one which was fraudulent and it resulted in an illegal government.

Since then, Mr. Speaker, the people of Azerbaijan have faced an increasing crackdown on what should be their rights in a civilized society. The government has continued to pursue opposition figures, to break up peaceful opposition rallies, and has failed to prosecute police who have attacked journalists documenting these events.

Mr. Speaker, we all recognize that Azerbaijan enjoys a good relationship with the United States. It is an important producer of oil and has a strategic position between Europe and Central Asia that has been valuable for our Armed Forces as they have conducted operations in Afghanistan. But we must ensure that Azerbaijan and other former Soviet States do not use their strategic assets to prevent democratic openings such as the ones we have seen in Ukraine, Georgia, and even in Kyrgyzstan.

Mr. Speaker, we all recognize that the countries of the former Soviet Union represent a spectrum in the transition from totalitarianism to pluralism. No one election is expected to guarantee that a country will shed a half a century of oppression, and every society that has faced such circumstances must build toward a new social compact that allows for freedom and liberty.

The resolution before us today recognizes that the Azeri government has released some political prisoners and recently taken some steps to allow for a greater degree of openness in advance of the upcoming elections. More still needs to be done to ensure that election laws in Azerbaijan are in consonance with international standards.

The Azeri people will soon have another chance to fulfill their aspirations and to move their country towards a full democracy. Our resolution expresses the support of the United States for the Azeri people, and I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield 3 minutes to my good friend, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN).

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for yielding me this time and thank the committee for bringing out this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I am the ranking Democrat on the U.S. Helsinki Commission, and I very much appreciate this resolution, because I think it carries out the commitment of our Nation to make sure that Azerbaijan carries out its commitments it has made as a member state of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Ever since gaining its independence in 1991 from the former Soviet Union, Azerbaijan has been a country in which we have a great deal of interest in making sure that it develops its institutions for democracy. In 1992, it became a participating state in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Now, as Azerbaijan plans parliamentary elections for November, Congress must strongly encourage them to fulfill their commitments. The elections must be free and fair, opposition parties must be encouraged, freedom of speech and press must be protected and democratic ideals must be upheld. Azerbaijan's last elections held in 2003 failed to meet these international standards.

Since the 2003 presidential elections, the government of Azerbaijan has taken some positive steps by releasing some political prisoners and working towards the establishment of public service television. However, there remains much concern hindering democracy in Azerbaijan.

Let me just raise one example, the events of May 21, 2005. Azerbaijan officials arrested and incarcerated a group of peaceful protesters in the capital city of Baku. I join my colleagues on the Helsinki Commission in condemning this horrific event and calling on Baku to establish a safe forum for oppositional discourse and to curtail all political harassment.

We must encourage Azerbaijan's government to reform campaign election procedures to ensure their integration into the democratic community of nations. The Rose Revolution in Georgia, the Orange Revolution in Ukraine and the recent Democratic Revolution in Kyrgyzstan are widely symbolic of events that accelerate the future democratization of the former Soviet Republics.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution speaks to the priorities of this Nation, but also speaks to the priorities of all the nations that have made commitments within the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the resolution introduced by my colleague Representative ELTON GALLEGLY calling for free and fair elections in Azerbaijan this November.

Azerbaijan has been an ally of the United States since they gained their independence from the Soviet Union in 1991 and has played in integral roll, not only with issues involving Central Asian countries, but also on the war on terrorism.

However, Azerbaijan has yet to meet its full potential and its poor human rights record constantly overshadows any positive steps that the government has taken.

The 2003 election was won by Ilkham Aliyev by 77 percent, but the election results remain contentious. After the 2003 election the International Election Observation Mission in Baku, under the auspices of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, OSCE, found numerous instances of violence by both members of the opposition and the government.

The election observers also found irregularities in campaign and election conditions, including intimidation, restrictions on political rallies by opposition candidates, and voting fraud.

Many people protested the election claiming it had been rigged. As a result these protests led to numerous arrests of the "investigators." After threats by international organization that Azerbaijan's membership in the Council of Europe would be re-evaluated, President Aliyev released 114 of the political prisoners.

I applaud my colleague for introducing H. Res. 326. While calling for a free and fair election in November, this bill would also work to guarantee opposition party participation, and freedom of speech—something that this country has lacked for many years.

I call upon my colleagues to pass this common sense bill and send a message to Azerbaijan to hold and free and fair elections, respecting the rights of all individuals as some of their neighbors have already done.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 326, of which I am an original co-sponsor, along with my colleagues Mr. GALLEGLY and Mr. WEXLER. I thank them for their initiative in crafting this resolution which calls on the Government of Azerbaijan to hold free and fair elections this fall.

Azerbaijan is an important country. It is located in a strategic region, is energy-rich and is a moderate Muslim state that enjoys good relations with the United States. We have a major stake in Azerbaijan's successful democratization and integration into Western institutions.

Unfortunately, however, OSCE monitors have not been able to certify an election held in Azerbaijan in the last 10 years as meeting international standards,. During the October 2003 presidential election, clashes broke out between government forces and supporters of opposition parties who claimed election fraud. Afterwards, the authorities launched a countrywide crackdown on the opposition; only recently have Azerbaijan authorities begun to allow demonstrations again.

The upcoming parliamentary election—the first under the country's new, young leadership—is critical to Azerbaijan's progress towards the Western community of nations. It is a key indicator of President Ilham Aliev's intentions: does he want to reform the system or to continue with same old, tired business as usual?

The stakes are higher than which parties and candidates get in Azerbaijan's parliament. Over the last 18 months, multi-colored'' revolutions took place in Georgia, Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan. All were sparked by elections perceived by many voters in those countries as unfair, a view shared by OSCE observer missions. If Azerbaijan's election this November does not make major improvements over October 2003, there is a real chance of confrontation again, with unpredictable consequences.

I am deeply convinced that the stability we all seek in Azerbaijan is only possible through democracy. For that reason, the November election must be free and fair. Whoever wins, it is essential that Azerbaijan's citizens and the international community see the outcome as legitimate.

A key ingredient of fair elections is impartial election commissions. At this point, there are no such bodies in Azerbaijan. Since 2003, the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe, along with the OSCE's Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, have consistently urged that Azerbaijan's election commissions, which are reliably pro-government, be reconfigured so as to ''enjoy public confidence.''

In fact, this issue goes back even farther—the Helsinki Commission, which I co-chair, held a hearing in May 2000 on the November 2000 parliamentary election, at which representatives of Azerbaijan's government and opposition testified. At that time as well, the composition of election commissions was one of the most heated points of contention between government and opposition.

Unfortunately, these differences have not been bridged. Azerbaijan's authorities have rejected the recommendations of the OSCE and the Venice Commission. I am extremely disappointed that Azerbaijan's parliament passed an election law on June 29 without incorporating key suggestions by the Venice Commission on election commissions and domestic monitoring.

With the law as it now stands, and with election commissions unchanged, the election will not be able to meet OSCE standards. It is already clear that the OSCE and the Council of Europe will not be able to give a passing grade to the election. Nor will the law enjoy public confidence in Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijani officials occasionally protest that there is not enough time between now and November to change the law. But lack of time is not the problem. They have had years to implement these recommendations—the problem is that they refuse to do so.

Nevertheless, I believe there is still time for Baku to do what is right. That is why I cosponsored this resolution. I call on my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 326, which will convey to Baku that the U.S. Congress is closely watching and will draw the appropriate conclusions.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I also have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 326, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1545

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT IN POLAND

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 328) recognizing the 25th anniversary of the workers' strikes in Poland in 1980 that led to the establishment of the Solidarity Trade Union, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 328

Whereas, although Victory in Europe on May 8, 1945, resulted in liberty and democracy in many nations, Poland and other countries of Central and Eastern Europe fell behind the repressive Iron Curtain of the Soviet Union;

Whereas for more than four decades Poland and the nations of the Soviet Bloc struggled under authoritarian rule;

Whereas in June 1979, Pope John Paul II, the former Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, returned to his homeland for the first time and exhorted his countrymen to ''be not afraid'' of the Communist regime;

Whereas in July and August of 1980, Polish workers in the shipyards of Gdansk and Szczecin went on strike to demand greater political freedom;

Whereas workers' committees, led by electrician Lech Walesa, coordinated these strikes and ensured that the strikes were peaceful and orderly;

Whereas in August 1980, the Communist government of Poland yielded to the 21 demands of the striking workers, including the release of all political prisoners, the broadcasting of religious services on television and radio, and the right to establish independent trade unions;

Whereas the Communist government of Poland introduced martial law in December 1981 in an attempt to block the growing influence of the Solidarity movement;

Whereas the Solidarity Trade Union and its 10,000,000 members became a great social movement committed to promoting fundamental human rights, democracy, and Polish independence from the Soviet Union;

Whereas in February 1989, the Communist government of Poland agreed to conduct talks with the Solidarity Trade Union that led to elections to the National Assembly in June of that year, in which nearly all open seats were won by candidates supported by the Solidarity Trade Union, and led soon after to the election of Poland's first non-Communist Prime Minister in the post-war era, Mr. Tadeusz Mazowiecki;

Whereas the Solidarity movement ended communism in Poland without bloodshed, inspiring other nations under Soviet control to do the same and playing an important role in the fall of communism in Central and Eastern Europe;

Whereas on November 15, 1989, Lech Walesa gave an historic speech before a joint meeting of the United States Congress with the opening remarks ''We the People. . .'', which stirred a standing ovation from the Members of Congress;

Whereas on December 9, 1990, Lech Walesa was elected President of Poland;

Whereas the support of the United States and the Polish-American community was essential to the survival and success of the Solidarity movement; and

Whereas a bond of friendship exists between the United States and Poland, which is among the strongest allies of the United States, a contributing partner in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), a reliable partner in the Global War on Terrorism, and a key contributor in Iraq and Afghanistan: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the 25th anniversary of the workers' strikes in Poland that led to establishment of the Solidarity Trade Union;

(2) honors the struggle and sacrifice of the citizens of Poland who risked their lives to restore democracy to their country and to return Poland to the democratic community of nations; and

(3) offers Poland as a model for other nations struggling to emerge from authoritarian rule and establish a flourishing representative government.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina). Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. 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 resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 328 recognizes the 25th-year anniversary of the Solidarity movement in Poland and conveys our recognition of Solidarity's important role in setting in motion the liberation of the Eastern and Central European nations and the fall of the Soviet Union. It also honors the struggle and the sacrifice of the people of Poland who risked their lives to restore democracy to their country.

Solidarity began in the shipyards, with Polish workers refusing to submit to the tyranny of the Communist regime in Poland, even after 40 years of oppression. A local electrician, Lech Walesa, coordinated the Solidarity strikes and ensured that the strikes were peaceful and orderly.

After months of strikes, the Communist government yielded to the striking workers' demands, including the release of all political prisoners, the broadcasting of religious services

on television and radio, and the right to establish independent trade unions.

Throughout the 1980s, Solidarity grew to become a national movement, with 10 million members. Lech Walesa went on to become Poland's first President after the fall of the Berlin wall. Solidarity was also critical in establishing the democratic institutions that flourish in Poland today and in creating a catalyst for the spread of freedom in the former Soviet bloc.

I strongly support House Resolution 328, which passed by voice vote during a subcommittee markup and by unanimous consent before the full Committee on International Relations.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution has strong bipartisan support, including the distinguished ranking member of the House Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), my good friend. I urge the passage of House Resolution 328.

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

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), my distinguished colleague, for her work on this resolution and all human rights issues and issues relating to the advancement of democracy globally.

Mr. Speaker, the single most important event in the second half of the 20th century was the collapse of Communism in the Soviet Union and the end of Soviet hegemony over Central and Eastern Europe.

Many organizations played important roles in this political tectonic shift. Today, we are marking the 25th anniversary of the founding of one of those most important organizations, the Solidarity trade union movement of Poland, and we are paying tribute to the founder of Solidarity, one of the key players in bringing an end to Communism in Poland, the electrician from Gdansk, Lech Walesa.

Mr. Speaker, the worker strikes in Poland in 1980 and the almost spontaneous springing up of the Solidarity union movement was a critical event in the demise of Communism. As union members made their demands for reform known, and as the popularity of Solidarity's leader Lech Walesa soared in Poland and beyond, both Warsaw and Moscow became increasingly apprehensive. Solidarity was seen as a real political alternative to the Communist government. So the Soviet military conducted maneuvers on Poland's borders. The Warsaw government arrested Walesa and other Solidarity leaders. It banned the movement and imposed martial law throughout Poland.

As my colleagues know, Mr. Speaker, Lech Walesa received the Nobel Peace Prize, but he could not leave Poland to accept it. Solidarity continued its activities underground. In 1988, a new wave of strikes broke out in Poland, and chief among the strikers' demands was that Solidarity be recognized. Finally, in April of 1989, Solidarity was recognized by the Polish Government. In relatively free elections in June of that year, Solidarity candidates won 99 out of 100 seats in the Senate of the Polish parliament and every single seat for which Solidarity candidates were permitted to run in the lower House. That election represented such a powerful repudiation of the Polish Communist Government that it no longer had the political credibility to govern that country.

Lech Walesa, my friend, went on to become Poland's first democratically elected President since the Second World War.

As we pay tribute to the 25th anniversary of the founding of Solidarity, it is critical that we remember the assistance that was given to Solidarity by our own American labor movement. Then AFL–CIO President Lane Kirkland and the American labor movement provided absolutely critical moral, material, and political support to the workers of Poland during their struggle in the 1980s.

I had the privilege of traveling to Warsaw to meet with Lech Walesa with Lane Kirkland, and to be in the presence of those two great labor leaders was a truly memorable experience.

At a memorial service for Lane Kirkland, Henry Kissinger recalled a dinner he had arranged for Kirkland with two top officials of the administration who were shocked to receive the ''Kirkland treatment,'' a scathing attack on their failure to do enough for the freedom movements in Poland and around the world. At the memorial service, Solidarity Leader Lech Walesa said, ''I never had enough opportunity to thank Lane Kirkland for his enormous contribution for our struggle.''

Mr. Speaker, the 25th anniversary of the founding of Solidarity is an appropriate time for us to reflect upon the historic changes that convulsed the Soviet Union and Central Europe 15 years ago. Solidarity was an important catalyst in that transformation. We honor the struggle and sacrifice of the workers of Poland and the leaders of Solidarity who risked their lives to restore democracy to their homeland.

Poland has been a member of NATO for 8 years and recently became a full member of the European Union. These actions would not have taken place without the leadership of Lech Walesa and his colleagues in the Solidarity movement. I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H. Res. 328, recognizing the 25th anniversary of the workers' strikes in Poland that led to the founding of Solidarity.

Mr. Speaker, Stalin once said that trying to impose communism on Poland was like trying to put a saddle on a cow. As history showed, that was one time the Soviet Union's dictator was right. From the end of World War II, when the Soviet Union spread its suffocating net across a Central Europe devastated by war, Poles struggled to be free. Time and again, from the 1956 riots in Poznan, when workers took to the streets ''For Bread and For Freedom,'' through the intellectual upheavals of the 1960s, Poles struggled to stretch the boundaries of freedom. Each time, they came closer, but each time they were pulled back into the Soviet fold.

The year 1976 marked an historic turning point. In that year, Polish intellectuals stood outside the court room door while workers stood inside, waiting for verdicts to be meted out against them for their strikes at the Ursus tractor factory. At those trials, only family members were allowed to be present. And, as one onerous prison sentence after another was handed down, the intellectuals standing outside the courtroom would hear only the sobs of family members. The harshness of the regime only served to galvanize opposition to it.

By 1980, when the workers struck in Gdansk, they were no longer alone; they were joined by intellectuals who had been pursuing a parallel path. The newly elected, Polish-born Pope, John Paul II, had countenanced his countrymen and women to ''be not afraid.'' And an extraordinary individual, Lech Walesa, scaled the walls at the Lenin shipyard in Gdansk to lead his country to a place in history. The Gdansk shipyard workers had 31 demands, one of which was a call for the Polish Government to fulfill its obligations it had under the in the 1976 Helsinki Final Act.

By December 13, 1981, the Soviet Union had seen enough of this Polish experiment and martial law was imposed. But, it seems, the power of the people could not be truly repressed. The joining of workers and intellectuals in Poland produced the only mass dissident movement in all of Eastern Europe. In spite of mass arrests and other forms of repression during the 1980s, Solidarity remained a force with which to be reckoned and, by 1988, the tide was inexorably turning. In that year, Janusz Onyszkiewicz [YAN-oosh ohnish-KAI-a-vich], a Solidarity activist who—in a few years time—would be Minister of Defense, came to Washington and testified before the Helsinki Commission about the human rights situation in his country. It was the first time a dissident from an East European Communist country had testified before Congress and then actually returned to his country. Although authorities briefly considered bringing criminal charges against him for his daring appearance before the Helsinki Commission, those plans were quickly abandoned.

By 1989, Solidarity's disciplined strikes had forced Communist officials to the negotiating table. These so-called ''Round-Table Talks'' produced an agreement to allow a fraction of the seats in parliament to be openly contested in June elections—the proverbial camel's nose under the tent. In July, when Tadeusz Mazowiecki [tah-DAY-oosh maz-oh-VIET-ski] was elected Poland's first non-Communist Prime Minister in the post-War era, a delegation from the Helsinki Commission, led by Senator DeConcini, sat in the gallery of the parliament and watched this extraordinary moment unfold.

Mr. Speaker, there are many factors that led to the collapse of communism, and many heroes—some tragically fallen—who deserve credit for restoring freedom to Eastern Europe.

The Solidarity Trade Union played a singular role in achieving that great goal, and I give my wholehearted support to this resolution which honors the men and women of that movement.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 328, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

ACKNOWLEDGING AFRICAN DESCENDANTS OF THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE IN ALL OF THE AMERICAS

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 175) acknowledging African descendants of the transatlantic slave trade in all of the Americas with an emphasis on descendants in Latin America and the Caribbean, recognizing the injustices suffered by these African descendants, and recommending that the United States and the international community work to improve the situation of Afro-descendant communities in Latin America and the Caribbean, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 175

Whereas during Black History Month it is important that we not forget that African-Americans are not the only survivors of the transatlantic slave trade;

Whereas like the United States, many European nations benefited greatly from the colonization of Latin America and the Caribbean and their participation in the slave trade;

Whereas the story of African descendants in all of the Americas remains untold, leading them to be forgotten, made invisible, and allowed to suffer unjustly;

Whereas it is important to acknowledge that as a result of the slave trade and immigration, approximately 80,000,000 to 150,000,000 persons of African descent live in Latin America and the Caribbean, making them the largest population of persons of African descent outside of Africa;

Whereas Afro-descendants are present in most all Latin American countries, including Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela;

Whereas the size of Afro-descendant populations vary in range from less than 1 percent in some countries to as much as 30 percent in Colombia and 46 percent in Brazil and make up the majority in some Spanish speaking Caribbean nations, such as Cuba and the Dominican Republic;

Whereas Afro-descendant populations have made significant economic, social, and cultural contributions to their countries and the Western Hemisphere from their unfortunate involvement in the transatlantic slave trade to their recent contributions to trade, tourism, and other industries;

Whereas although persons of African descent have made significant achievements in education, employment, economic, political, and social spheres in some countries, the vast majority are marginalized—living in impoverished communities where they are excluded from centers of education, government, and basic human rights based upon the color of their skin and ancestry;

Whereas Afro-descendants have shorter life expectancies, higher rates of infant mortality, higher incidences of HIV/AIDS, higher rates of illiteracy, and lower incomes than do other populations;

Whereas Afro-descendants encounter problems of access to healthcare, basic education, potable water, housing, land titles, credit, equal justice and representation under the law, political representation, and other economic, political, health, and basic human rights; and

Whereas skin color and ancestry have led African-Americans in the United States and African descendants in Latin America and the Caribbean to share similar injustices, leading to economic, social, health, and political inequalities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes and honors African descendants in the Americas for their contributions to the economic, social, and cultural fabric of the countries in the Americas, particularly in Latin American and Caribbean societies;

(2) recognizes that as a result of their skin color and ancestry, African descendants in the Americas have wrongfully experienced economic, social, and political injustices;

(3) urges the President to take appropriate measures to encourage the celebration and remembrance of the achievements of African descendants in the Americas and a resolution of injustices suffered by African descendants in the Americas;

(4) encourages the United States and the international community to work to ensure that extreme poverty is eradicated, universal education is achieved, quality healthcare is made available, and equal access to justice and representation under the law is granted in Afro-descendant communities in Latin America and the Caribbean; and

(5) encourages the United States and the international community to achieve these goals in Latin America and the Caribbean by—

(A) promoting research that focuses on identifying and eradicating racial disparities in economic, political, and social spheres;

(B) promoting programs that focus on Afro-descendant communities;

(C) providing technical support and training to Afro-descendant advocacy groups that work to uphold basic human rights in the region;

(D) promoting the creation of an international working group that focuses on problems of communities of Afro-descendants in the Americas; and

(E) promoting trade and other bilateral and multilateral agreements that take into account the needs of Afro-descendant communities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. 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 concurrent resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, progress for some of the Afro-Latino communities in the Western Hemisphere has been disturbingly low. Estimates show that almost one-third of the population in Latin America is made up of descendants of West African slaves brought to the Americas by European slave traders during the colonial period.

Afro-Latinos comprise either a majority or a large minority in a number of Latin American nations, including the Dominican Republic, Brazil, Colombia, Panama, Venezuela, Ecuador, and Nicaragua. Yet reports indicate that most Afro-Latinos are among the poorest, most marginalized groups in that region.

Thus, as we press for democratic progress, for prosperity, and for security in our hemisphere, and we focus to maximize our efforts to reduce poverty, part of a comprehensive strategy must also include efforts to address the needs and provide for the rights of the Afro-Latino community in the region.

The resolution before us urges us to take a thoughtful, proactive approach to achieve such goals.

I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) for bringing this issue to our attention and for introducing this important measure. I also wish to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE); the gentleman from California (Ranking Member LANTOS); the gentleman from Indiana (Chairman BURTON), the chairman of the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere; and the gentleman from New Jersey (Ranking Member MENENDEZ) for their efforts to expeditiously bring this resolution before the House today.

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

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to applaud my colleagues for bringing this resolution to the House for consideration. I deeply appreciate the efforts of my dear friend and esteemed colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), for offering this resolution, and my colleagues,

the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS), for their tireless efforts on behalf of African descendants throughout the globe.

People of African descent in this country have benefited from longstanding efforts to raise public awareness of their history and their circumstances. But we must not forget, Mr. Speaker, that there is an equally complex history for African descendants throughout the Americas, and their current situation demands our attention and our action as well.

The resolution of the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) seeks to remove the cloak of invisibility that has hidden the faces of so many of our neighbors in the Western Hemisphere from their own countrymen and from the rest of the world.

□ 1600

African descendents are present in great numbers in the Caribbean and in a few Latin American countries such as Brazil where they comprise approximately 45 percent of the population. But many African descendents also reside in Latin American nations where their presence is less well known, such as Ecuador, Nicaragua, Panama and Mexico.

The history of Afro descendents in these countries stretches back centuries. In Mexico, for example, individuals in the Costa Chica area are believed to be descendents of slaves who were brought there in the 17th century to work on the area's extensive cattle ranches. Today some of the names of Mexican towns in the Veracruz region reflect this history: Congo, Angola, Mozambique, Mandinga and Mocambo.

While African descendents no longer are enslaved in Latin America and the Caribbean, they tend to be marginalized in many societies. This leaves them vulnerable to economic hardship and to upheaval such as civil conflict.

In Colombia, just 2 months ago, intense fighting between leftist guerillas and their right wing paramilitary foes forced more than 2,000 mainly Afro-Colombian villagers from their homes. The United Nations Commission for Refugees has said that the situation for these communities is worsening, and it has warned that these communities are at high risk of severe hardship and insecurity as a result of these illegal armed groups occupying their land.

Mr. Speaker, the plight of African descendents in Latin America and the Caribbean has been ignored for far too long. The gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL's) resolution before us begins to address the injustices and inequities that they have suffered, first by recognizing the situation and then by seeking to address it through raising awareness. The measure also encourages the United States and the international community to work to ensure that extreme poverty is eradicated, universal education is achieved, quality health care is made available and equal access to justice and representation under the law is granted to Afro-descendant communities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield such time as he may consume to the author of the resolution, the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Ways and Means, one of our leaders in the Congress and my dear friend.

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

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, this is indeed a very emotional and historic day to see that the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), who is such a great American and yet she has this pride and that Cuban blood which emphasizes that when you have that, you can become even a better American.

And then on this side of the aisle to find my friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), an international personality that came from Hungary, but his people were not satisfied just to come from all over the world. They needed someplace that they could feel that was theirs. They needed a homeland. And out of that came the birth and the greatness of Jewish people all over the world, because they knew that they had a place that they could be so proud of. And it is that pride, or lack of pride that determines what we can do.

And here, me in the aisle, coming from a family that comes from families of slaves, what a trio we are to be in this House of Representatives in this great country enjoying who we are and where we came from and not being satisfied with that, but reaching out and saying that those that come from Africa, no matter where they are, we want them, if not to have a traditional homeland, at least to have that culture, that pride, that self-esteem that makes a difference.

Mr. Speaker, not too long ago I was in Germany with the Chancellor, and even though there was no one of the Jewish faith in the CODEL, he went out of his way during this NATO meeting to show how friendly and supportive the German government was to Israel. When it occurred at every meeting, I said, ''Mr. Chancellor, is there a particular reason why you are emphasizing the friendship and support that you give to Israel?'' And he said, ''Yes, Congressman. The people of Germany committed acts, atrocities on these people, and it is not enough to say that you are sorry. You have to show in some way that the conscience of Germans should not have to carry this burden,'' because they recognize not just an apology but they had to do something.

We are not asking Americans or white people to be ashamed for what happened, but it does help when you say an act of injustice has been committed by certain people of this world, to take human beings who God has made and to treat them like machines, to treat them like chattel, to tear them away from their families, to use them to build economies, whether we are talking about cotton, sugar or rum or mining, and then just to walk away and say I did not do it.

Well, no one is saying who did it. But what makes a person great is to be able to say what you did about it.

It seems difficult that for me, as a child, the word ''African'' was used as an insulting adjective as to who was then Colored or Negro or whatever they were called.

But how did all of this happen? It happened because it was a planned strategy, not only to control the body of people, but to control their minds to such an extent that even among those of African descent they discriminated against each other.

I had hoped one day when I get to heaven and have a chance to talk with God directly, that I would ask her, what did people of color ever do to make you so angry? As we go to the different countries in the Caribbean and Central and South America, how can you determine poverty and misery and disease by one's color? Well, you do it.

And she would say, when racism and evil people come in and make you do this to yourself, very much like the terrorists who God has made, it is an evil that comes in that causes them to want to destroy; and when you destroy one's self-esteem, you destroy their confidence, you tear away their culture, their music, their education and deny them who they are and where they came from, then you get someone that cannot effectively compete.

We in the Congressional Black Caucus recognize what we have had to go through in our own country. We have seen the tremendous advancements that have been made. But we are not satisfied with that. We want to help those in Brazil, those in Colombia, those in Central and South America, and especially those in Mexico, to understand that when God made all these beautiful colors He made it for all of us to feel a sense of pride. And this is what we hope that we are able to do, to make some type of commitment, no apologies, but to be able to say that terrorism and dictatorships and these type of things seem to fester when you find areas of poverty where injustices have taken place. If we can have a stronger people in this world to make contributions as to who they are, to make them better, but indeed to make us better too, I think it would be a better country.

I would say to the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), when we were having the crisis in Haiti, and just as the Jewish people were denied in 1939 the ability to land here to escape the Germans and were sent back, you may

recall that we were sending back Haitians to go into a crisis where their lives could be lost.

I was on Lenox Avenue going home, and a constituent came to me and thanked me for the work I was doing on behalf of the Haitian refugees. I thanked him, but hearing no Haitian accent, I stopped him and I asked, where are you from? He said, North Carolina. I said, what is your interest in Haiti? He said, my brother, we all came from Africa. I really thought you understood that.

What a beautiful feeling where all of us can say that no matter where we came from, that we can help each other because in this republic, no matter how much pride we have for that flag, there is a sense of dignity and pride when we join with our own people, tell our own jokes and in the case of some groups of people, even enlarge among who they were and who their families were. That is what makes this country so great.

I would say to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), I am so glad that both of you are on the floor today, and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) as well who expedited this. It does not cost a lot of money, but it is one heck of a powerful and rich statement that we are able to say that in our country, with all of the problems that we have had and all the problems that we have overcome, that we are still concerned about individuals who have not reached that. And so no longer can kids have to dream of working in sugar fields, dancing and playing and singing. They can become outside of the domestic market. They can become doctors, lawyers, politicians and represent their countries and be able to go to the floors of the international communities and, without getting involved in dialogue, just a smile would say that God made us all in different colors, with different attributes, but we are so proud to be Americans that we want to help others, whether it is in Central America, whether it is in South America, but in this hemisphere. We do not have to apologize for what we have done, but we can make this a better world.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and those people that served as cosponsors to make this a resolution. Now we have to work to make certain it comes into being.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), my dear friend and distinguished colleague, for his powerful and moving and eloquent statement.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) for his kind words, and this generation of Americans has a wonderful role model to look up to and model themselves after in the gentleman from New York.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 175, which was introduced by my colleague, Mr. RANGEL. This legislation acknowledges African descendants of the transatlantic slave trade in all of the Americas with an emphasis on descendants in Latin America and the Caribbean, recognizing the injustices suffered by these African descendants, and recommends that the United States and the international community work to improve the circumstances of Afro-descendant communities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

While there have been considerable steps in addressing the many humanitarian issues facing these populations in Latin America and the Caribbean, more still needs to be done. The Resolution urges the U.S. to pursue policies and strategies directly targeted at addressing these problems. The Resolution promotes inclusion of Afro-Latino communities in the private and public sector.

In the 108th Congress, my colleagues and I concluded that, for too long, this country and other nations had ignored the struggle and challenges faced by Afro-descendant populations in the Americas. While the U.S. has been compelled to take steps to address our race problem in this country, we have often unintentionally forgotten or deemphasized the impact of that struggle throughout the Western Hemisphere.

The U.S. State Department reports that a disproportionate number of internally displaced people, IDP, in Colombia are of African descent. The Colombian non-profit CODHES estimates that Afro-Colombians accounted for at least 33 percent of total internally displaced people in 2002. Displaced Afro-Colombians from the coastal regions swell urban slums such as the Nelson Mandela Barrio on the edge of Cartagena.

Many Afro-Colombians reside in the most neglected regions of the country, where they are caught between state, paramilitary and guerrilla forces. The absence of meaningful Colombian state presence provides a vacuum in which illegal actors function with impunity. In spite of the influential role Afro-Colombians have played in national development, they have been marginalized in Colombian culture, economy and politics.

Afro-Colombians have made meaningful contributions to Colombia through the richness and diversity of their cultures. They are characterized by their ability to coexist peacefully, their sense of community and solidarity, their vast knowledge of the country's natural resources, and their love and concern for the environment. Even so, Afro-Latinos account for about 30 percent of the Latin American population and make up over 60 percent of its poor. Afro-Latinos also have extreme high rates of suicide, homicide, infant mortality, and illiteracy.

The displaced not only face violence and perilous living conditions, but they often have lost their traditional lands to armed actors, drug traffickers, ranchers, and the logging industry, realities that threaten the survival of their culture.

Brazil has the largest population of Afro-descendants in Latin America and the Caribbean. Shockingly, only one in three Afro-Brazilians attends secondary schools. Columbia with the second largest Afro-descendant population has a shorter life expectancy for this population, limited access to medical and health care facilities, and the highest rates of illiteracy.

I also want to thank the other members of the Afro-Latino Working Group: The Honorable CHARLES RANGEL, Mr. DONALD PAYNE, Ms. BARBARA LEE, Mr. WILLIAM JEFFERSON, and Mr. GREGORY MEEKS. Their counsel, advocacy, and commitment to these issues have been instrumental in raising the importance and awareness of this cause to me and this Congress, I appreciate their support.

As a freedom-loving people, we in the United States have a role to play in the fulfillment of Colombia's democratic experiment to include aid for Afro-Colombians, while future disbursements of U.S. aid should factor in the needs of Afro-Colombian populations. Increased foreign assistance of Colombia must also be devoted to the development of marginalized peoples. Historically, Afro-Colombians have looked to the United States as a progressive society. America's struggle to end racism at home and to dismantle Apartheid in Africa gives Afro-descendants in Latin America hope that they will one day see that the mission towards a humanitarian freedom and democracy is not yet finished. America's voice in Latin America cannot be ignored.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of the legislation to honor and recognize the African descendants of the transatlantic slave trade throughout the Americas, including descendants in Latin America and the Caribbean as well as recognizing the injustices suffered by these African descendants, and recommending that the United States and the international community work to improve the situation of Afro-descendant communities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

I also rise to acknowledge the hard work of Congressman RANGEL, the dean of the New York delegation, and the author of this important resolution.

H. Con. Res. 175, of which I am a proud cosponsor, highlights the priceless contributions and indubitable needs of African descendants of the transatlantic slave trade in Latin America and the Caribbean.

This resolution of recognition is a very important and solid step forward that we need to take in order to resolve this international issue.

This resolution will address the social, economic and political affects as a result of the slave trade and colonialism era within the international community.

These communities are made up of over 150 million people in the Americas and the Caribbean.

Despite their large presence, the majority of Afro-descendants have been marginalized by racial discrimination, social exclusion, and innumerable political and economic acts of injustice.

Although protected by their country's constitutions, individuals of African descent in this region constantly struggle to maintain full protection of their rights.

Despite the large African populations Latin America, specifically Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, and Cuba, these communities lack equal opportunities, strong political representation, and have yet to be recognized for their outstanding achievements abroad.

Colombia is the only country that has Afro-Colombia representatives and has been the

only country to approve legislation for the betterment of the African community, despite having only 2 of 166 seats in their House reserved for Colombians of African decent.

H. Con. Res. 175 will mark the beginning of progressive change in these communities.

Poverty levels, lack of education funding, and exploitation of human rights within these regions will be challenged as result of the passing of this bill.

This bill supports the creation of organizations to combat racial tensions, such as Brazil's Ministry for the Promotion of Racial Equality, and the National Institute against Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Racism in Argentina.

The United States and the International community will work in coalition to improve social conditions and encourage more participation of Afro-descendant populations to exercise their rights and not be oppressed as a result of their ancestry.

The creation of more education assistance programs, racial equality initiatives, housing policies, and healthcare programs will no longer be far from reach in this population as a result of this bill's passing.

This resolution will allow Afro-descendants to enjoy the prosperity of their culture and heritage, contribute to their communities without being ostracized, and be recognized publicly for their efforts.

These groups lack an organized process by which they can exercise their rights and opinions efficiently. With one in three Afro-Brazilians attending middle school, this is a population that desperately needs visibility and international aid.

As a representative of a large Colombian population within my district, this is an issue that has directly affected my constituents.

I am extremely hopeful that this bill will create more opportunities for all Latin Americans of African descent in their home country, allowing them to play an equal role to that of the entire population in the affairs of their society.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 175, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

COMMENDING THE CONTINUING IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 364) commending the continuing improvement in relations between the United States and the Republic of India.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 364

Whereas the Republic of India achieved its independence from the British Empire on August 15, 1947, and has since that time maintained a democratic system of government;

Whereas India has in recent years opened its economy to a considerable extent to trade and investment and has liberalized its internal economic system;

Whereas India's relationship with the United States has deepened in past years and encompasses cooperation on matters relating to international security, political stability, world trade, technology, science, and health;

Whereas India and Pakistan, neighbors who have fought bitter wars in past decades, have increased their efforts to settle their differences by peaceful means;

Whereas Americans of Indian origin have made critical contributions to the culture and economy of the United States;

Whereas the Prime Minister of India, His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh, has, in his previous capacity as Finance Minister, helped shape India's economic policies to permit the growth of free markets, which has led to much greater economic prosperity for many people in India and the creation of a large middle class; and

Whereas Prime Minister Singh has accepted an invitation by the United States to make an official visit to Washington, D.C.: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the continuing improvement in relations between the United States and the Republic of India, exemplified by the current official visit of the Prime Minister of India, His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh, is to be commended, supported, and expanded in the interest of the people of India and the people of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. 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 H. Res. 364, the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

When the House considers resolutions at a time coinciding with visits of foreign leaders about the relations between their countries and the United States, it is because of the immense value that the Congress places on that relationship and the critical nature of the issues and policies that bind our nations.

Taking this into consideration, Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the House leadership for having authored and brought forward this particular resolution for our consideration. The visit of the Prime Minister of India is anything but routine, and the expansion and the strengthening of our relations with India is anything but routine.

I have the honor of co-chairing the India Caucus in the House of Representatives and have had the opportunity to witness this ever growing bond between our nations, a bond based on our shared democratic values and our common goals of safeguarding liberty of combating oppression and of confronting terrorism. His Excellency, Dr. Singh, the Prime Minister of India, will address a joint session tomorrow morning, where we shall have the opportunity to hear directly from him his vision of our relationship.

□ 1615

From the U.S. standpoint, we will always honor Dr. Singh for his pioneering efforts to liberalize the Indian economy internally and to open that economy to the world. His work became the basis of a consensus that was carried on by Indian governments of other parties. It contributed to the economic development of India and to the improvement of conditions for those who are poverty stricken in that nation; and although that effort is not yet complete, it has contributed to the building of a greater middle class.

The trade that was fostered by India's opening to the world has benefited American and Indian consumers and producers. America needs trade partners who, once an agreement is made, will honor that agreement. We can count on India in this respect because those agreements are made under democratic procedures.

Mr. Speaker, we are also coming to recognize the contribution that India can make to the achievement of peace and security in this region and in the world and the potential that it has to make an even greater contribution over time. It would be wrong to fail to mention the enormous contributions that Americans born in India or of Indian decent have made to the moral, economic, and scientific welfare of this Nation as a whole.

Indian-Americans have shared with Americans of other origins their love of their ancestral homeland and have made it clear how the Indus Valley civilization's ancient insights can speak to this hemisphere in contemporary times.

It is my pleasure to welcome Dr. Singh to the Halls of Congress, and I ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to be one of the four co-sponsors of this resolution along with the distinguished majority leader, the distinguished Democratic leader, and my good friend, the chairman of the Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), our resolution commending the continuing improvement in relations between the United States and the Republic of India.

We do so in the midst of an official visit by the distinguished Prime Minister of India, Dr. Singh, who will address us in a joint session of Congress tomorrow morning to be followed by a private meeting with members of the Committee on International Relations.

In the 5 years since President Clinton traveled to India and opened a new chapter in the bilateral relationship between that country and the United States, we have ushered in new and unprecedented forms of cooperation between our two great democratic nations in areas ranging from global trade to technology.

Security cooperation between the United States and India has dramatically increased with Washington providing funds for military assistance, counternarcotics aid, and other forms of military training.

Mr. Speaker, we all remember well India's eager offer of cooperation in the war on terrorism after the September 11 tragedy and its willingness to allow the use of Indian bases for counterterrorism operations. Both of our countries have been democracies since our inception, and we are natural allies.

In recent years, India has opened its economy to a great extent to trade and investment. India has liberalized its internal economic system, steps that have served, and will continue to serve, to accelerate India's growth. Our distinguished guest, Dr. Singh, played a key role in getting these reforms under way in his earlier capacity as the Finance Minister of India. They have created a vastly enlarged middle class enjoying the benefits of a well-run economic system. And Indians have Dr. Singh to thank for that.

India of late has been a model partner in the ongoing rapprochement with its neighbor, Pakistan, despite memories of bitter wars and nuclear oneupsmanship. Both countries have shown good will in an ongoing attempt to settle their differences by peaceful and diplomatic means.

Mr. Speaker, during a recent visit to New Dehli, Secretary of State Dr. Condoleezza Rice praised the positive recent development in relations between our countries, and the administration put out the word that one of its goals is to help India become a major world power in the 21st century. To that end, Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to press again for strong U.S. support for India to become a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, in long overdue recognition by the international community of India's rightful place as a great democracy.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the contributions of Americans of Indian origin for whom the visit of Prime Minister Singh this week has special resonance.

The United States is a Nation of immigrants, and we are the world's preeminent power due in large part to the diversity of our people. It is hard to think of an ethnic group, Mr. Speaker, that has made such enormous contributions to the strength of our Nation in such a compressed period of time as America's 1.5 million citizens of Indian decent. In business, science, academia, medicine and culture, Indian-Americans have assumed leadership roles, and they have given back to the communities in which they live.

Indian-Americans have made enormous contributions to the economy of my congressional district in the San Francisco Bay area, particularly to the technology firms of our Silicon Valley. Over 300,000 Indian-Americans work in the cutting-edge technology firms in my area, and they play a critical role in generating new start-up high-tech companies.

So, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents and all of our colleagues in the Congress, I extend our congratulations to Prime Minister Singh on the achievement his country has made and on the great relations between India and the United States. I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the gentleman from Texas resolution commending the increase in bilateral relations between the United States and the Republic of India.

As the former co-chair of the House of Representatives Caucus on India and Indian Americans I have been working hard to increase the engagement by our two governments.

It is an honor for me to represent one of the largest populations of Indian Americans in the United States.

At my constituents urging I have worked to create a stronger relationship between the United States and India.

I had the opportunity to travel to India three times and led the largest Congressional delegation to India and for many of my colleagues who traveled with me it was their first time to India.

Seeing a nation that you deal with on a regular basis first hand is an incredibly important tool for making policy.

In fact two years ago in India I sat next to a quiet economist and member of the opposition Congress Party at the time and now this gentleman will be speaking before a joint session of Congress tomorrow.

I look forward to Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's remarks on the state of relations between our two nations.

As architect of the Indian economic reforms in the 1990's, he cut India's deficit and opened the economy, leading to India's status as a primary figure in the global economy.

I would like to thank the gentleman for introducing this resolution and I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 364.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1832

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. KLINE) at 6 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Res. 328, by the yeas and nays,

H. Con. Res. 175, by the yeas and nays; and

H. Res. 364, by the yeas and nays.

The first and third electronic votes will be conducted as 15-minute votes. The second vote in this series will be a 5-minute vote.

Further proceedings on H. Res. 326 will be resumed tomorrow.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT IN POLAND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 328, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 328, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 385, nays 0, not voting 48, as follows:

[Roll No. 380]

YEAS—385

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Bean
Beauprez
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boucher
Boustany
Bradley (NH)
Brady (TX)
Brown (OH)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Carter
Case
Castle
Chabot
Chandler
Chocola
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costello
Cox
Cramer
Crenshaw
Cubin
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Everett
Farr
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutknecht
Hall
Harman
Harris
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth
Hinchey
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hostettler
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (CT)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Langevin
Lantos
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Menendez
Mica
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Otter
Owens
Oxley
Pallone
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Sabo
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Saxton
Schiff
Schwartz (PA)
Schwarz (MI)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Sodrel
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Turner
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—48

Boswell
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brown, Corrine
Buyer
Capuano
Costa
Crowley
Davis (IL)
DeLay
Doyle
Etheridge
Evans
Fattah
Ford
Frelinghuysen
Gibbons
Gutierrez
Higgins
Hinojosa
Hunter
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson (IL)
Kaptur
Larsen (WA)
Leach
McKinney
Musgrave
Neal (MA)
Nussle
Pascrell
Pryce (OH)
Reyes
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryun (KS)
Schakowsky
Sessions
Shadegg
Stark
Strickland
Sweeney
Towns
Udall (CO)
Watson
Weiner
Weller

□ 1853

So (two thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ACKNOWLEDGING AFRICAN DESCENDANTS OF THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE IN ALL OF THE AMERICAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KLINE). The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 175, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LETHINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 175, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 382, nays 6, answered ''present'' 2, not voting 43, as follows:

[Roll No. 381]

YEAS—382

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Barton (TX)
Bass
Bean
Beauprez
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (TX)
Brown (OH)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Carter
Case
Castle
Chabot
Chandler
Chocola
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costello
Cox
Cramer
Crenshaw
Cubin
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Everett
Farr
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Foley
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutknecht
Hall
Harman
Harris
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth
Hinchey
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hostettler
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (CT)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Langevin
Lantos
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Menendez
Mica
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Otter
Owens
Oxley
Pallone
Pastor
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence

Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (NC)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sabo
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Saxton
Schiff
Schwartz (PA)
Schwarz (MI)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Sodrel
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—6

Deal (GA)
Flake
King (IA)
Norwood
Paul
Westmoreland

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—2

Bartlett (MD)
Price (GA)

NOT VOTING—43

Boswell
Brady (PA)
Brown, Corrine
Buyer
Capuano
Costa
Crowley
Davis (IL)
DeLay
Etheridge
Evans
Fattah
Ford
Frelinghuysen
Gibbons
Gutierrez
Higgins
Hinojosa
Hunter
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson (IL)
Kaptur
Larsen (WA)
Leach
McKinney
Neal (MA)
Nussle
Pascrell
Pryce (OH)
Reyes
Rush
Ryun (KS)
Schakowsky
Sessions
Shadegg
Stark
Strickland
Sweeney
Towns
Watson
Weiner
Weller

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KLINE) (during the vote). Members are advised 2 minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1903

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMENDING THE CONTINUING IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 364.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 364, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 388, nays 0, not voting 45, as follows:

[Roll No. 382]

YEAS—388

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Bean
Beauprez
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (TX)
Brown (OH)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Carter
Case
Castle
Chabot
Chandler
Chocola
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costello
Cox
Cramer
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Everett
Farr
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutknecht
Hall
Harman
Harris
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth
Hinchey
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hostettler
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (CT)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
LaHood
Langevin
Lantos
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McMorris
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Menendez
Mica
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Otter
Owens
Oxley
Pallone
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sabo
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Saxton
Schiff
Schwartz (PA)
Schwarz (MI)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Sodrel
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—45

Boswell
Brady (PA)
Brown, Corrine
Buyer
Capuano
Costa
Crowley
Cubin
Davis (IL)
DeLay
Etheridge
Evans
Fattah
Ford
Frelinghuysen
Gibbons
Gutierrez
Higgins
Hinojosa
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson (IL)
Kaptur
Kuhl (NY)
Larsen (WA)
Leach
McCrery
McKeon
McKinney
Nussle
Pascrell
Pryce (OH)
Reyes
Rush
Ryun (KS)
Schakowsky
Sessions
Shadegg
Stark
Strickland
Sweeney
Towns
Watson
Weiner
Weller

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1920

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3154

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 3154.

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

There was no objection.

SUPPORTING CAFTA

(Mr. CONAWAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor tonight to rise in support of the CAFTA agreement, DR–CAFTA. It is important in three broad areas. One is trade. It is important to American manufacturers that the tariffs that they currently pay with goods and services built and made in the United States are sold into these countries.

It is also important for the agricultural interests in this country that we continue to send American goods and products into these countries for use under the Caribbean Basin Initiative.

It is also important from a national security standpoint. These are fledgling democracies in Central America. America is a safer place if we have democracies in place than if we have other forms of government. This trade agreement will help undergird these democracies and help them stand against influences like Hugo Chavez of Venezuela who does not have America's interests in his plans.

It is also important from an immigration standpoint. The Caribbean Basin Initiative will expire on its own terms in 2008. If those jobs created under that initiative go to other parts of the world like Thailand or the Philippines, then the people currently holding those jobs will feel pressured, percolating up from Mexico and entering this country illegally, to find work.

So, given the importance the impact of CAFTA will have on these broad areas, I stand in support of it and urge my colleagues to support it also.

ENCOURAGING ROVE TO LEAK

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, a lot has been made lately about leaks coming from the White House. The outing of Valerie Wilson was admittedly an egregious act.

But I, for one, would like more leaks, not less. I am not looking for the kind of leaks that tripped up Karl Rove and Scooter Libby.

Mr. Speaker, it would have been useful if someone had leaked the true cost of the Medicare prescription drug program. They told us it would cost only $400 billion when they knew all along that the real cost was much higher. The American people would be asked to pay $800 billion.

It certainly would have been nice if some brave soul in the White House had told the American people that the President's tax cuts would raid the Social Security Trust Fund. We are still waiting for someone to leak the President's plan on Social Security.

So, Mr. Speaker, I say, do not stop here, Mr. Rove. Dishing the names of our own national security agents may be your idea of political ''fair game,'' but turn up that leaky faucet and tell us what we really need to know, and start with the truth.

AID FOR HURRICANE VICTIMS

(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 want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) for very informative debate on H. Con. Res. 175 to focus on the African Americans of Latino descent in the Caribbean and places surrounding the United States.

I rise today to remind my colleagues that our neighbors to the south, from Jamaica to the coast of Mexico, certainly Haiti and certainly Cuba, over the last 7 days have faced very difficult times with the number of hurricanes that have hit their shore. I know that we faced enormous impacts last year to the State of Florida, but the resources that are utilized in those countries are so unequal.

As we debate the Foreign Relations Authorization bill, I hope we will be reminded of the enormous need. In Cuba, for example, 600,000 people were displaced. We come to find out that the offer from the United States was only $50,000. I think that America can do better, and I would hope that humanitarian aid can really come from the people of the United States, somewhat similar to the tsunami relief. These are our neighbors. This is the third border of security.

So Jamaica and Haiti that are in crisis with the hurricane and other devastating aspects, I would hope that we would respect the idea that we are our brothers and sisters' keeper, and aid these individuals who are now suffering because of natural disasters.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

WORKING TO IMPROVE NICS SYSTEM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk again about the National Instant Criminal Background Check. We know that the States are the weak link as far as getting background checks into our NICS system. We have seen so many times that thousands of people are slipping through the system because the States do not have the money to bring up their computer systems to be able to give the information to the NICS system here in Washington.

We know that the NICS system works. We know that over 700,000 people have been denied guns, those that should not be able to buy them but, again, a system is only as good as the database that it has.

The NICS system did pass here in the House on a voice vote going back to 1999. Unfortunately, the Senate ran out of time, so I have reintroduced it, and I am hoping that we might be able to get it through here again on a suspension bill.

Some facts: Twenty-five States have automated less than 60 percent of their felony convictions. We know that people that are felons or who have been mentally institutionalized should not be able to buy a gun. Unfortunately, a tragedy that was in my own State of New York on the island in Nassau County where I live, a person was able to buy a gun legally because the States did not give the NICS system the information that he should have never been able to buy a gun.

□ 1930

Unfortunately a shooting happened in a local church, Our Lady of Lourdes, and two people were killed, a priest and a parishioner at a morning mass. We know that mental health problems and restraining orders did not come up on the NICS system and that is a shame. When you think about what can be done to certainly deter those people that should not be able to buy a gun, and especially today in today's world that we are looking at. I know the debate here in the House all the time is the suspicion that we are trying to take away the right of someone to own a gun. I happen to believe in the second amendment. I happen to believe that people if they want to own guns should be able to. But again, we must look at those that should not be able to buy guns.

When we talk about the health care system in this Nation, we know it costs this health care system, our health care system, our taxpayers' health care system over $1 billion a year because of gun violence in this Nation. And unless we open up the dialog a little bit differently and start to trust each other that we can do a better job, we should be doing a better job, and that is only going to happen if we help the States.

We know that when a judgment comes down against a person in the courts or there is a restraining order, the majority of States do not report that to the NICS system. When someone does a crime in Texas and they come to New York and buy a gun it is not brought up through the system. So we have to do a better job. We can save lives. We can save money on the health care system.

And by the way, I happen to think it is very important that we also look at how we look at our terrorisms that we are trying to deal with in the next few days. You know, when we talk about the PATRIOT Act coming up, I think that the debate will be about some civil liberties being taken away.

But yet when we look at gun ownership we should be making sure that

those that are not supposed to have a gun, and this goes back to the 1968 Gun Control Act, the bill follows it, the NRA has supported this bill. We have good bipartisan support certainly in the other body and I am hoping that before the session ends that we can bring this bill up.

H.R. 1415, the NICS Improvement Act, will give grants to the States so they are able to be able to bring their systems up to par so here in Washington we will have the information that we need. You know, again, I hope that in time that we will be able to change the debate on gun violence in this country. We can save lives. We can save certainly on health care costs for this Nation if we can have a good honest debate on the health care system with the gun system.

YOU ONLY PASS THIS WAY ONCE

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise to pay tribute to a very, very special American, a very good friend of mine who died last week after battling a very cruel and mean disease, ALS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, better known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

Wayne Arnold was a friend of mine and he was a friend of many. In fact, I remember when I first got involved in politics Wayne Arnold was one of my first supporters, and I will always be grateful for that.

But Wayne was a very special American in so many ways. I would like to say that he was a believer. He was a doer and he was a giver. He was involved in so many things in the Rochester area. He was an accountant. By the time he retired he was a partner in one of the largest firms in Minnesota.

He was active in the Chamber of Commerce. He was active in his church. He was active in education issues. But he was not just active. He got things done.

I think perhaps one of the greatest tributes to Wayne Arnold in the Rochester area is what he did in helping to really spearhead the building of a memorial there to all of the soldiers and all of those who have contributed so much, and we have this marvelous memorial which is largely because of people like Wayne Arnold. When he heard about this, that we were going to build this special memorial at Soldiers Field in Rochester, Minnesota he not only got behind it, he became the treasurer. He helped raise the money. He did so much on that and so many other fronts.

I also want to submit for the RECORD and I want to thank Greg Sellnow of the Rochester Post Bulletin, and I would like to submit for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a copy of a piece that he wrote last week about Wayne Arnold, and the title of which was the philosophy that Wayne Arnold lived by. The title is ''You Only Pass This Way Once.'' And he sort of branded that philosophy on all of his children and many of the people that he knew and worked with. And in it I think he meant that you only get an opportunity to do the right thing every so often, and you have got to take advantage of those opportunities to do the right thing.

I talked to Wayne shortly after he learned that he had ALS and he was not sad. He was not morbid. He was not angry. He saw it as a challenge. In fact, in the article that Greg Sellnow has written about him, he said that he had sent him an e-mail a couple of years ago. And in that e-mail Wayne Arnold said to Greg, I look at this disease as a gift, he wrote in an e-mail about 2 years ago, not many people have the luxury to be able to prepare like this.

Wayne Arnold was a very special person. He did so much for our community. He did so much for us. He did so much for me.

I would like to close by just saying that I have no doubt that Wayne was greeted at the gate with those words, ''Well done, oh, good and noble servant.''

[From the Post Bulletin, Jul. 16, 2005]

YOU ONLY PASS THIS WAY ONCE

(By Greg Sellnow)

Wayne Arnold had a motto. ''You only pass this way once,'' he told his five children and 12 grandchildren over and over again.

It was a didactic, life-guiding philosophy that had so much resonance in Wayne's family that one of his grandsons had it tattooed on his back.

''What he meant was that you'll only be in a certain situation or a place in your life once,'' Wayne's son Mike told me the other day. ''And you should try to leave it a better place or a better person. It was the same way he felt about his community.''

Wayne, who died Tuesday at the age of 70, lived that motto. His family, his community and many of the hundreds of lives he touched have all been bettered by his presence among us.

I first met Wayne in August 2003 after he sent me an e-mail about the upcoming Walk to D'feet ALS. On the day I talked to him at his northwest Rochester home, he'd had a busy morning. He'd sent out 44 e-mails to friends, relatives, former customers and acquaintances asking them to participate or donate to the annual fundraiser.

Wayne had been diagnosed with ALS, commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease, about six months earlier, and he'd made fundraising for the Minnesota Chapter of the ALS Association the newest beneficiary of his seemingly unending energy and passion.

At the time, I remember trying to put myself in Wayne's place. I tried to imagine what I'd do if I'd been diagnosed with a fatal illness that usually claims its victims within three years of diagnosis. I figured that maybe I'd travel, visit some of the places I'd wanted to see, spend time with my family and enjoy the rest of my life as best I could.

But I couldn't really imagine myself doing what Wayne was doing—sitting in front of a computer or at the phone for hours and hours raising money for a cause—a cure for ALS—he knew couldn't help him.

It all made sense for Wayne, though. It fit perfectly with his life's philosophy.

''I look at this disease as a gift,'' he wrote me in an e-mail two years ago. ''Not many people have the luxury to be able to prepare like this.''

Wayne helped raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for the state ALS group, and he recruited others to get involved. They include his son Mike, who is the organization's treasurer.

I don't pretend to know what it means to be an ideal citizen. But I have to think Wayne came pretty close. He was one of the most committed, involved people I've met during my time in Rochester. He met his wife, Donna, when both were students at Lourdes High School, and after they married the couple decided to stay in their hometown. They remained deeply committed to Lourdes and Rochester for the next half century.

After serving a stint in the U.S. Coast Guard, Wayne became an accountant, retiring as a partner in the firm of McGladrey & Pullen in 1996. By then, he'd served on the boards of more than a dozen community, business and church organizations. He was recognized by the Jaycees as one of the 10 Outstanding Young Men of Minnesota. He served as president of the Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce. He was a founding committee member and secretary treasurer of the Soldiers Field Veterans Memorial. The list goes on and on.

''I can't get enough of it,'' Wayne told me the last time we talked, in September 2004. ''I've got to be doing something.''

Through it all, though, Wayne set aside plenty of time for his family. Just three weeks ago, he traveled to Montana to attend the wedding of his godson.

''You only pass this way once.'' What a powerful motto around which to base one's life.

And death. Wayne donated his brain and spinal cord for research into a cure for ALS.

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

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His reamrks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my special order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

APOLOGIES FOR IRAQ AND KARL ROVE

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, a few weeks ago I gave a speech about the importance of apologizing for doing something wrong, one of the first lessons that we are taught as children actually. Our capacity for saying I am sorry is part of what makes us a functioning and civilized society.

Here in Washington, every time a Democrat uses strong rhetoric to condemn the politics or the policies of the Bush administration there is a relentless pressure from the Republicans for

an apology, and it continues. It continues as a repeated pattern that is repeating itself right now with the Karl Rove affair.

Democrats are right to be incensed that the President's chief adviser is alleged to have revealed Valerie Plame as a CIA operative, purportedly publicizing this information to get back at Plame's husband, Joe Wilson, for disagreeing with the Bush administration's assessment that Saddam Hussein was, to quote Vice President CHENEY's flawed analysis, reconstituting his nuclear weapons program.

Maybe my memory is failing me, but I do not recall any Republicans calling on Karl Rove to apologize for coldheartedly revealing the identity of a CIA operative as part of a political vendetta to get back at her husband. Nor has the Vice President apologized for his mistake about Iraq's nonexistent nuclear weapons program which led us into war.

The personally destructive behavior that Republicans have engaged in to protect Karl Rove and another high ranking Bush administration official, Vice President CHENEY's chief of staff, Scooter Libby, actually might be their way to change the subject to avoid any question about the merits of the Iraq war and how it has been so poorly managed.

Why do they want to avoid that discussion? Because the American people have completely lost confidence in the administration's Iraq policy. Where, for example, is the apology for the deaths of more than 1,700 Americans? Not only is there no apology, Secretary Rumsfeld could not be bothered to personally sign condolence letters to their families.

Where is the apology for sending young men and women to war without the proper protective armor on their bodies and on their vehicles?

Where is the apology for pinching pennies on veterans health benefits when these brave soldiers return home?

Where is the apology for the immoral doctrine of this preemptive war?

And where is the apology for the gross deceptions used to justify it, for the missing weapons of mass destruction, for the cooked intelligence, for the phony al Qaeda-Saddam link?

Where is the apology for wasting more than $200 billion for taxpayer money on this mistake, and for the poor leadership that led to torture of prisoners and prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib in Guantanamo?

Where is the apology for committing our troops and our Nation to this mission without a postwar plan to secure the peace?

Where is the apology for the arrogance that squandered America's international goodwill and damaged our relationships with our closest allies?

And finally, where is the apology for revealing the identity of a good man's wife just because he disagreed with the administration on policy grounds?

There is something wrong with our moral compass if we have to apologize for speaking bluntly, while our leaders can commit the biggest foreign policy blunder since Vietnam and get away without apology or accountability. To tell the truth, an apology would not be enough for everything they have done. An apology, after all, is just more words.

It is time for action. It is time for accountability and it is time for Karl Rove's security clearance to be revoked. It is time for a tangible admission that the Iraq war was immorally conceived and has been incompetently managed. It is time for an end of the politics of personal destruction and an end of destructive national policies.

If the President wants to earn back the Nation's trust he needs to end this shameful, shameful chapter in our Nation's history, and without apology he needs to bring our troops home.

CENTRAL AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

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

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am back on the floor tonight to talk about CAFTA, the Central American Free Trade Agreement, that I think is the wrong agreement for the American people and particularly the workers of this great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I want to start with a quote by Ross Perot. This was during the presidential elections of 1992, at least the debates. And Mr. Perot said, you implement that NAFTA, the Mexican trade agreement where they pay people a dollar an hour, have no health care, no retirement, no pollution controls, and you are going to hear a giant sucking noise of jobs being pulled out of this country right at a time when we need the tax base to pay the debt.

Well, I would like to say to Mr. Perot that times have not changed. We need that tax base right now.

Mr. Speaker, let me tell you a little bit about NAFTA. I was not here in the Congress when that was debated and when it was passed and became the law of the land. Before NAFTA we ran a trade surplus with Mexico. Now the U.S. runs a $45 billion annual trade deficit with Mexico. My State of North Carolina has lost over 200,000 manufacturing jobs since 1993. The United States of America has lost over 2.5 million manufacturing jobs.

The number of Mexican illegal aliens in the United States has grown from 1.3 million, and that was in 1992, the year before NAFTA was signed into law, to over 5.9 million in the year 2004. That is a 350 percent increase. 350 percent increase. CAFTA will continue these trends. 85 percent of the language in CAFTA is identical to the language in NAFTA.

Let us talk about Trade Promotion Authority, which I did not vote for by the way. America's, since August of 2002, annual trade deficit grew by $195 billion to $217 billion, and of that $150 billion with China.

North Carolina has lost over 52,000 manufacturing jobs since TPA, Trade Promotion Authority, became the law of the land, and the United States of America has lost over 600,000 million manufacturing jobs.

Mr. Speaker, CAFTA is not the answer. It is not that we are opposed to a CAFTA agreement, but this CAFTA agreement is not good for the American people.

And let me give you just a little bit of an example of CAFTA and how it will impact those in Central America. It will not help to raise their income levels at all. It will not help them with health care, it will not help them with improving their livelihood, if you will. The average in Nicaragua is $0.95 an hour. Guatemala is $1 an hour. El Salvador is $1.25 an hour. These countries have few labor laws, environmental standards, and CAFTA does nothing if at all to improve those.

CAFTA allows China to backdoor fabric into Central America where it can be assembled and shipped into the United States duty free. The last thing we need is to help China. We have outsourced 1.5 million jobs since 1989 to China.

Mr. Speaker, in the little bit of time I have left I want to give you from the Washington Post today an article. There were many here on the floor of the House that wanted to give permanent normal trade status to China. I was opposed to that, by the way.

Let me just read from the Washington Post and then I will close, Mr. Speaker. The trouble at Futai began the last day of May when workers received their monthly salary at about 4 p.m. For many the computer generated pay slip contained intolerable news.

□ 1945

''From $60 to $100 a month for weaving sweaters, their piecework pay had slumped to $50 and $40 and even lower, they said. That, the workers complained, was not enough compensation for 11-hour shifts and one day's rest a month, the day after payday.''

Mr. Speaker, this is the problem with these trade agreements. They are not good for the American people, and they are not good usually for the country that we reach these agreements with. And I hope that this House will continue to stand strong in a bipartisan way, Democrat and Republican, and stand in opposition to CAFTA; and if it is brought to the floor of the House in the next 10 days, I hope we will defeat it on behalf of the American worker who needs help from the United States Congress.

REASONS AGAINST CAFTA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, tonight I wish to suggest eight more reasons to vote ''no'' on CAFTA.

First of all, CAFTA continues the failed neo-liberal trade regimen that puts freedom last rather than first. CAFTA assumes, like NAFTA before it, that trade will bring freedom. But where contingent liberties do not really exist, such flawed trade approaches bring not freedom but exploitation and hardship on the majority of the people struggling to get into the middle class.

A ''no'' vote on CAFTA will result in its renegotiation to expand liberty, opportunity, and hope. Respect and dignity for workers, fresh water, clean air, treated sewage are rights that should belong to every human being. Surely our continent, our hemisphere deserves better than CAFTA.

Another reason to vote ''no'' on CAFTA is that it will outsource more U.S. jobs and worsen our burgeoning trade deficit. NAFTA's supporters promised us millions of jobs, as the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) has stated, as well as a trade surplus for our country. Exactly the opposite has happened.

The U.S. has lost over 1 million jobs to Mexico and Canada resulting from NAFTA, and each year we have fallen into deeper and deeper trade deficit with those nations.

Another reason to vote ''no'' on CAFTA is it will fuel more illegal immigration. Just like NAFTA, millions of people will be uprooted from the rural countryside with no hope, no continental labor rights, and become an exploitable class of people used by the most unscrupulous traffickers on the continent.

Another reason to vote ''no'' on CAFTA is that Central American workers will continue to be subjected to sweatshop conditions because the enforcement provisions that exist in the Caribbean Basin Initiative, CBI, will not apply. Right now CAFTA countries are not robust democracies. But what the CBI does in the Caribbean is assures that trade rights are linked to access to the U.S. market and enforcement of labor provisions.

CAFTA backslides on this lock-tight trigger. It basically has some encouraging language to nations to enforce their labor laws which may be poor or non-existent, and no matter how weak, gives them a go-ahead and then sets aside money in the agreement to give to the very governments that are not enforcing those laws anyway.

Another reason to vote ''no'' on CAFTA is it hurts U.S. agriculture. In fact, CAFTA nations already are saturated with U.S. agricultural products which consume about 94 percent of their market, so there is not much room to grow there. And, more importantly, CAFTA provides that Brazilian ethanol and other imports, if processed inside of these Central American countries, and 35 percent of the processing occurs there, can be back-doored into the United States. So it will be the same kind of back-dooring into the United States of products from these other countries that has happened with NAFTA, Mexico and Canada.

Another reason to vote ''no'' on CAFTA is it will regress democratic reform in CAFTA countries. CAFTA does nothing to advance democracy in the six nations that are a part of it. In fact, the civil societies in those countries are broadly opposed to CAFTA. Huge demonstrations against CAFTA have occurred in every one of those nations, and the manner in which this is being voted on in those countries is truly troublesome. Three countries have used emergency procedures, bringing up late at night, the public does not know what is happening. And in the other three countries it has not even been voted on. Not exactly a way to carry forward the idea of democratic liberties across the hemisphere.

Another reason to vote ''no'' on CAFTA is its lack of real environmental enforcement and our knowledge that with NAFTA drug trafficking has snubbed up right against the U.S. border at Juarez. When you have these trade agreements that do not have other contingent policies attached to them, what you end up doing is empowering some of the worst forces in the hemisphere.

Finally, CAFTA will hurt women workers disproportionately in societies where women's rights are already marginalized. How would you like to be a woman in a textile plant in one of those countries? Or how about in a banana-packing shed? What do you think your future would look like? Sixty percent of those working in these sweatshop conditions are women workers with absolutely no labor protections. CAFTA is doing nothing to improve their standing in our hemisphere, and it will do nothing to obliterate the sweatshops that are so very much a part of their lives.

The combined purchasing powers of all of these Central American countries is the same as Columbus, Ohio or New Haven, Connecticut. They really do not have the kind wherewithal to purchase value-added products from our country.

So what is CAFTA really about? CAFTA is merely about expanding the NAFTA model to six other countries, providing more export platforms to the United States of goods, both agricultural and manufactured are back-doored into this country, and providing none of the advances in freedom, liberty, opportunity and hope that should be the hallmark of this country at home and abroad.

EGYPTIAN FOREIGN RELATIONS

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the House is poised to consider House Resolution 2601, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2006 and 2007. Among the many critical provisions in this bill is one relating to Egypt that I would like to discuss tonight.

Despite large amounts of bilateral U.S. assistance, Egypt has failed to modernize its economy, it has failed to end the influence of Islamic influence in the schools and in the media, and it has failed to improve the human rights situation in its homeland.

While Mr. Mubarak continues to pay lip service to holding participatory, multi-party elections, dissidents and those who voice their opposition to the government's policies continue to be arrested, to be beaten, and otherwise punished for attempting to exercise their most basic fundamental human rights as human beings and Egyptian citizens.

In response, the underlying provisions in the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, also known as the State Department Authorization Bill, shifts funds from military aid to economic assistance for the purpose of supporting Egyptian civil society and improving the quality of life of the Egyptian people.

The underlying provision transfers $40 million in military aid for each of the next 3 years, a mere 3 percent of Egypt's overall $1.3 billion to economic assistance. Egypt faces no military threat. However, Egypt continues to procure jet fighters, tanks, armored personnel carriers, Apache helicopters, anti-aircraft missile batteries, surveillance aircraft, and other equipment under our Foreign Military Sales program, in addition to unconfirmed reports of Egyptian attempts to procure North Korean medium-range missiles, and these are serious questions regarding the purpose and rationale of an ongoing military build-up by the Egyptian Government.

In addition, after decades of promises and unfulfilled commitments to the United States, Egypt's economic conditions remain dire. The underlying provision in the bill is hardly a major price to pay in order to send the message that Egypt needs to pay more attention to human rights and economic and social development. Not one penny is cut from the overall aid package. It is merely a shift in priorities.

The Hyde/Lantos/Ros-Lehtinen provision is in keeping with U.S. public diplomacy efforts by sending a clear message about U.S. priorities for Egypt's future and the future for the Egyptian people. It builds good will with the people of the region by supporting educational, economic, and biological development, goals which contribute most effectively to Egypt's internal stability.

This provision also supports the priorities of President Bush to bring freedom, democracy, and sound economies to the Middle East. He articulated here in this Chamber in the State of the Union earlier this year that the great and proud nation of Egypt, which showed the way toward peace in the

Middle East, can now show the way toward democracy in the Middle East.

Finally, the underlying provisions further supports congressional views articulated in the 9/11 Implementation Act regarding the need to reevaluate our previous policies of supporting dictatorships and, in turn, support civil society and reforms as a means of addressing the precursor conditions which breed terrorism.

In Egypt, we see a nation of great potential; and to fully realize that potential, Egypt must reform itself, economically and politically. The language already in the bill seeks to empower Egyptian civil society rather than the entrenched Egyptian military.

In this context, I ask my colleagues to oppose any amendments that seek to strike this provision. Any amendment to weaken or to strike the Egyptian language in the authorization bill would send the wrong message to Egypt and to other dictatorial regimes in the broader Middle East, that they can proceed with virtual impunity and it is business as usual. In a post-9/11 world, this is the wrong message to send.

RENEGOTIATE CAFTA

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, last year this Congress was promised a vote on the Central American Free Trade Agreement by the end of 2004. December 31 came and went. Then at a White House news conference in May, President Bush called on Congress to pass the Central American Free Trade Agreement by Memorial Day. Memorial Day came and went. In June, Congress was once again promised a vote which was supposed to have been before the July 4 recess. The July 4 recess came and went.

Now we understand a vote on the Central American Free Trade Agreement could come in front of the House next week.

The many of us who have been speaking out against CAFTA have a message for this Congress: renegotiate CAFTA.

Those of us opposed to this CAFTA do want a trade agreement with Central America, do want to trade with the five Central American countries and the Dominican Republic; but we want an agree that benefits the many, not the few.

This agreement was negotiated and written by a select few. This agreement benefits those same select few. As the President travels the Nation trying to sell this CAFTA to the American public, he is hearing firsthand from U.S. workers, from family farmers, from small business owners, especially small manufacturers, from ranchers, from religious leaders that they do not want this CAFTA either. Their message is loud and clear: renegotiate CAFTA.

In response to the President's trip this past Friday to North Carolina, a New York Times headline reads, ''Bush Sells Trade Pact in Hostile Territory.'' That is what the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) spoke about earlier, a Republican from North Carolina. A Huntsville, Alabama Times editorial in Sunday's paper reads, ''Say No to the Central American Free Trade Agreement.'' Again, a newspaper understanding that the free trade agreement is not good for Alabama. It is not good for the South. It is not good for Tennessee. It is not good for this country.

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A Wall Street Journal headline today reads, and this is a newspaper that is always supportive of trade agreements, ''CAFTA Is No Cure-all For Central America.''

This CAFTA represents more than a decade of failed U.S. trade policies. Look what has happened with our trade policies in the last dozen years. In 1992, the year I was elected to Congress, the U.S. had a $38 billion trade deficit. That means we exported $38 billion less than we imported. Twelve years later, in 2004, that trade deficit went from $28 billion in a dozen years to $618 billion. That translates directly into lost jobs; more than 200,000 lost jobs in the district of the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP), more than 220,000 lost jobs in the district of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) and the district of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL). It is clear our trade policy is simply not working.

CAFTA languished in Congress for more than a year, then passed the Senate last month by the narrowest margin ever of any trade agreement because this wrong-headed trade agreement does not work for Republicans or Democrats. It offends Republicans, dozens of Republicans in this body, and it offends dozens of Democrats in this body.

We know this agreement is a continuation of its dysfunctional cousin, NAFTA, another failed trade policy of the last dozen years. It is the same old story. Every time there is a trade agreement, the President says it will mean more manufacturing products that we will export overseas. Every time there is a trade agreement the President says it will mean more jobs for Americans. And every time there is a trade agreement the President says it will raise the standard of living in the developing countries. Yet with every trade agreement their promises fall by the wayside in favor of large corporate interests that send U.S. jobs overseas and exploit cheap labor abroad.

This CAFTA is simply, as the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) pointed out, about exploiting cheap labor abroad. This CAFTA will not enable the Central American or Nicaraguan, or Honduras, or Guatemala workers to buy cars made in Ohio. It will not allow those workers to buy software developed in Seattle. It will not mean more prime beef exports from Nebraska, because those workers simply cannot afford to buy those products. This CAFTA, instead, is about U.S. companies moving plants to Honduras, outsourcing jobs to Nicaragua, and exploiting cheap labor in Guatemala.

Desperate after failing to gin up support for the agreement based on its merits, CAFTA supporters are now attempting to buy votes with fantastic promises. And if that fails, they will twist arms. Count on this; this is a prediction: They will call the vote in the middle of the night, hold the rollcall open for hours to pass a bad agreement that will benefit only a select few.

Instead, Mr. Speaker, we should throw out this failed agreement and negotiate a better CAFTA. When the world's poorest people can buy American products and not just make them, we will know then that our trade policies are working.

THE ECONOMY/CARL ROVE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, 3 years ago, our Democrat colleagues said Republicans should not lower taxes because we needed those tax dollars for more programs and more spending. Republicans knew that more new programs and additional spending was the last thing we needed to be doing. We fought to reduce taxes, and we said that lower taxes would bring this economy out of a recession.

Today, our policies have been proven to be correct. Our tax relief has spurred economic growth and created jobs. We have a near historically low unemployment rate of about 5 percent. Home ownership is at historic highs. We have helped millions of Americans achieve the dream of home ownership. We have a 69 percent home ownership rate.

Mr. Speaker, 146,000 new jobs were created in June, adding to the millions of jobs created in the past 3 years, giving us 25 months of sustained consecutive economic growth. We lowered taxes and this year we are seeing unexpectedly high tax revenues. Our deficit is going to be $100 billion less because of tremendous economic growth.

And what about this is confusing to Democrats? Well, they say, okay, that is good economic news, but we have a deficit. And to that we say, well, why not join us and cut spending. Let us reduce and eliminate unneeded programs. Let us not raise taxes.

When we lowered taxes, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the minority leader, led the Democrats in predicting that this relief would do nothing at all for our Nation's economy. I think it is fair to say that she and her party are pretty much out of touch on that issue. And I know that

the newspapers, many of which opposed our tax relief, are hesitant to admit that they were wrong, but they should be out there reporting this data, showing the American people that this economy is growing and that jobs are being created.

Mr. Speaker, our philosophy on this side of the aisle is that when you get government out of the way and let the American people in this wonderful free enterprise system go to work, they do it quite well. This great economic news shows that Republicans are on the right side of this argument.

Mr. Speaker, there are a couple of other things I want to say this evening. Last year, former Clinton Security Adviser Sandy Berger stole, that is right, stole classified materials from the National Archives. This is not an accusation. It is fact. He pled guilty. He stole classified material. In the ''Sloppy Socks Scandal,'' Berger stuffed classified materials in his clothing in order to sneak them out of the National Archives building. Democrats, however, never considered this a big deal. In fact, most barely seemed to notice or say anything at all about what had happened.

Today, those same Democrats, who did not blink at Berger's actions, are calling for Karl Rove's head. Now, let us put this in perspective. Sandy Berger devised a plan, got into the archives to view the documents, then he stuffed classified documents in his pants to smuggle them out of the National Archives so that he could destroy the material, and Democrats did not so much as call for an inquiry. Today, the minority leader is calling for President Bush to fire Karl Rove for telling a reporter that they were ''barking up the wrong tree.''

I hope Americans see this for what it is, a partisan attack launched by a minority leader who cannot get her party to unite around a policy.

H.R. 3268, EMINENT DOMAIN TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2005

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the proud author of H.R. 3268, the Eminent Domain Tax Relief Act of 2005. I also rise to continue the discussion on eminent domain in light of the recent Kelo v. The City of New London, Connecticut, decision by the United States Supreme Court.

Within 1 week of the Kelo decision, this House demonstrated its commitment to the American people and their property rights through passage of House Resolution 340 by an overwhelming and bipartisan vote. Mr. Speaker, through H. Res. 340, this House condemned the Kelo decision and issued a warning that abusive eminent domain will not be tolerated by this Congress.

However, Mr. Speaker, there is more work to be done, and I look forward to the House's consideration of H.R. 3135, the Private Property Rights Protection Act, introduced by the distinguished chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER). I have proudly joined the chairman in cosponsoring this bill that will codify into statute the principles and concerns that we expressed by House Resolution 340.

Today, though, I would like to press forward in the fight to protect the American people's property rights and to discuss H.R. 3268, the Eminent Domain Tax Relief Act. This bill will ensure tax fairness for all who lose property through eminent domain. The Eminent Domain Tax Relief Act will exempt individuals who lose their homes or businesses by eminent domain from paying capital gains tax on the revenue generated from the forced sale.

Mr. Speaker, there is no question that eminent domain must remain a tool of last resort for the government and a tool employed only for public use. However, while most Americans accept traditional and proper execution of eminent domain for schools, roads, and other expressly public uses, no individual should ever have to pick up the tab with IRS when the government decides to sell his or her own home or business. Mr. Speaker, these individuals did not make the decision to sell their property, and they should not be penalized by the Tax Code for a decision that they did not make.

In the wake of the Kelo decision, this Congress, the media, and the collective discussions around American dinner tables across this country have focused upon questions of acceptable uses of eminent domain. Well, the Constitution speaks loud and clear. Eminent domain should only be for public use.

Additionally, the Constitution also requires the government to give just compensation for any taking of private property. Is it just compensation, Mr. Speaker, to send the government wrecking ball and an IRS agent to the same door at the same time? I think not. It is simply unconscionable for the government to add insult to injury by taxing those people who are losing their homes and businesses by no choice of their own.

Often, these individuals have to pay many additional costs when the government condemns their properties. Individuals assume the cost of relocating to somewhere else, and condemned businesses have merchandise that would not only have to be moved but, in many cases, would have to be stored in the interim. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, the government must redouble its efforts to ensure these individuals receive just compensation and are not additionally burdened by the Tax Code.

I encourage all my colleagues to take a good hard look at this legislation. I believe that they will see that it is the right thing to do. There should be no taxation on government condemnation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to stand firm against this injustice. Sign on to H.R. 3268, supporting tax relief for all those who pay the price when the government wrecking ball comes.

HONORING THE FALLEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Emanuel) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, there are now 1,979 American military personnel who have given their lives in the service of our Nation in both Iraq and Afghanistan. We owe these brave individuals and their families a debt of gratitude that can never be fully repaid.

It is our responsibility to honor the ultimate sacrifice that our men and women in uniform have made while serving our country. We often invoke their sacrifices in general but seldom take the time to thank them individually. In the previous weeks my colleagues and I, from both sides of the aisle, have recognized these individual servicemen and women on the floor of the people's House by reading their names and rank, the names and rank of each servicemember who has fallen in the Iraqi and Afghanistan theatres of war.

Today, approximately 1,700 names have been read. Tonight, we will continue and complete this tribute with the names of our most recent fallen fellow Americans. In the words of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, each of these heroes stands in the unbroken line of patriots who have dared to die that freedom might live and grow and increase in its blessings.

God bless and keep each of the brave Americans whose memory we honor tonight:

Specialist Francisco G. Martinez
Lance Corporal Kevin S. Smith
Specialist Travis R. Bruce
Corporal Bryan J. Richardson
Sergeant Isiah J. Sinclair
Sergeant Lee M. Godbolt
Private 1st Class Samuel S. Lee
Specialist Eric L. Toth
Sergeant Kenneth L. Ridgley
Sergeant Kelly S. Morris
Warrant Officer Charles Wells Jr.
Sgt. 1st Class Robbie D. McNary
Corporal Garrywesley Tan Rimes
Staff Sergeant Ioasa F. Tavae Jr.
Lance Corporal Tenzin Dengkhim
Corporal William D. Richardson
Sgt. James Alexander Sherrill
Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Kennedy
Staff Sergeant Christopher W. Dill
Lance Cpl. Jeremiah Kinchen

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Mr. EMANUEL. The gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Sergeant Javier J. Garcia

Specialist Glenn J. Watkins
Specialist Sascha Struble
Specialist Daniel J. Freeman

Staff Sgt. Romanes L. Woodard
Major Edward J. Murphy
PFC Pendelton L. Sykes II
Specialist Michael K. Spivey
Staff Sgt. Charles R. Sanders Jr.
Lance Corporal Juan C. Venegas
Staff Sgt. Kevin Dewayne Davis
PFC Casey M. LaWare
Specialist Manuel Lopez III
Specialist John W. Miller
Corporal Tyler J. Dickens
Corporal Michael B. Lindemuth
Captain James C. Edge
Specialist Aleina Ramirezgonzalez
Specialist Randy Lee Stevens
Sergeant Tromaine K. Toy Sr.
Sergeant Angelo L. Lozada Jr.
Private Aaron M. Hudson
Private Joseph L. Knott
Private 1st Class Steven F. Sirko
Major Steven W. Thornton
Private 1st Class Sam W. Huff
PFC Kevin S. K. Wessel
Specialist Jacob M. Pfister
Lance Cpl. Marty G. Mortenson
Corporal Kelly M. Cannan
PFC Robert A. ''Bobby'' Guy
PFC Gavin J. Colburn
Private Robert C. White III
Sergeant Anthony J. Davis Jr.
Seaman Aaron A. Kent
Corporal Kevin William Prince
Specialist Robert W. Defazio
Specialist Gary W. Walters Jr.
1st Sergeant Timmy J. Millsap
Sgt. 1st Class Allen C. Johnson

Mr. EMANUEL. The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS).

Mr. SHIMKUS. Specialist David L. Rice
Corporal Joseph S. Tremblay
PFC Robert W. Murray Jr.
Specialist Ricky W. Rockholt Jr.
1st Lieutenant William A. Edens
Sergeant Eric Wayne Morris
Sergeant Timothy Craig Kiser
Private Charles S. Cooper Jr.
PFC Darren A. Deblanc
Captain Ralph J. ''Jay'' Harting III
Captain Stephen W. Frank
2nd Lt. Clifford V. Gadsden
Sergeant Kenya A. Parker
S. Sgt. Juan de Dios Garcia-Arana
Specialist Derrick Joseph Lutters
Captain Kelly C. Hinz
Major John C. Spahr
Staff Sergeant Tommy S. Little
Sergeant John E. McGee
Staff Sergeant William J. Brooks
Sergeant Stephen P. Saxton
Sergeant Michael A. Marzano
Sergeant Aaron N. Cepeda Sr.
Lance Cpl Lance Tanner Graham
PO 3rd Class Jeffery L. Wiener
Lance Corporal Michael V. Postal
Lance Corporal Nicholas C. Kirven
Corporal Richard P. Schoener
Lance Cpl. Lawrence R. Philippon
Corporal Dustin A. Derga
Specialist Steven Ray Givens
Staff Sergeant Thor H. Ingraham
PFC Nicolas E. Messmer
Sgt. Gary A. ''Andy'' Eckert Jr.
Lance Corporal Marcus Mahdee
Lance Cpl. Taylor B. Prazynski
PFC Stephen P. Baldwyn
Staff Sgt. Anthony L. Goodwin
1st Sergeant Michael J. Bordelon
Staff Sgt. Samuel Tyrone Castle

Mr. EMANUEL. The gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of New York. 1st Lt. Michael J. Fasnacht
Captain Phillip T. Esposito
1st Lieutenant Louis E. Allen
Sergeant David Joseph Murray
Corporal Brad D. Squires
Lance Cpl. Devon Paul Seymour
Lance Cpl. Thomas O. Keeling
Lance Corporal Daniel Chavez
Lance Corporal Dustin V. Birch
Staff Sergeant Mark O. Edwards
Sgt. 1st Class Victor H. Cervantes
Lance Cpl. Mario Alberto Castillo
Lance Corporal Andrew J. Kilpela
Specialist Casey Byers
Sergeant 1st Class Neil A. Prince
Sergeant Larry R. Arnold Sr.
Specialist Terrance D. Lee Sr.
Corporal Stanley J. Lapinski
Specialist Anthony D. Kinslow
Sergeant Larry R. Kuhns Jr.
Lance Corporal John J. Mattek, Jr.
Sergeant Anthony G. Jones
PFC Nathan B. Clemons
PFC Joshua P. Klinger
PFC Michael Ray Hayes
PO 2nd Class Cesar O. Baez
Lance Corporal Chad B. Maynard
Lance Corporal Dion M. Whitley
Corporal Tyler S. Trovillion
Corporal Jesse Jaime
Lance Cpl. Jonathan R. Flores
Staff Sgt. Christopher N. Piper
Captain John W. Maloney
Lance Corporal Erik R. Heldt
Specialist Anthony S. Cometa
Sgt. 1st Class Michael McNulty
Lance Corporal Adam J. Crumpler
Corporal William A. Long
1st Lieutenant Noah Harris
Sergeant 1st Class Victor H. Cervantes
Lieutenant Michael P. Murphy, a constituent of mine.

Mr. EMANUEL. The gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY).

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Lance Cpl. John T. Schmidt III
Lance Corporal Jourdan L. Grez
Lance Cpl. Jonathan Walter Grant
Lance Corporal Nicholas B. Erdy
PFC Christopher R. Dixon
Lance Corporal Wesley G. Davids
Staff Sergeant Kendall H. Ivy II
PFC Kenneth E. Zeigler II
Sergeant Andrew R. Jodon
Sergeant John M. Smith
PFC Travis W. Anderson
Sergeant Charles C. Gillican III
Sergeant Jacob M. Simpson
Private 1st Class Wesley R. Riggs
Sgt. Antwan L. ''Twan'' Walker
Sergeant Robin V. Fell
Specialist Bernard L. Sembly
PFC Wyatt D. Eisenhauer
Sergeant Brad A. Wentz
Sergeant Kurt D. Schamberg
Corporal Steven Charles Tucker
Sergeant Charles T. Wilkerson
Sergeant Kenneth J. Schall
1st Lieutenant Aaron N. Seesan
Specialist Tyler L. Creamean
Sergeant Benjamin C. Morton
Sergeant John B. Ogburn III
Sergeant Carl J. Morgain
Private 1st Class Kyle M. Hemauer
Staff Sergeant Russell J. Verdugo
Specialist Joshua T. Brazee
Sergeant Christopher S. Perez
Sergeant Daniel Ryan Varnado
Specialist Bryan Edward Barron
Specialist Audrey Daron Lunsford
Staff Sergeant Saburant Parker
Sgt. 1st Class Randy D. Collins
Sergeant 1st Class Peter J. Hahn
PFC Jeffrey R. Wallace
Specialist Dustin C. Fisher

Mr. EMANUEL. The gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS).

Mr. SHAYS. Sergeant Charles A. ''Chuck'' Drier
Sergeant David Neil Wimberg
Sergeant Alfred Barton Siler
Major Ricardo A. Crocker
Sergeant Mark A. Maida
CWO 2 Joshua Michael Scott
CWO 4 Matthew Scott Lourey
Lt. Colonel Albert E. Smart
Specialist Phillip N. Sayles
1st Sergeant Michael S. Barnhill
Staff Sergeant Victor M. Cortes III
Corporal Jeffrey B. Starr
Staff Sergeant Casey Crate
Captain Derek Argel
Captain Jeremy Fresques
Major William Downs
Sergeant Miguel A. Ramos
SFC Steven M. Langmack
PFC Class Louis E. Niedermeier
Staff Sergeant Virgil R. Case
Specialist Phillip C. Edmundson
Captain Charles D. Robinson
Staff Sergeant Leroy E. Alexander
Civilian—Linda J. Villar
Corporal Antonio Mendoza
PFC Brian Scott ''Scotty'' Ulbrich
Specialist Eric J. Poelman
Staff Sergeant Justin L. Vasquez
Colonel Theodore S. Westhusing
Specialist Carrie L. French
Specialist Brian M. Romines
Lance Corporal Jonathan L. Smith
Lance Corporal Robert T. Mininger
Lt. Colonel Terrence K. Crowe
Specialist Eric T. Burri
PFC Emmanuel Hernandez
Sergeant Michael J. Kelley
PFC Douglas E. Kashmer
Sergeant Roberto Arizola Jr.
Lance Cpl. Marc Lucas Tucker

Mr. EMANUEL. The gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. CHANDLER).

Mr. CHANDLER. Staff Sergeant Christopher N. Piper
Lance Corporal Adam J. Crumpler
Private 1st Class Christopher R. Kilpatrick
Specialist Brian A. Vaughn
Specialist Christopher L. Hoskins
Specialist Nicholas R. Idalski
Sergeant James D. Stewart
Major Duane W. Dively
Sergeant Arnold Duplantier II
Petty Officer 1st Class Regina R. Clark
Corporal Ramona M. Valdez
Lance Corporal Veashna Muy
Lance Corporal Holly A. Charette
Corporal Chad W. Powell
Sergeant 1st Class Christopher W. Phelps
Sergeant Joseph M. Tackett
Corporal Carlos Pineda

Specialist Charles A. Kaufman
Chief Warrant Officer Keith R. Mariotti
Chief Warrant Officer Steven E. Shepard
2nd Lieutenant Matthew S. Coutu
Petty Officer 2nd Class Danny P. Dietz
Petty Officer 1st Class Jeffrey S. Taylor
Petty Officer 2nd Class James Suh
Petty Officer 2nd Class Eric Shane Patton
Lieutenant Michael M. McGreevy Jr.
Petty Officer 1st Class Jeffery A. Lucas
Lieutenant Commander Erik S. Kristensen
Senior Chief Petty Officer Daniel R. Healy
Chief Petty Officer Jacques J. Fontan
Chief Warrant Officer Chris J. Scherkenbach
Sergeant 1st Class Michael L. Russell
Major Stephen C. Reich
Master Sergeant James W. ''Tre'' Ponder III
Sergeant 1st Class Marcus V. Muralles
Sergeant Kip A. Jacoby
Chief Warrant Officer Corey J. Goodnature.

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Staff Sergeant Shamus O. Goare
Specialist Rafael A. Carrillo, Jr.
Mr. EMANUEL. Sergeant Manny Hornedo
Specialist Robert E. Hall Jr.
Signaller Paul William Didsbury
Sergeant Chad M. Mercer
Staff Sergeant Jeremy A. Brown
Specialist Ryan J. Montgomery
Private Anthony M. Mazzarella
Corporal Lyle J. Cambridge
Staff Sergeant Scottie L. Bright
Specialist Christopher W. Dickison
Sergeant Deyson K. Cariaga
Specialist Hoby F. Bradfield Jr.
Private 1st Class Eric Paul Woods
Staff Sergeant Joseph P. Goodrich
Lance Corporal Ryan J. Kovacicek
Sergeant Timothy J. Sutton
Specialist Benyahmin B. Yahudah
Corporal Christopher D. Winchester
Corporal Clifton Blake Mounce
Staff Sergeant Tricia L. Jameson
Private First Class Timothy J. Hines, Jr.
Specialist Jared D. Hartley
Staff Sergeant Ronald T. Wood
Sergeant Travis S. Cooper
Specialist Ronnie D. Williams
Staff Sgt. Frank Tiai.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the distinguished Members from both sides of the aisle who have participated in this tribute and honor, which took 3 nights over the last 2 weeks to read into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and to the people's House.

I would also like to take this opportunity, on behalf of my colleagues, to thank the brave men and women who continue to serve our Nation in Iraq, Afghanistan, and throughout the world and serve with distinction. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families at this time until they come together.

In the words of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, I again would like to cite: Each of these heroes ''stands in the unbroken line of patriots who have dared to die that freedom might live, and grow and increase its blessings.''

A number of our colleagues have stumbled over names. I hope those families understand that, although we struggled with their names, we honor their service. These pictures are outside my office and outside other Members' offices, all 1,900, and with the names that we see here, we will add, as the pictures are made available, to always remember that their sons and daughters, their husbands and wives, their brothers and sisters and their aunts and uncles, when called to serve, they served, and they gave their ultimate sacrifice.

May we always remember them, their names, and their faces. God bless them and God bless America.

OUR SOLDIERS IN THE WAR ON TERROR

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor and a great privilege to be here this evening. In the hour before I began to speak, we heard the names of young men and women who have shed their blood in the defense of this country. It is a sober business that we are about, a serious business and a critical business.

As I have talked to hundreds of soldiers serving in Afghanistan, in Iraq, those coming back, those that I have spoken to in theater, they share one clear message, and that is that we have got to stay the course and finish a mission that they believe that we are winning and the only thing between ultimate victory and ultimate defeat is the will and the resolve of the American people.

I believe that it is critically important that we hear their story and their perspective. Every soldier, every marine that I have talked to, every airman that I have spoken to in the last 6 months, many whom I brought into this Chamber, have shared with me their dismay, their disappointment, and, yes, even their disgust, Mr. Speaker, over the way the liberal media has misportrayed the actions of our men and women in the Middle East, have misportrayed the successes, have not reported those successes and have gone for tabloid spectacular attacks of what all the folks on the ground believe is a strategically irrelevant, though still dangerous, insurgency.

Our military is winning. The Afghan people and the Iraqi people are beginning to taste freedom and are standing up.

And I think it is important in this time tonight to bring to perspective some of the units in the words of some of the people who are participating in the actions right now. It is easy to stand in this Chamber and take a position for or against the war because we are living 10,000 miles away. For those of us who have carried a rucksack and lived in the mud or lived the desert, it brings back many memories. I have seen classmates of mine from the military academy who died in service to this Nation, buried. I know many friends who have been lost. In fact, 3 weeks ago I stood at a grave site in the Arlington National Cemetery as a member of America's premier counterterrorism force was buried. All around us, as we were going through these sober and grievous moments of remembering a man's life and country to this country, as his casket was lowered into the ground, as the mournful wail of Taps played over the cemetery, people went to and fro. There were cars on the expressway as I came back to Capitol Hill, and what did I see? People going throughout their lives oblivious to the tremendous sacrifices that are being made by our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines on the other side of the world so that we would be safe at home.

I had a great privilege with several of my colleagues to lead a delegation into Southwest Asia over the July 4 recess. In many senses it was a reunion, seeing friends that I had known from the army, in some cases people I had been acquainted with on active duty 29 years ago.

I would like to begin tonight by sharing a poignant e-mail. I traveled with the delegation to Kuwait. We will talk about that in a few moments. We moved to Baghdad in Iraq, visiting with units there and the command there, on to Kyrgyzstan with our men and women of the Air Force, maintaining the logistics in the transit center in Bishkek and Manas Air Base, finally down to Kabul, and then we flew 150 miles low level by helicopter to what I believe is a wonderful and stellar example of America's soldiers doing what they do best, advancing the cause of freedom, protecting us here at home and representing the values of this great Nation.

So often the press nationally wants to point to the negative, to the ½ of 1 percent that underperform or do not necessarily live up to the good name of this country. They totally neglect the carnage, the terror, the inhumanity, the abuse that was heaped on people, the kleptocracies that rob people of hope and opportunity and freedom. They do not tell the soldiers' stories. And one of the things I would like to begin with tonight is from that visit. We flew into Forward Operating Base Sharona and Paktika Province, where one of the great unsung stories of the War on Terror, really the war on Islamic extremists, is taking place.

I want one thing to be clear for the record and for those who are watching

overseas, we understand perfectly what this is about. This is not simply a War on Terror. This is a war by Islamic extremism against the rest of the world. It is a war that seeks to prevent people from pursuing individual opportunity and freedom. It is a war of suppression for those who simply do not want us out of the Middle East but want the Middle East out of the world.

And one of the things that was most enjoyable for me was visiting a unit that I was affiliated with many years ago, the 1st of the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment. The 1st Battalion of the 508th has a long and faithful history in serving this Nation in virtually every conflict since the Second World War. Having served in the Middle East with them myself, it was a great honor to travel back and see them in Afghanistan, see the young men and women who are carrying on a great tradition, a great tradition of advancing the values of this country and protecting citizens of this Nation.

I would like to open this evening by sharing with the Members an e-mail, a message that was tremendously powerful. One thing I love about infantry NCOs and infantry enlisted soldiers is they will always shoot straight with us. They will share the truth. They will not hold anything back, and they will tell us what is on their heart. The one thing that was missing were the statements that I see on the evening news here in the United States, and what I would like to do is, rather than share with what the command said, share what might come from the Pentagon, although it is a consistent story with what is shared on the front lines, I want the Members to hear the e-mail that was sent from Command Sergeant Major Jeff Hof of Task Force Fury, 1st of the 508th Parachute Infantry. He is a great, professional noncommissioned officer, served 22 years in the army, not his first time into that region of the world. He served in Operation Desert Storm. He served in the mountains of northern Iraq. And now he sent me this message, and I would like to share with the American people, I would like to share with every citizen in the world who values hope, values freedom, values opportunity for future generations, and I also want to share a message to the enemies of this Nation, to the enemies of all free people to hear this as they watch this broadcast tonight. This is quoting Sergeant Major Hof, who is out at the tip of the spear, making a tremendous difference tonight as we speak. His NCOs, his enlisted soldiers are serving on the front lines of freedom, bringing reality that the rest of the world experiences, what we in America take for granted tonight to people who have never known it. He sent this to me. Mr. Speaker, this is an NCO speaking. This is the infantry sergeant major speaking, not the Secretary of Defense, not the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, not the commander of combined forces in Afghanistan, but a battalion sergeant major whose principal purpose in life after carrying out his mission is caring for the welfare of the men and women under his command and under his leadership.

''Our national media has never expounded upon our success . . . ,'' Sergeant Major Hof begins. ''The soldiers of this task force understand that this fight we found ourselves in since the war on terrorism began is important, and they understand the nuances required to win.''

Sergeant Major Hof tells his soldiers that they have two hammers in their tool box. The first one that the sergeant major points out is a Texas-size sledgehammer for their number one mission, which is to intercept terrorists, and I want to tell the Members something: They do that very well. There is a reason that the anti-government forces in Afghanistan and, for that matter, the anti-government forces in Iraq do not want direct confrontation with the American military. It is simple. They cannot win, and they have never won any sustained engagement at force of arms.

Mr. Speaker, this is about the will of the American people to stand firm, to stand by our allies, to show resolve and accept simply the call to duty that every generation in the history of this Nation has accepted. Why should we shirk from that? This Nation has not been called upon to sacrifice in the way of the Second World War or in the First World War or in the Civil War, where our losses were measured in the hundreds of thousands of lives. Every loss is a tragedy, but these young men and women who are serving on the front lines understand the nature of this struggle, understand firsthand because they have seen it through their eyes. Our national media has done a disservice to our servicemembers by not reporting the truth.

Sergeant Major Hof talks about a Texas-size sledgehammer to do what my friends in the military like to call the kinetic end of the business, but he also emphasizes the importance of the other tool in the toolbox, a New England-size carpenter's hammer to help the Afghans build their country so they will succeed in the long term.

He goes on: ''Soldiers take this on with a sincere passion in the training of the local and the national police force, the border police, and our biggest mission is training and fighting alongside the Afghanistan national army.'' He continues: ''There is no apprehension in fighting alongside the security forces of Afghanistan, and the members truly appreciate everything we are doing for them in building skill sets to eventually defend themselves. All of our soldiers understand the training and fighting with the Afghan security forces is critical to long-term success, which is why we have all embraced the Afghans as one of our own in combating the terrorists.''

When I was in Sharona Forward Operating Base, there were not simply Americans there. There were Afghans there. When our soldiers go out on patrol, they go out on patrol jointly with the Afghans, and we will talk some more about that later this evening.

Sergeant Major Hof goes on and said: ''My junior NCOs work with local leaders . . . ,'' and I will tell the Members something that is shared not in the evening news again or in the New York Times or in the Washington Post, which seem to forget the fact that this is a war involving American soldiers and American leadership and fundamentally depends on American resolve. ''My junior NCOs work with local leaders building schools, mosques, distributing school supplies to some of the poorest in Afghanistan, explaining the intricacies of how democracy works, and educating hardened former mujahedin fighters on how to resolve simple tribal conflicts without the sound of a rifle fired in anger.''

□ 2045

This is all done to embolden local leaders and build long-term capacity to fight and secure these communities.''

My friends, my fellow Americans, this is a professional infantry noncommissioned officer who is sharing these words, not written by a politician, certainly not written by a reporter in the national media, to tell you the heart of the American soldiers serving in the Middle East today.

The Sergeant Major goes on. ''We have a program that school children from our home base sent school supplies and toys that ranged from stuffed animals and little dolls and even a few Frisbees to be distributed if we are out on patrol.''

I had one soldier ask me to send soccer balls to Afghanistan so the kids could taste a side of life they had never experienced.

Sergeant Major Hobbs said, ''I personally helped in passing out these gifts to the children, and if a mother in America who protests a military recruiting drive,'' and how I regret personally to see that, ''if a mother in America who protests a military recruiting drive could only see the warm smile of joy that these little ones share when they are handed a little stuffed animal or a coloring book, they would truly understand we are winning, and their sons and daughters are making a difference, and it is well worth the sacrifice, if nothing more than to see the smile on these children's faces, if only for fleeting moment.

Our young men and women understand that sacrifice of freedom in defending our Nation against those that would do our country harm, and they relish in the face of that that they are part of history, the history that we are making as we work to secure peace.''

He continues, ''No reporter from the national media will do a story on the numbers of soldiers who have reenlisted to stay in and fight this Global War on Terror. We recently had a CNN reporter visit us, and we wanted for her

to be part of a reenlistment ceremony that would show her firsthand the dedication our young men have in fighting. This reporter from CNN, I might add, who is an opinion influencer in the world media on national security affairs, refused to cover this.''

This is what the Sergeant Major shares with my old unit the First of the 508th. ''She chose not to take part or even entertain the fact that we had over 45 soldiers reenlist to stay here and fight.''

I ask the liberal pendants who refuse to go in theater to see the way this is actually being fought, to see the conduct of this, to live with our soldiers, who choose to use our soldiers as human shields to attack the administration, why they won't talk about the fact that in the active military unit serving in Iraq, the active military unit serving in Afghanistan and Kyrgystan and Kuwait why they are reenlisting at rates of over 100 percent.

When I was a young man growing up at the end of the Vietnam conflict, that was not the case. The reason, Mr. Speaker, is simple: These young people believe in the mission. They have accepted a profound call to duty, a profound call to duty that is as important, if frankly not more important, than that that was accepted by the so-called greatest generation during the Second World War, and I say that to honor these young men, to honor these young women, to honor the chain of command that is putting their lives on the line while we sit here in comfort in the United States.

The Sergeant Major continues. ''Here is a story that will never reach the national media. One of my forward operating bases took a direct rocket attack and they sustained several severe casualties in which three young men made the ultimate sacrifice. After the Medivac lifted off carrying away their platoon sergeant, who almost lost his life to rocket shrapnel that caused a severe leg injury and another close friend of the platoon, they were later notified that the friend of the platoon died on the operating table. Those soldiers requested we continue on with the previously scheduled change of command and reenlistment ceremony.''

Hear this. He writes, ''Three soldiers reenlisted on the same forward operating base where just hours before they rendered first-aid to save the lives of some, but saw three mortally wounded die.''

Each of these young men had different reasons for reenlisting, but to a man each said they wanted to rededicate their service and sacrifice in the names of their brothers who made the ultimate sacrifice whose names were read in this Chamber tonight.

That tells me, my friends, a very different perspective than the partisan rhetoric that is so troubling. More than that, the partisan rhetoric that does not encourage our soldiers, does not encourage the American people, does not give them a realistic perspective of what is happening, but discourages morale and emboldens the very people who are putting names on the list that was read in this Chamber in the last hour.

That is something the American people need to understand and they need to contemplate. There are very few members of this Chamber who have carried the rifle and carried the rucksack and lived in the mud and been far away from home to understand the camaraderie and the bonding that takes place in one of these units. First they take care of themselves, but they understand the purpose of their mission, and this generation, I have to tell you, from my time enlisting nearly 29 years ago, understands in a way very different than any veterans I have ever spoken with the importance and the relevance of the mission that they are on right now.

The Sergeant Major continues: ''These soldiers who reenlisted wanted to complete the mission they all started together and did not want to let down one of their own who was no longer in their physical presence but is resolved in spirit still lived among them. That story did not make headlines,'' he writes.

And he finishes his message to me with this statement: ''I could go on and on in speaking about the men and women in our Nation's military and the sacrifice we are willingly making despite the fact that we make up less than 1 percent of the population in this Nation in carrying the load of this fight for an entire Nation of 280 million people, according to the latest national census, and we get minimal credit. I am here to tell you that we are winning now, and in time we will win the peace all of us so desperately seek.''

That, my friends, was spoken not by me, not by a media consultant, certainly not by a liberal pundit in the national media. That was spoken, Mr. Speaker, by the Sergeant Major of First Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, serving under the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Patika Province in Afghanistan.

It is a credit to the traditions of the United States military, of our citizen soldiers, and it is something that every citizen in this Nation should understand; this is the devotion, this is part of the story that needs to come out to the world. And, frankly, for our enemies who pay attention to our media, I want all of you to know on behalf of Task Force Fury they are there and you are never coming back into that territory again.

We enjoyed a powerful time of fellowship with these soldiers and encouragement. We saw the reality on the ground.

We will share during this hour some of the different perspectives that we had, but I would like to yield some time to my colleagues who are here tonight who had that opportunity to share. The first one whose perspective that I would like to give as he traveled with us is the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND).

We traveled a long distance to get to these remote places and had an opportunity to go from the comfortable familiarity of the United States out to the tip of the spear, out to see countries that were raped by a kleptocracy, and now are there with American young people bringing hope, opportunity, stability and ultimately security to us here at home.

I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND).

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS) for giving me that opportunity to travel with him and his delegation as we went to Kuwait, Afghanistan and Iraq, Kyrgystan and visited our troops.

Also I want to thank the American people and the U.S. Army and all of our armed services for giving us as Members of the People's House the ability to go over and visit with them and to see the things that are going on over there, the things that we are asked to fund and the fact we are asked to keep them in the battle for liberty and justice and freedom throughout this world.

It was quite a trip. Never having been outside the country except to go to a few islands on a cruise ship, it was quite an experience to travel the distances we did and then to meet with the young men and women of our Armed Forces as they serve us so greatly overseas.

We visited a base in Kuwait where we visited the men and women that drive convoy trucks up into Iraq every day, where there are about 2,500 trucks at any one day and probably 700 or 800 of those are American troops that put their lives on the line to take supplies to their comrades in Iraq. It was unbelievable when we went and saw the actual up-armor facility that we had funded through the supplemental budget and the thanks we got from the servicemen and women about the effect and benefits that this was bringing to our troops.

We saw firsthand an up-armored vehicle that had been hit by an IED and the damage that it suffered, but every soldier inside of it made it. These are the things that we have got to continue to do in this Congress, is to make sure that our men and women have the best possible equipment that they can use to fight terror all across this world.

We also had an opportunity to go to Iraq and to see the devastation of that country and what it is like to have 30 years of control by a dictator that was the sole justice. I am a simple thinking kind of guy, and I had thought a lot about this war before I was in Congress and since I have been in Congress, but there were a lot of things that I had never thought about. Some of those things is there is no judicial system over there. There are no prosecutors. There was no rule of law. They had a dictator that was the rule of law.

We went and met with the Third ID from Fort Stewart in what was known as the torture chamber for Saddam, and they talked about the things that they saw in the basement of that building, the horrific site that they saw that just turned their stomachs. But it also made them realize why they were there, what kind of demon they were fighting.

We also saw the building next door to it that was known as I guess the Iraqi CIA building and the devastation caused to it by a daisy cutter bomb that was dropped there, unbelievable devastation. But there again it was one of those signs that we have given our military the best tools known to man to fight this war.

We saw at that same base members of the Third ID playing soccer with Iraqi troops, having a great time of fun. It is an international game, as one of the soldiers told me, the game of soccer. They enjoyed that fellowship in heat of about 115 degrees, but they are building relationships and they are letting the Iraqi people understand what it is like to live in freedom.

It is a gift that is indescribable, when you give the people an opportunity to live in freedom. To see the electric grid, that it can only handle so much electricity, and we are producing that much electricity today. We have restored those generating plants to give an opportunity to the Iraqi people to enjoy electricity all day, every day; to have water, to be able to bathe their children, to be able to wash clothes. We are giving them that opportunity.

Then as we went to Afghanistan, and as the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS) said, we went to Serrano, and we visited with those soldiers out there and we saw what they were going through and the patrols that they did in the country. This was 150 miles southeast of Kabul.

We were able to witness the conditions that these men live in every day, the heat and just the threat of terror and danger that they are under, but to see their spirit.

I met one soldier, I believe was Sergeant Lightly, and he needs to be a general because he spends 24/7 embedded with Afghani troops. He said, ''Do you know what I see in these men and women? The desire to live in a free country, to celebrate liberty. They want that for their country. And if something happens, they are right up to the speed. If some of their comrades get killed, they have more people waiting to enlist. In fact, we can't train those people fast enough to be in the military.''

One of the other things that the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS) mentioned was the reenlistment. We were told that the reenlistment goals in Iraq and Afghanistan have surpassed what their goal was. The men and women that are over there fighting, seeing the good things we are doing, the schools we are building, the grid system, the electric, the oil refineries, the colleges and the universities, they see the good that we are doing. And Sergeant Lightly told me, ''I am over here doing this, this is my second tour, because I don't want my two sons to be over here doing this. We need to finish the job today.''

It was such a great honor to be over there, to visit with our men and women and get to visit with some soldiers from Georgia, and just to get to share with them our thanks from me and my family and all the American people for what they are doing. But it was also nice to see their gratitude for us coming over to visit them.

One soldier commented to me, ''It was a great morale devastation when we heard that we had been compared to the Soviet gulags and the Nazis.'' I said, ''Well, they were talking about Guantanamo.'' He said, ''No, they were talking about my brothers and sisters and they were talking about me when they were talking about them.''

So we need to keep our tongues under control and understand that when we say things devastating to our troops it does hurt their morale. They hear that over there, and not only do they hear that, but the Iraqis and the Afghan soldiers that are putting their lives on the line every day hear that, too.

He said, ''You know what? If we pull out of these countries, if we pull out without finishing what we started, we will lose our credibility to every freedom-loving, liberty-loving person in this world.''

□ 2100

Again, I want to thank the gentleman for yielding this time to me and giving me an opportunity to share some of the experiences that I have had.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia; I thank him for his eloquent remarks and the perspective that he shared. One of my memories that will be lodged in my heart is you encouraging all of those Georgia soldiers who were so glad to see you, especially those who know you from Georgia politics to see a face from back home.

I would encourage some of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle who refuse to travel, to visit the troops doing the work that they do so well, and perhaps they would have a slightly different perspective if they spent some time with them on the ground.

Before I yield to the gentleman from Indiana, I would like to take a moment and recognize some of the human side of this. We had an experience in our media at one point a few months ago where one soldier had some negative things to say that ironically flew in the face of 99 percent of his comrades and created a little bit of a challenge from back home with some of the soldiers from back home and their perspective on what was being done. I have a picture of two of them I would like to share. I am good friends with their fathers. They cast a very different perspective than what has been portrayed in some of the national media.

The first gentleman that I would like to point to here tonight is a great patriot. He is not a political man; he is a soldier. He is committed to defend the Constitution. He is committed to honor his brothers and sisters in arms. His name is Art Cawman, and he is from Boone County, Kentucky. Art is a great soldier. He served as a Ranger in the special forces and decided that he wanted to go to flight school. He flies in the Third Infantry Division in the Third Aviation Brigade, and he is a Blackhawk pilot. In Operation Iraqi Freedom in March of 2003, he flew one of the fist Blackhawks over the line for the Third Infantry Division as they began the march to liberate Iraq.

I had the tremendous privilege to spend some time being flown by a hometown pilot from my district whose family I know who shared a perspective candidly and openly about the sober nature of this struggle. Art Cawman is the kind of soldier whose face we need to have on this war. Art Cawman is the kind of soldier who went out and made a difference. Art Cawman is somebody who adapted to the changes in circumstances, who understands the nature of this mission, who understands that Islamic extremism is a threat to every person in the world regardless of faith or ethnicity or nationality. He is willing to serve. He has had comrades that he has lost in this struggle, but he understands the nature of it. He does not do it, he does not do it in a somber way, but with a commitment and understanding and excitement of being part of a great unit, a great heritage, a great tradition and, frankly, a great country that values freedom.

One of my personal pleasures was being able to bring a taste of home to him and also to a soldier I will show my colleagues in just a moment. But we have a tradition back in the fourth district of Kentucky called Skyline chili or Cincinnati chili that is a unique regional taste, like many parts of the country have. My airfare for being flown by him and his fine crew that day on our flight of two, and also including the other aircraft, was a case of this chili. We wanted to pass that on to them, just a small way to say thank you.

What I was most impressed with Art was his clear understanding of the nature of the mission, his clear understanding, Mr. Speaker, of the nature of the struggle, and a clear understanding that all it takes to win is to continue the mission.

I heard from this young warrant officer, the same perspective, that this insurgency, though a threat to individuals, is strategically irrelevant. These elections are going to happen; this government is going to stand. It is going to be different than what we have here in the United States, but their work is bringing results. It is also bringing quality of life to people who have never

known freedom, they have never known government as a friend, they have never known that the police are not your enemy, but they are there to protect you. He is setting that example, a high standard of American values. He represents a great unit with a great tradition and a great chain of command.

There is another gentleman I would like to share with my colleagues as well. This young captain standing next to me on Forward Operating Base Sharana, I referenced our visit to Sharana before; this is as we came off the helicopters after flying 150 miles south of Kabul. This is Captain Joe Geraci. He is the class of 1997 from the United States Military Academy at West Point. His father, Joe Geraci, Sr., is an active member of our business community that I have known well for years. He has made a great contribution to our local community and his son is making a great contribution to our Nation. He is leading a tremendous operation in southeastern Afghanistan right now that is driving the Taliban out of eastern Paktika Province in Colonel Tim McGuire's 1st of the 508th.

We also brought the taste of home to him; you can see it obscured behind the photograph there. But we brought that case of chili, and he sent me an e-mail the other night as he was eating it with his troops and said the only thing that was missing was a vanilla Coke to make the taste of home complete.

They understand the seriousness of their business. Joe has a 5-year-old son whose birthday he missed. He has a wife and parents who are worrying about him every day. But as we all talked on the phone the other day, the one thing they understand is that Captain Joe Geraci, who is a professional infantry officer, who is walking in the finest heritage and traditions of every generation that has come before us, as our young soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines are, he is doing a tremendous job in winning a fight over there that is every bit as critical as the Greatest Generation's fight in the Second World War. It is every bit as critical to our national security now.

I would like to yield the floor for a few minutes to another of my colleagues, the gentleman from Indiana, who joined me in the journey to Congress some 4 years ago. The gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SODREL) was a former noncommissioned officer in the Indiana National Guard who had a great opportunity to go in theater and visit some of his former comrades. I think he brings a unique perspective; and I would like him to share his views, his impressions, his experiences, and the story of his soldiers as they are experiencing this critical time and this call to duty for our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SODREL).

Mr. SODREL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS), my good friend.

Over the Memorial Day recess, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to go to Afghanistan. The main reason I wanted to make the trip was to visit my former unit, the 151st Infantry Battalion of the Indiana National Guard. I do not know whether it was by accident or design, but about 15 percent of the total force in Afghanistan are Hoosiers. I follow the 151st, even though it has been almost 3 decades now since I was a member. They were deployed in Bosnia, and they have been deployed in Afghanistan.

But when I met with them over there, it was not just as a fellow Hoosier or a former Guardsman and neighbor, but as their Member of Congress. I decided if I am going to be voting to send these men and women to war, I should go to the front lines and see for myself the progress that they are making and the conditions under which they are doing their job. After spending time with them in Afghanistan both in Khandahar and Camp Phoenix, I can assure my colleagues that we owe them a debt of gratitude.

These men and women operate under harsh conditions. They are seldom able to leave the confines of the bases unless they are on an official mission of some kind. In fact, the 151st lived in tents when they first arrived in Afghanistan. The dust, we talk about sand, this is not beach sand, this is dust; it is the consistency of talcum powder. It is very difficult to keep vehicles and aircraft operational. The heat, when you are walking around in body armor and carrying all of your weapons and pack and everything with you, it is hard work.

I had an opportunity to meet with everybody from the commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Paul Grube, to his executive officer, Major Rick Graham, to Staff Sergeant Steve Springer from Brownstown, Indiana, to specialist Nick Geshwein from Corydon. They all told me they are proud of the work that they have done while they have been there. They took it upon themselves to start a humanitarian project.

What Colonel Grube told me is that 25 percent of the children die before they are 10 years old in Afghanistan. They had a lot of poverty around Camp Phoenix and they worked with Graceland Baptist Church, a church there in southern Indiana, to get supplies and blankets and shoes for a lot of them who did not have shoes. They have worked with all of the local people, and they all assured me, when I heard from our diplomats and Vice President Khalili and from our troops, that the vast majority of Afghans really want peace. After a generation of warfare, they are tired of warfare.

The attitude has changed a lot in the last year. When the 151st first arrived there, they said most of the locals just wanted to keep their heads on. Their attitude was the coalition was on one side and the terrorists were on the other side, and they just did not want to get involved. They are getting involved today. They tell our people where the bad folks are hanging out. They point out where the IEDs, improvised explosive devices, are. The relationship with the Afghan people has changed considerably during the last year.

Mr. Speaker, it is a difficult mission. It is a very inhospitable place. I personally think that, although it has been hard on the National Guard and hard on their families, I think, well, for example, they had one soldier who was a part-time magician, and I have a picture of him riding a unicycle with all the Afghan kids around him. They are just one step removed from civilian life, and they can relate very well to the local people.

But I think the recent attacks in London underscore the fact that we must not let up. We have to keep prosecuting the war on terror.

While much of my trip focused on Afghanistan and the meeting with the troops there, I also took the opportunity to go to Pakistan, and I spent about an hour with President Musharraf. He has started what he called a concept of enlightened moderation. Simply put, he understands that there are two challenges here. One is to defeat the terrorists militarily, but the other challenge is to stop creating terrorists and change the conditions that create terrorists.

Part of that is the madrassa schools and their curriculum, which he is going through and causing all of the madrassas to register with the Pakistani government. He also understands that he has to grow his economy, that he has to change the socioeconomic conditions, and that the other countries there in Central Asia do as well.

But the long-term prospects for peace and prosperity depend on the ability of democracy to take hold, and it depends on the abilities of those leaders to improve the living conditions of the average person. That means creating jobs, building roads, and generally enhancing the infrastructure of these countries. It means fostering opportunities for higher education.

It is clear to me from spending time in Afghanistan that what began as a military mission to defeat the terrorists who attacked the United States on September 11 will not end as the majority of our military comes home. Afghanistan will require the assistance of U.S. Government agencies and NGOs until self-governance and the Afghan economy are well established. Winning the war on terror and improving the quality of life for the people of Central Asia are globally important objectives. We have to stay on course to ensure a lasting peace in Afghanistan. A peaceful, tolerant Afghanistan is important to the long-term elimination of terror as a weapon of intolerance, and I am confident our folks are up to the task. I thank the gentleman from Kentucky for yielding to me.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Indiana. I thank him for recounting those

experiences with his Hoosier soldiers and the great job that they are doing in winning this war that our liberal media simply refuses to report, they refuse to report the successes.

Before I introduce another distinguished Member of this body, a gentleman who has spent many hours on an airplane with me, I would like to comment on one personal friend. I have the photographs behind me of two of my constituents who are great American soldiers and, really, they represent great young Americans who are serving with them in many, many capacities in the war, a critical war, the most important fight this country has seen since the end of the Second World War.

□ 2115

My friend, Art Cawman, who is here on my right, flew us in the afternoon after we had had some meetings with some commanders and met with the embassy staff over to the Second Brigade Combat Team of the Third Infantry Division in east Baghdad. The Second Brigade Combat Team has their headquarters in the former Ministry of Intelligence office complex. The main building was destroyed in the opening days of the war. Second brigade's headquarters is in an outbuilding that years ago was used for despicable, a heinous act perpetrated upon the Iraqi people in the name of raw power. Now that headquarters is commanded by a colonel named Joe DiSalvo. That name means a lot to me because I have known Joe DiSalvo for 28 years. We stood on the plane in July of 1997 at the United States Military Academy when we were inducted into the Corps of Cadets. We attended classes together and we played intramural sports together. We socialized together. After graduation we attended our Officer Basic Course together, a maintenance course together, and even went to ranger school and became rangers together. We had some interesting memories, being snap linked on to the side of a hill in a rainstorm many, many years ago as we were out to earn that coveted designation and many shared experiences. After that time we went our different ways in service to the country and our service to the Nation took different forms and different paths.

One of the great humbling honors that I experienced on this trip was seeing my old friend who now commanded a 3,000-soldier brigade combat team that is doing great work. They are in a tough place. East Baghdad includes Sadr City, among other areas that are considered some of the great danger zones of Baghdad. When Joey drove his Humvees in the first day they took over he showed me these photographs of American vehicles that were axle deep in raw sewage running openly in the streets.

Mr. Speaker, this was the Iraq that the Iraqi people experienced. This was the Iraq of Saddam Hussein. The national media refuses to report on what our soldiers have done since. Those streets are clear today and they are dry and there is a sewer system. There is running water that most of the citizens have never experienced before in their lives. Regular and predictable electric power, all the things that we take for granted in our comfortable familiarity here in the United States regardless virtually of our economic circumstances.

They have paid a price serving on the front lines. They are defeating this insurgency. They are going on patrols with an Iraqi security force that is motivated, Ministry of Interior police who are motivated as Iraqis, who understand their identity as Iraqis. They are getting intelligence working together, they are solving problems with criminal elements, with those who are government rejectionists and with the terrible Islamic extremists who are out to do one thing which is to kill people.

And I think the perfect contrast between Colonel DiSalvo's soldiers and those Islamic extremists that are a threat to every freedom loving person regardless of their background or ethnicity in the world was when our NCOs are out getting school supplies and our enlisted soldiers are getting school supplies for young people, giving candy to children, letting them know that they are there to protect them, not to be overlords like the prior regime was. They are seeing the opportunities to go back to school, receiving health care in many cases for the first time in their lives. They are seeing a side of life where the soldiers will play soccer with them. And you know what the insurgent response was last week, was to drive a car bomb into the midst of a group of children around some American soldiers. To take the life of one American they are willing to murder 24 little ones.

I think this is a clash of world views, Mr. Speaker, and I think I know who is on the right side. And the Second Brigade Combat team whose primary mission is to defend those people and to defeat those terrorists, really criminal thugs and murders with no courage, no will and a unwillingness to openly take their battle against soldiers. They only turn on the harmless to rule by fear and terror, and that only comes from one place. And that pit of darkness is not represented by this Nation and by its values.

I want to commend the soldiers of the Second Brigade Combat team. I want to commend those working in every area to keep those vehicles running, those who go out on patrols, those who invest in relationships locally, those who encourage one another. And also the same thing that I heard with the soldiers in the Second Brigade Combat team when they told me this: Tell our story to the American people.

Mr. Speaker, this is the thing that is not heard by the national media. I challenge CBS and NBC and CNN and ABC for their purported fairness to broadcasting to actually report the truth. Talk to some soldiers who actually represent the overwhelming majority of those who are serving. I decry those producers of 60 Minutes who I personally believe do not represent the interests of the American people.

You at 60 minutes know this: This Congressman served this country and the Second Brigade Combat team soldiers and the First of 508 soldiers serve now to defend your right to put the awful things on the air that you do. And you do not understand the freedoms that you have. I am so disappointed and my heart is broken when you go out of your way to embarrass and defame those who are serving this Nation and those who are leading this Nation.

It is a travesty, Mr. Speaker. But I would rather have you have that freedom than to have the alternative of what Colonel DiSalvo and his soldiers had to clean up in East Baghdad because that really is the alternative when we think about it.

My friend from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY) had so many unique perspectives and probably more than any other State of the Union of all of the soldiers that we saw in the four countries that we were in during this trip were soldiers from the great Republic of Texas. And I would like for him to take as much time as he would like to share his perspective on the trip, on this critical time in our Nation's history and just the great young men and women that we met. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Kentucky for yielding this time, giving me a chance to speak. True to his ranger training, the trip that we took was fast paced and there was precious little sleep involved. But the four of us who have spoken tonight are none the worse for wear. It was a wonderful experience that I will treasure as one of the highlights of my term here in Congress.

I have had the opportunity this pass weekend to go back to Texas and to have a couple of different audiences that I was speaking to, giving them a legislative update, also letting them know about my trip. And as someone who speaks quite often to an awful lot of folks, you get a sense of whether or not the audience is paying attention, a sense of whether or not they are actually listening to you. And as I spoke about our experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan and in Kuwait, the audience just hung on every word, not because of my eloquence, but more importantly because the message of what I was actually imparting to them.

There is a hunger among the folks in America to understand and to know the truth. And the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS) and I and my good colleagues from Georgia and from Indiana went over there for two reasons. One principal reason was to tell the troops that we came in contact with thank you, thank you for doing a

job that you have been asked to do. You did not ask, you were not asked whether or not you agreed with the job. You were not asked whether or not it is a job you thought ought to be done. Your country simply asked you to go do a job in a tough, tough arena.

We stepped off the plane in Baghdad on Friday a week or so ago. I grew up in West Texas, in the high plains of West Texas. It is an arid desert region. We are used to in the summer some really hot dry weather, sandstorms, dust storms in which the dust and the sand is blowing so hard that the electronic photocells on the street lights trigger the lights to come on during the middle of the day. So I am no stranger to hot desert weather.

We stepped off the plane, the C–130 there in Baghdad at the airport and it is probably not appropriate to personify weather, but when I stepped off that airplane I stepped into what felt like just angry, mean weather. The horizon was obliterated. You could not see any distinguishing characteristics except this brown cloud all the way around us. It was hot.

About the best way that I think Americans who have not been there to help experience this, get a sense of what it was like is to go into your bathroom, pick up your hair dryer, turn it on, blow it straight into your face for about an hour, breathing that air, and it will give you a bit of a sense of what our young men and women who are serving this country so magnificently in the summers in Iraq. As the gentleman from Kentucky and I and others talked about going to Iraq this time of year, the aging veterans around, the folks who had been, said you guys could have picked a little better time of year to go than July because it is inhospitable.

What we found when we got to all three countries is troops with the morale that was incredibly high. And these were not cherry picked troops that the leadership put us in contact with. Every single person we came in contact with, their morale is high. They know they are doing a job that is important to this country.

The backdrop that our trip took was the bombings in London which happened on Thursday. We were there Thursday, Friday and Saturday. They understand the importance of what they are doing, that the work that they are doing in these three countries will help, not guarantee, but help keep those bombings from happening here in America. To a person they told us they would all rather fight whatever fight has to be fought in those countries rather than in the streets of America.

We had some great briefings not only from the military but also from the State Department in both countries, Iraq and Afghanistan. Let me quickly comment on the briefing there in Iraq with the State Department folks there are confident that the Constitution will be drafted on time and with all three ethnic groups represented at the table, the Kurds, the Shiites and the Sunnis are drafting that Constitution. They are confident it will be done sometime near the 15th of August, which is the deadline that they set for themselves.

This is an Iraqi constitution, not an American constitution. It is one that they will live with. It is one that will meet their needs, will share power in an environment that, quite frankly, our Founding Fathers would have found pretty foreign to try to deal with the ethnic diversity that they are dealing with. But that is going to happen.

What happens next is a referendum will be held 60 days later, and then this December there will be general elections throughout the country. We are assured and coming from State Department guys who typically do not like to give a lot of assurances. We are assured that the insurgents and all of the violence that is going on right now will have no effect on the progress for creating a democracy in Iraq. This constitution, the referendum to adopt the constitution as well as the general elections in December, that is going to happen.

Now, what we do expect is that the level of violence, the intensity of violence, the high profile publicity value violence will continue during this time frame and will in fact and probably in all likelihood increase.

While we were there the Egyptian ambassador had been kidnapped and was killed. That was determined. My colleague from Kentucky has already spoken about the horrific incident this past week in which 24 young lives were snuffed out simply for being at the wrong spot at the wrong time. So this is going to continue. But the Iraqi people are going to see this through. What their main concern is, is that we will not see it through with them. Now they are out on a limb and we are giving great support to that limb and they are concerned that at the critical moment when democracy is in the breach that we will lose our resolve, that somehow public opinion will turn to the extent here in the United States that we will abandon them to the insurgents. And you know, as best as my colleagues and I could assure them or could convey some assurances to them, we said that was not going to happen.

Much the same effort is going on in Afghanistan. Again a State Department briefing there on, quite frankly, the struggles that they have with the drug traffic, the opium production as well as the drug trade, drug economy. But their elections in September are also going to come off on time, September the 18th. The elections last January in Iraq are going to serve as the model for elections in both countries in that they will police them themselves. They will secure them themselves, and we will stand ready to assist them wherever that assistance is needed. But the Iraqis and the Afghans are going to be responsible for the security at these elections during that important time frame.

A couple of events that happened. One was we landed there in Kabul and we drove several times down the same street going between the airport and the embassy. The first trip was early in the morning and we were driving it pretty fast in a relatively what appeared to be a reckless manner down a pretty narrow street. And there were hundreds of young Afghan children on the sides of the streets making their way to school. These children were clean, scrubbed up, had on what appeared to be Western clothes. Little girls were holding hands and skipping along. Little boys were roughhousing and wrestling as young children do all over the world. But they were on their way to school. And we were doing 40, 50 miles an hour through this school zone and I was very uncomfortable. I kept wanting to say, hey, wait a minute. Let us slow down. We are in a school zone. These are children. But the children were oblivious to the race going down the middle of the street. They were just headed to school. And that is because of the work that is being done by our fine men and women. It is because of the work that is being done by the Afghan people because they understand the advantages as well.

Another poignant moment, the most poignant moment for me occurred when we flew from Kyrgyzstan into Kabul. It was my turn to be on the flight deck of the C–130. If you are in a C–130 there are not a lot of places to look out. There are a few portholes but limited vision. So I had the chance to stay up on the flight deck with a headset on and I was talking to the pilots and the navigator, listening to what was going on. We got to Afghanistan and I began to hear the traffic, that radio traffic for the search and rescue mission that was going on to try to find our SEAL that at that point in time was on the run. In all likelihood he was already dead at that point in time. But we were probably 50 or so nautical miles from the area where the search was being conducted. It was an incredibly haunting, eerie feeling to be in the relative safety of a C–130 listening to that search. We had a full court press going to try to find this man and save him. And to hear that traffic and know that we had an American who was, we talk about being in harm's way, this man we thought was in a big time way in harm's way, and it was very haunting to hear that traffic and be that close to him and not really be able to do anything about it.

□ 2130

I came away from the overall trip, one, just incredibly proud of the young men and women we have serving this country, from the leadership, the generals we met all the way down to the E–2 who just got there. These are some of America's finest men and women. Are they perfect? No, of course not. They are men and women just like we are. And if one of them by chance does something he or she should not do, the

good news about our system of justice is we will punish the folks who do things wrong, on occasion.

By and large, the vast majority of them, their hearts are in the right area. I met one young man and young woman from Texas in Afghanistan. We had a dinner with them just before we left. Out of the clear blue sky they just mentioned that on Friday afternoons, on their days off, on their time off they both go to the local orphanages to volunteer to go hug those kids, to play with them, to read to them, and do the kinds of things that good American GIs have done in every single war that we have ever been involved in. And they are carrying on that great tradition of the American spirit of helping the folks that they are there to protect and do just a wonderful job.

I thank the gentleman from Kentucky for organizing a wonderful trip, a trip as I mentioned when I first started would be incredibly memorable. We have some great photographs of that time together. And you get to know people a little bit better when you spend collective 44 hours on jets and C–130s and Chinooks and Blackhawk helicopters. You get a little bit different feel for that person. That is one of the pluses that travel together like that gives, particularly when you go to places as important to what is going on in America as Iraq and Afghanistan.

We are doing the job that has to be done. The leadership has a plan in place to get it done. The young men and women that are doing the job are getting it done. The Iraqi army, the Iraqi police are training and becoming more and more capable every single day to take over the job and stand in the breach in place of America's youth to create this democracy in their country.

The same thing has happened in Afghanistan, the Afghan National Police, the Afghan National Army. They are standing up, as the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) mentioned as well.

One final comment and then I will close. Over the weekend we saw a suicide bomber who was associated with a car bomb that went off. Two suicide bombers had gotten out of this car and walked away from it. The car exploded with the suicide bomber in it. A crowd gathered to try to help the wounded, to try to care for those who were injured. And these two men on foot ran back at the crowd, one of whom set off an explosion, blew himself up, and killed some additional people.

The Iraqis shot and wounded the second suicide bomber on foot. And as he lay on the ground struggling to reach his detonation button, an Iraqi EOD member disarmed him through a series of events where they grabbed the guy. They put him in the back of the pickup. The Iraqi EOD specialist went up to him wearing the big bulky protective gear that they are supposed to wear. He understood he could not reach the fellow in that gear so he took the gear off and then went back to the pickup truck. The insurgent was trying to get his hand on the switch, and the Iraqi EOD guy disarmed that bomb.

That is a great anecdote to show that the Iraqis are doing the job that needs to be done.

I thank the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS) for a wonderful trip, and I look forward to additional experiences like that in the future. I thank him for letting me have time tonight.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY) for his thorough description of many different aspects of the trip. We certainly saw some tremendous perspectives.

As time winds down, I will leave the evening with Task Force Fury. I will talk more about it in future evenings.

In one of the messages that was shared with me by Colonel Tim McGuire and Captain Sean McCray, the assistant operations officer for the battalion passed on some of their perspectives. We know these are America's paratroopers. They are combat infantry men and their supporting team members. But he wrote this. He said, On any given day, Task Force Fury soldiers mentor Afghan citizens and leaders in the establishment and management of democracy, capitalism, ethics, education, business ethics, law enforcement, and organizational skills, all the while ready to destroy those who would stand against the Afghan National Government when they are present on the battlefield.

The keys are providing tangible hope, signs of improvement and stability. The best weapon they say that Task Force Fury maintains in its arsenal is the implementation of projects that build infrastructure in a region with little or none.

The year I graduated from West Point, Ronald Reagan asked a question in his campaign. He said, Are you better off now than you were 4 years ago? I think the citizens of Paktika Province are better off now having a paved road that can withstand the weather. The first paved road in 5,000 years.

The final story was this: this task force was moving on a convoy. A young boy, 10-year-old boy, approached Colonel McGuire's vehicle, running towards it. The children were remarkable in their acceptance and kindness towards American soldiers in Afghanistan.

This little boy was a little more agitated than normal. They stopped the convoy and they asked the little boy why he was concerned, and he said that there were a couple of bad folks had come into the village and planted an improvised explosive device. He pointed out in the road where that was. It was disabled.

Colonel McGuire asked the young boy why he did that and his response was profound. He said, Before you Americans came, I could not go to school.

I think right there shows the clash of world views and how our soldiers are paying off on the front lines. I challenge the national media, I challenge the punditocracy to tell the truth.

George Orwell made a comment that certain things do not make sense to ordinary people, just to an intellectual. I would challenge the media that things that do not make sense in much of your reporting to us ordinary Americans maybe makes sense to you from your perspective; but I would challenge you to spend time with these soldiers, spend time with their command and see the fruits on the ground, the great things they are doing, and how we are winning this.

Our young men and women are accepting a call to duty that is bringing great honor on the heritage and traditions of this Nation.

30-SOMETHING WORKING GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor being before the House. I would like to thank the Democratic leader for allowing us to have one more 30-something Working Group hour. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) will be joining me tonight.

Mr. Speaker, as we would like to outline at the beginning of every 30-something, we have come to the floor bringing not only ideas but also calling out some of the issues that are not being handled in an appropriate way.

As we explain week after week, the Democrats are in the minority here in the House. It is important for everyone to understand that when bills are agendaed or non-agendaed, that is because the Republicans are in the majority. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, we work every day to make sure that we do good work on behalf of the American people, but we also make sure that we raise issue when that is not happening.

And I can tell you as it relates to the whole veterans issue, I am so glad to now see the majority side take an opportunity to smell the coffee, knowing that our veterans are in need. We have men and women in Iraq, in Afghanistan; but the question is not how we treat them and how we talk about them here in this Congress and how we tell their families that we are with them. It is important that we are with them when they come home. When they come home, they need to be able to go to the VA hospital or a VA clinic and get service.

As it stands right now, there are a number of backlogs throughout the country, but one thing I can tell you that I am very proud of, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that all along the Democratic Caucus raised the issue as it relates to veterans affairs issues, not only on the substantive standpoint but also on an appropriations standpoint.

I just want to say that if it were not for the Democrats pushing the card and

making sure that we are able to get $1.3 billion additional supplemental funding for 2005, it would not have happened. It took all the way to July 12 when the Bush administration admitted that it needed another $300 million dollars. It was only at a million. The Senate moved to 1.5. We still have a gap. There is still work to do.

When many say, Why do you go to the floor? Why do you raise these issues? Why do you share with the Members what they are not doing versus what they can do, that is the reason. The reason is making sure that we apply the appropriate pressure and making sure that our veterans are not left behind. So I am very proud of that. I am very glad the 30-something Working Group has taken it on as an issue. We are going to continue to stand with and by our veterans and by our troops. But at the same time, when they come back, when they go home and when they have to live with what they are bringing back from the theater, we are there with them because that is the promise we made to them. As far as we are concerned at the 30-something Working Group, we will keep that promise and make sure we stand up to it.

Mr. Speaker, another thing that is important. We now have a bill that is filed by some Members of the House, H.R. 3304. I think not only for the Members but if anyone wants to get a copy of this bill, it is www.thomas.loc.gov. But I just want to share some information as it relates to this bill.

It is just privatization all over again. Whichever way you cut it, it is just privatization. With this particular bill, it creates private accounts and it cuts the guarantees of Social Security benefits and it increases the national debt. Period. Dot.

At the same time, you have the issue of going into the trust fund. And contrary to the claims of the bill's sponsors, the legislation does not stop the raid of the Social Security trust fund. It does not deal with the sovereignty issue of Social Security. I thought that is the reason why we were trying to go through this exercise of making sure that we can have Social Security around past the 40, 50-some-odd years that it would be sovereign. It has nothing to do with it. It has everything to do with moving into the private account area.

This is something we will have to continue to work on. I am hoping that the majority side works with the minority side in making sure we can come up with a bill. But from the outset, I think it has been purely stated that there is really no intention to have a debate or a discussion or even working on anything outside of privatization. The bill is called private accounts. Period. And that is just what it does. It moves it into private accounts. So it is important that the American people and also the Members of this House understand that nothing has changed. It is just a sponsor, 40-something sponsors on the bill I must say on the majority side, and I think people need to be very concerned.

We talk about 48 million Americans that are taking part in receiving Social Security benefits, be it retirement, survivor benefits, or disability. Those individuals take part in Social Security, and I think it is important we understand that it touches every one of our families. So we have to pay very, very close attention to that.

One other thing I just want to start off with, last week we talked about the whole issue of Mr. Rove and we have something from the President what he said today, contrary to what he said before. For months the President said he would fire anyone involved in the disclosure of a CIA agent. Period.

Today he says that anyone that is caught or is convicted of leaking information on a CIA agent would be fired from the White House.

Now, that is far from what he said before. I am not going after the President. I am just saying that the President is saying, hey, I need a conviction before I do anything. Even though I said that it is something very, very important, I am sticking next to my guy.

Well, I think we have to look forward to the news heading off or reading something in the newspaper saying ''a White House source says.'' You might as well get used to it. It gets deeper. It is far beyond politics. It goes into national security now. It is okay. It is okay. So if you are looking at the statute, the statute, really, it is a high bar to leap. And we do not know all we need to know right now. And that is the reason why members of governmental oversight have asked for Mr. Rove to come to the Hill and share with us what he did say and what he did not say. That is simple when it comes down to national security.

□ 2145

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I think the gentleman is exactly right. We mentioned this last week when we talked on Thursday on the floor that this has more to do with the buildup and the drumbeat and the rush to war than it has to do really about Karl Rove leaking and everything else.

To me, from the get-go this has been about this administration fudging the intelligence to make it look worse than it was, the threat from Iraq to look worse than it actually was. Weapons of mass destruction, mushroom clouds in Cincinnati, and all the rhetoric that we heard. That is really what this Karl Rove story to me is all about.

Because why would Karl Rove want to leak information to destroy Joe Wilson's wife? Not just for giggles. He did it because the information that Joe Wilson came back to the United States with said Iraq does not have a nuclear weapons program and there was no sale of uranium, there was no overt or covert acts that were going to justify this war. Joe Wilson came back and told the truth, and now all of a sudden the White House and Karl Rove began to out his wife as a CIA agent. That is what this is all about.

This is about the administration getting called out for giving us bad information and not enough people in this Chamber or in the other Chamber asking enough questions. That is really, to me, is what the leak story is all about. That is the heart of the story: Why would Karl Rove want to try to destroy Joe Wilson? Reason: Joe Wilson basically outed the administration.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Ambassador Joe Wilson.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Ambassador Joe Wilson outed the administration and their rhetoric and lack of hard facts to bring us to war legitimately with Iraq.

Now, we are both on the Committee on Armed Services, and we both voted for the defense appropriation budgets, and I think we both voted for just about every supplemental to support the troops. We have been trying to make sure the troops have the body armor and everything they need. It is the Democratic Party that has been talking about funding the veterans' benefit system, the VA system, and making sure the veterans have the benefits they have earned, these new young soldiers and some older soldiers who are coming back and who will take advantage of the VA system. We want to make sure that system is there and fully funded.

We support mandatory funding for the VA system, and not just being paid at the whim or the discretion of the political season or whoever is in charge. Mandatory funding for veterans' benefits, period, paragraph, end of story. So we have been the party who has been trying to move the ball down the field.

I think we are finally getting some success from the other side to at least admit there is a shortfall in VA funding and trying to get this extra $1 billion in. But I think the bottom line is this, my colleague. This administration manipulated the intelligence to get us in the war. And right, wrong or indifferent about the war, whether we should still have gone to try to set up a democracy in the Middle East, like Iraq, is a whole other debate, but the bottom line is there were not enough people in this Chamber and in the other Chamber who asked enough hard questions. That is really why we are where we are today.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. The gentleman said two things, Mr. Speaker, two great points that he just made, and I just want to elaborate a little more.

When it comes down to a reason why people voted for us to come to Washington to represent them, and the title on our door says U.S. Representative of the House, U.S. House Representative, that makes us, A, a Member of Congress, and that is comprised of the Senate also, but I think it is important for us to remember that we were not sent up here to cultivate strong relationships over the will of not only our constituents but also the American people

that are risking their lives overseas right now.

I get very concerned when people start doing funny things, when people start saying funny things like, well, if anyone outed a CIA agent they are out of the White House, and then progresses to, well, I did not really mean that. If someone is convicted of outing a CIA agent, that is fine. Now, that bothers me, too.

One other thing that bothers me as relates to being a representative of not only the 17th Congressional District but also Florida, this House, when we take a vote, it is for the entire country and not just for our district. But I am also concerned about those of us, and I have gone to Iraq, who go and take pictures and talk to the troops and have lunch with them and do all those things, and I encourage Members to do that, but when I went to Iraq it was a life changing experience, and in Afghanistan it was a life changing experience, seeing those men and women, some older than me, many younger than me, that have put their lives on the line and also put their lives on hold to go over and do what their country has asked them to do.

For us to come back here and not work with vigor and commitment to make sure that we follow through on our promise to them, it goes far beyond making sure that they have the equipment that they need. It goes far beyond making sure that the mess hall stays open. What is important is making sure that we hold their needs and values as it relates to making sure that not only they have what they need in theatre but when they get back home that they have what they need.

So it bothers me when we have to be on the floor having a partisan debate on appropriations for veterans. It really does.

I believe in the whole back-and-forth, and the Republicans are in the majority, I am in the minority, and so let us have a great debate. It is part of our democracy. But what I am very concerned about is when it comes down to issues like national security, when it comes down to issues like veterans affairs, when it comes down to issues where we all salute one flag, intelligence, I get very concerned when I hear the partisanship.

Health care. We have different views on health care. All right, that is fine. Let us go back and forth on that, because we have plans and we want to make sure that everyone is able to have health care. They have a health savings account, we have a health care plan to make sure that we can shut down this emergency room care or the CVS, or Walgreen's, you name it, RiteAid care that many families have to live under now.

But I get concerned when we get to the area of national security and a lot of chest beating on this floor and a lot of chest beating in committee, and a lot of great speeches back home about how I love the troops. I get concerned when they take personal relationships on what the leadership says versus what they have to do and what they should be doing on behalf of those men and women. That is not a donkey or an elephant issue, or whatever the party symbol may be, it is an American issue. And it is important we remember that and just cut out the partisan politics.

We have to take them to task here for what we have to work with. That is important, too. Some people may get a little irritated and ask why are they saying this and why are they saying that? We are saying it on behalf of those individuals that are doing what they have to do right here, right now, in the present, making sure they have a voice here on this floor, making sure that individual is going to the V.A. hospital, whether they were a World War II, or Korea, or Vietnam, or you name it. I mentioned Grenada the other day. The first Gulf war. You name it. If they were in Kosovo, if they were there, they deserve the care. So I think it is important.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I think my colleague is right, and the point he made about the President backtracking on what he had said before and then relating that to the conversation the gentleman and I have had on this floor, I think a million times already, and we have not even been in Congress that long, about this issue of consistency. This issue of always throwing something out there and stating it as fact. Oh, my God, this is just the way it is, then slowly starting to backtrack.

We witnessed it here during the Medicaid prescription drug debate. This Chamber was told this bill was going to cost us $400 billion.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Let me correct my colleague. It was $350 billion.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Right. It started out at $350 billion. Then, by the time we were going to vote on this bill, it became $400 billion because many of the fiscal conservatives in this Chamber said they would not vote for a prescription drug benefit that cost more than that. The night we voted on it, we were told $400 billion. After the election, it became $700 billion. After we had already voted on it. Later it was over $1 trillion, the extended cost of this Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Come to find out, the actuary that had the real numbers was told by one of his bosses not to tell the Congress what the real number was. So the 700,000 people my colleague represents, the 700,000 people I represent were not told the truth and so could not base their decision on the real facts because they were covered up so that we would pass this. Same thing happened with the war.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. If my colleague would yield, once again, relationships over what the American people need to know. It may not be what they want to hear, but what they need to know. It is important we do not allow those relationships to stand in front of democracy and making sure we stand for those we have been sent here to stand for.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. How can we adequately represent our constituents if we do not have all the facts? I think that is what we are talking about.

So we have the whole Medicare issue we had to deal with, then the war. Everybody knows how the war intelligence went. It was Saddam Hussein had something to do with 9/11. Then it was, well, okay, we are still going to say that, but some people do not believe it. Remember the polls? How long did the polls reflect that most people in America thought that Saddam Hussein had something to do with 9/11? And the only real reason was because the President and the leaders in this Congress kept saying it.

Then it went from Saddam having something to do with 9/11 to Saddam having weapons of mass destruction, and that they were going to be administered and executed in a way that there may be a mushroom cloud in Cincinnati, Ohio. The President came to Cincinnati and gave that speech. Then it became Saddam is a bad guy. Once we pretty much were sure there were no weapons of mass destruction, it became Saddam is a bad guy. Now we are in this because we need a democracy in the Middle East.

This war has increased the number of terrorists around the world. It has put a bull's eye on the back of Western democracies, as we saw unfortunately with the tragedy last week in London, which was just a real atrocity on civilized societies all around the globe.

So we have all these issues, and now it is I am going to fire whoever it is that has leaked any information. Then, once you find out it is your best friend and your top political adviser, it is, well, someone has to get convicted before we get rid of them.

I think the American people are so tired of the Potomac two-step down here, always saying one thing and then something else happens, that we have to get to work on the real issues that we have before the country. Let us be honest with the country. Let us be honest with the people of this country. There is nothing the American people cannot deal with if they are told the truth. Unfortunately, we gloss over everything and make everything look good and then backpedal and then they are caught in a lie.

Just tell the American people the truth and let us go to work. Let us get the job done. We have a lot of work to do in this country. Unfortunately, we are just not getting the leadership that the American people deserve.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Well, I will say this right now, something so very, very important to us all. We talk about relationships and knowing the truth. The bottom line is that Congress has one of the lowest ratings in many years right now because people are very, very

turned off about what is happening here under this dome. They are not excited about what is happening under this dome because there is a lot of politics going on, a lot of side shows going on.

We have issues like education, issues like health care, issues like making sure our veterans are getting what they need, the Federal government is continuing to spend, spend, spend, and, at the same time, there are issues like homeland security.

We talked about that last week and we said we were going to mention something about it, and I am very, very concerned. I am a member of the Committee on Homeland Security, ranking member of the Subcommittee on Management, Integration and Oversight. Once again, I was a little bothered by seeing some officials over at the Department of Homeland Security immediately after the London transit explosions that took place not only on buses but also on rail.

□ 2200

I cannot help but think about a letter I wrote to the Department. I must say, I cosigned it with the chairman and also the ranking member, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), and the chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security.

It is important that Members know as of April 30 there was supposed to be a report sent back to this Congress, not me personally, but this Congress that was passed in the 9/11 bill making sure that the Department shares with us their transportation strategy. That did not happen.

There was another deadline when the Department said it would get that transit security strategy to Congress. They did not meet that deadline either. As I stand here on the floor tonight, we still do not have a transit homeland security strategy back to this Congress.

If we want to talk about Members, if we want to talk about officials over at the Department of Homeland Security, we can do that. We can talk about the White House also. But I will tell Members for anyone to walk around here and say we are fine, everything will be fine, I will tell Members right now, we must have a strategy. I do not want to be a Member of Congress telling the American people that we are fine, do not worry, our transit oversight and security is what it should be. It is not.

If we do not have something as simple as a transportation strategy, then how in the world do we expect the whole country to be in accord as relates to making sure every system is secure. The system here in Washington, DC, we need to start talking about vulnerabilities here on the floor. When you start talking about it, and people say you should not say anything about it, they will know. They know. These individuals have been caught staking out different areas trying to figure out how to do what they do.

It is not like they are watching C–SPAN and saying I did not know that until he just said it. That is not the case. These are highly trained, highly educated people, and know exactly what they want to do. For us to say we are secure, saying we have it covered is less than an understatement.

The real issue is we need to really make sure that we ratchet it up, not only on the Department and the White House, but in this Congress, having a sense of urgency. There have been two major events within 12 months on mass transit outside of the United States, but I can guarantee you if we do not get a strategy and the kind of accountability that we deserve, and when I say we, we the American people deserve, we may very well have a situation far beyond what we have. Let us not get started on cargo and planes; let us just talk about a simple thing like turning over a strategy to Congress. I would hate to be a city police chief or county sheriff. If Congress is not getting it, what are they getting? That is the big question.

I want to make sure that people understand. We can talk about what we have, but we have to focus on what we do not have. We have to continue here on the minority side, and some of my friends on the majority side, to put pressure where pressure is due. We make things happen. I have seen things come to this floor far less important than homeland security, and in one day. From committee to the floor in one day.

Now if there is not a sense of urgency on homeland security, be it air cargo, containers at the port, making sure that the firefighters and police officers have the kind of equipment they need, making sure that our health care personnel are appropriately trained, making sure that we have a way of making sure that the American people will know what to do when a terrorist attack happens or even what to do versus duct tape, I think that is far greater.

I wanted to mention that. I have a couple of other things that we have been asking for and needing from the Department and also from the administration.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, before we get to that, I think we need to talk about a couple of basic principles that we want to implement from our side.

I hate to go back and say this, but at one point before the war, before the war, there were some of us who were arguing, and I was in a campaign at the time, that $300 billion or whatever that we were going to spend, would it not have been better spent here at home with rail security, with taking care of the Metro system here in Washington, DC and in New York and Boston and some of our bigger cities? Would it not have been better, and I offered amendments in the Committee on Education and the Workforce, to get the money down to the local communities to first responders?

We have many jurisdictions throughout the country that cannot afford to pass police and fire levies and are laying off police and firemen. These are the issues that are ultimately going to prevent a terrorist attack here on the homeland, by making sure that we have enough first responders on the ground, how we are going to react to a biological attack, how we are going to respond, is there enough coordination between a local police chief, a sheriff, the FBI and the ATF, and is there a coordinated response to something that would happen, whether it is in Youngstown, Ohio, or Washington, DC or New York City.

These are the things that we could be working on here and making sure that the $300 billion was put to use here in the United States of America; and, oh, by the way, it would have been a stimulus for the economy as well.

So in both instances, I think there was a choice to be made. I think we are arguing that at least a good portion of that money could have been spent here on the homeland to try to achieve some of the objectives that the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) has stated.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the real issue is making sure we are straight with the American people. We have Members on our side and the minority staff that are here, and even groups outside of the Congress that are willing to give information as it relates to taking up 60 minutes here on the floor that could be talking about heroic acts on behalf of Americans. But I think we are sent to Congress to make sure once again that we give individuals who do not have voices voice.

In New York you have a great strategy, and rightfully so. Just like this Capitol, New York, certain key areas within New York, they are terrorist targets internationally because of the financial community, just the fact that it is an international community. The rest of the country may very well have issues, not only in Florida but in Ohio, and receiving the kind of attention that it deserves also, making sure we send our dollars where those dollars are needed and prevent terrorist attacks from happening.

April 1 a report was due to Congress. It is not here.

Second date, July 1, a report was due to Congress. I said the 30th on each of one of those earlier, and I want to correct those dates. So when folks start talking about you have Members of Congress that are legislating and they do not know exactly what the needs are, we do not know what the needs are for a national transportation strategy, not because we are sitting at home cracking our toes saying the job situation looks sad and we have nothing better to do. It is because the Department of Homeland Security has not given us what we need on the overall transportation strategy. How can one file and put in legislation without hearing back from the very Department that has been legislatively required to give Congress the information that they need? That is majority

and minority. That has nothing to do with partisanship, and it has everything to do with national security.

I think it is important for us to use our time wisely. I think it is important for us to come here and give voice where there is not a voice on these issues, and make sure that people understand that we have to be serious about this. It is one thing about having a sense of security and another thing about having actual security. We were not sent here for a sense of security. We were sent here to secure America and those properties that we have throughout this world as they relate to embassies and American interests.

I want to also state that we always talk about what is the difference. What is the difference. What is the difference between the minority and the majority. I can tell you many instances as it relates to homeland security and transportation issues such as our delegate here, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), and also our chairman, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), who serves on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the ranking member on the Committee on Homeland Security, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) who have reintroduced a transit security bill, H.R. 3270, which has been included in the Democratic substitute in the homeland security authorization bill.

House Democrats are fighting to make sure that we are able to do the things that we need to do, absent the report that we needed. We are working with what we have, but I can tell Members, I would hate for an event to happen on some transit, mass transit or bus or rail and say, well, we knew we had a vulnerability there. We would be very happy to share that with the Congress, not only the administration but the Department of Homeland Security.

Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of good people. I had an opportunity to go out to the Department during the July 4 break and visit with many of the individuals that are working there. They feel like they are serving their country, but at the same time they need the leadership to ensure that they are able to do the things that they need to do.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I agree with the gentleman and thank him for his leadership on the committee. We obviously have a good number of challenges here in the Congress to deal with that. I hope that as time goes on we try to shift the focus back here because I think we all know that the threats are here. As what happened in London, it is scary when homegrown terrorists are the ones causing the most strife in your own country. We have to be very careful and very vigilant, and part of that is protecting the infrastructure here in this country.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to say going back to what we were talking about here earlier, we were not sent up here to have great relationships and give people a pass. We came up here to represent not only the people in our districts, but also the people of the United States of America. Sometimes we have to make ourselves uncomfortable.

I have a great relationship with those that are in leadership in the Department of Homeland Security, but my job as a Member of Congress and also ranking member of the Subcommittee on Oversight, Management and Integration goes far beyond those relationships. I think that anyone that may take issue with the fact that we are talking about a congressional, federally mandated report to Congress so we will know what we need to know when we need to know it so we can legislate in the appropriate way, to be able to address the needs of not only the Department of Homeland Security, but all of the way down to the village sheriff, that firefighter that is trying to make sure that they have what they need, and to that transit worker running that train or bus, that is what we have to do.

We have to get out of our comfort zone and make sure that we do what we need to do. We cannot allow relationships to jump in front of homeland security.

□ 2215

We cannot allow relationships to jump in front of what we need to do as it relates to making sure that our veterans get what they need because back at the ranch we are pounding our chests, the troops and all, but when they get back they cannot even get an appointment at the VA. So do not love me, lights, cameras, action, and then drop me off and leave me after the cameras are gone, when I get back home facing the real issues, trying to find a job, trying to pay some of these bills that I was not able to address while I was over there fighting on behalf of my country, doing what I was told. Do not leave me.

So that is why we are here, to make sure that those individuals are heard, how strong or weak or whatever their voice may be, because in many instances they are single parent families. In many instances they could be two-parent families, but the bottom line is making sure that we in this Congress stand by what we said we would do for them. So I go back to that issue of relationships.

Are we here to cover for our friends or are we here to represent the American people, bottom line, period? I do not care if one is a Democrat or a Republican. Are they hear to represent the American people or are they here to cover for their friends? So we need to make sure when we raise our hand at the beginning of every Congress to uphold the Constitution of the United States, we remember that, not uphold our friendship with our friends and making sure that we cover for them when they do something wrong. That is not what it is about. It is about making sure that we do what we have to do as constitutional officers.

I just had to share that.

I see the gentleman has that national debt there, and I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman and appreciate his words, and I think as we start to wrap up here and are getting near the end of the fourth quarter of our time, I think it is important that everything that we talked about tonight, whether it was veterans benefits, homeland security, the war, I think all of this in one way or another gets back to Social Security, gets back to what is the United States economy going to be like in the next couple of decades. And I think that is the one issue that is not being addressed here that would have ramifications on all of these other topics that we have been talking about. And if we do not figure out a way to get the U.S. economy up and running again, we are going to continue to sit here and have debates about our national debt at $7.8 trillion or the $27,000 that every citizen owes to the government and high tuition costs and not enough money to pay for the VA benefits and how are we going to compete, wages are stagnant. What is the plan? What is the agenda here in this Congress and at the White House and in the Senate to address the issue of stagnant wages?

We hear a lot about globalization and trade, and I do not think either of us are saying we are going to start building walls up and putting them up around the country because we know that is not possible, but are we making the proper investments into education, into lowering college tuition costs and into making sure that everybody can afford to get an education?

And I was just looking at a recent article in Fortune Magazine, and if we do not get this problem figured out here in the next few years, we are going to be in big trouble. I just want to share these with the Members: College graduates, which will be the engine for any kind of economic growth over the next 2 decades, in China 3.3 million college graduates, in India 3.1 million college graduates, and in the U.S. 1.3 million. I recognize that they have a lot more people than we have, and this is not ethnocentric or any other kind of derogatory remark. I think the Chinese and the Indians are doing what they need to do to be competitive. What are we doing? College tuition probably doubled in Florida just like it doubled in Ohio over the past few years, 4 or 5 years. Engineering graduates: China, 600,000; India, 350,000; in the U.S., 70,000.

If we want to fix the veterans problem, if we want to fix the issue of national debt, if we want to have money to have a strong military, and Governor Mitt Romney was before the Committee on Education and the Workforce about 3 or 4 weeks ago, and he was testifying, and he said something that was very enlightening, that

if we want to have a top tier military, we have to have a top tier economy to be able to fund it. And we could talk about going to Afghanistan and going to Iraq and all the troubles we have with South Korea. China had a professor make a very interesting statement about using nuclear weapons against the United States and causing great damage to cities here in the United States of America over the issue of Taiwan. I mean we have all these little fires burning, and if we are going to be able to keep our military strong and continue to fund the military, which we are doing now but we are doing it at the expense of education, health care, making sure our veterans have the proper health care and benefit systems that they need. So are we going to be able to lead the world with a second tier economy? No. And it is getting very competitive.

And just in Ohio the No Child Left Behind Act is underfunded by $1.5 billion. Thousands and thousands of kids live in poverty. They are not going to go to school and learn if they live in poverty. They are not even eating properly, let alone going to school and focusing and concentrating and figuring out algebra and trigonometry and physics. It has got to be the commitment here, and I think if there is one issue that we are going to address, it has got to be the issue of economy, jobs, and education, and therefore these people will go out and create the kind of wealth that we need, generate the kind of tax revenues we need to make sure our veterans have their health care and to make sure that health care is provided to every citizen in the country and other people can afford to go to college.

So all the issues that we talked about here, reducing the debt, veterans, transit safety, homeland security, all the issues the gentleman is working on, Medicare, prescription drug, and all these other things, we have got to figure out. And I think the levers have been pulled by the other side for a long time. They have tried their supply-side economics again for the second time in the past couple of decades, and it has been great for a very small number of people, but in Youngstown, Ohio and Akron, Ohio and all over the State, wages are stagnant but tuition costs are doubled, property taxes are going up to fund mental health levies and school levies and everything else, police and fire levies, sales tax. Counties are going bankrupt. This has not worked for everybody, and until we all figure out, regardless of party, how we are going to fix this problem, we are going to be slowly dropping and we are not going to be able to meet our military commitments around world, which I think is the most dangerous aspect of it.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, the gentleman was saying we are having trouble with North Korea, but I noticed he said South Korea.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I am sorry.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. We have troops in South Korea, not in North Korea, but I just want to make sure. We have to watch out for one another, but I can tell the gentleman this: It is a relationship, but we watch out for one other in the right way, not in the wrong way.

But regarding something the gentleman pointed out, I was in the State legislature for 8 years before I got here, served 4 in the Florida House, 4 in the Florida Senate, and I can tell the Members it was one of the best public jobs I have ever had outside of being a State trooper in Florida. And I can tell the gentleman this: We used to really dislike it when the Congress did what it is doing now. It is called devolution of taxation, and what I mean by devolution of taxation is it is saying that not only are we going to cut taxes up here for the very, very wealthy, I mean we are not talking about the super, super majority of our constituents. We are talking about the very, very wealthy individuals. But we are going to pull back on the federal commitment to the States financially. So when we send fewer dollars to the States, what do they have to do? They have to pass on the unfortunate duty of passing that on to the local county governments, the local city governments, the village council, name it. The most vulnerable individuals within the State budget are students. So that is the reason why we spend a lot of time, this 30-something Working Group, in making sure that young people know exactly what is happening to them versus what is happening for them because more and more things are happening to them, Mr. Speaker, and I can tell the Members this also: Another reason why we spend so much time talking about Iraq veterans' benefits is because 70 percent of the individuals that are coming back from Iraq or that are in Iraq now are under the age of 30. They are there fighting. So we have to make sure that they have a voice. So this whole devolution of taxation is saying, Oh, well, you are going to get a $50 check from the Federal Government, run out to Bennigan's and do what you do or save that $50 and you will have something one day, down to the State government where they have to cut and raise tuition. Guess what? Someone may say, Well, those kids, they need to learn how to save their money and pull themselves up by their bootstraps; I did. I can tell the Members this right now: The average college student is coming out $20,000 in debt right now, and the reason why they are coming out $20,000 in debt is because Pell grants are not what they used to be, the State commitment and scholarships for kids to go to school are not what they used to be. In my State, we have the Bright Future Scholarship that is supposed to provide a full ride for students, and they have it over in Georgia too. As a matter of fact, we in the State legislature worked with Georgia, and it was tied into the lottery and all of that. But it is not what it used to be. Not because the kids are not learning. It is because the State government can no longer support good behavior on behalf of our future generations, academic good behavior. So when we are up here pounding and talking about what we are going to do and it is their money and we are going to cut it, well, there are very few individuals that are receiving a true tax cut; and, Members could talk to anyone in this country and I guarantee them there has been some sort of millage hike or some referendum on building schools, not because all of a sudden we want to tax ourselves to build schools. It is because the federal commitment is not what it should be.

So when we talk about those issues and we start talking about future generations, we cannot help but think about what happens in this Chamber and across the hall and what happens in the White House because we are the individuals where this whole public taxpayer dollar starts from. So if we cut it, they are going to pay it either on the State level or they are going to pay it on the county level or on the city level.

No Child Left Behind, let me just mention something. We have Texas that is suing the Federal Government over No Child Left Behind unfunded mandates. I am just going to leave it at that. There are other States that have joined in in suing the Federal Government. The National Governors' Association, I invite the Members to go to their website and see how they feel about what we are doing on No Child Left Behind. They wish they could come up here and get on this floor and grab a voting card and really make something happen on behalf of States. We say we want accountability. Then doggone it, we had better send the money.

So when we start talking about the difference, No Child Left Behind was a bipartisan piece of legislation. I mean we had individuals over in the Senate and individuals here, ranking members hugging and press conferences and all because we all believed that we were going to do actually what we said that we were going to do, that the level of commitment, federal commitment, as it relates to the dollar, not only the interest but the dollar will go to the States and also to the local school boards. That has not happened. It is miserably underfunded, and that is the reason why we come to the floor to talk about not only the difference. I do not want to talk about it. I want to see some action, and the only way that is going to happen is unless the American people start to say, Mr. Speaker, I am not happy with what I have.

That is the reason we come to the floor. We come to the floor to make sure that the American people know and the Members of this Congress know we have to rise to a higher occasion as it relates to what we have to do on behalf our constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it is not even just the taxes either, which I think the tax rate and the amount people are paying now has significantly increased, but I think it is important also to talk about the health care issue that I think went up about 50 percent since President Bush got in office, with no real plan.

We hear a lot about health care savings accounts. Those are great if they have enough money to put in them every month. If they have a little disposable income, they start a health care savings account. But a lot of people are living paycheck to paycheck. They do not the money to put into a health care savings account.

□ 2230

The issue we need to address is health care costs with information technology and preventative care and stop using the emergency rooms as clinics, because they are not; and it is the most inefficient way to run the kind of health care system that we are running here. Again, another major issue that is swing and a miss.

Swing and a miss on the economy; swing and a miss on health care; swing and a miss on making the proper investments in education, at least the funding side of things. I agree, it was great to see the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) and Ted Kennedy with President Bush saying this is the way to move forward with education. But if the money and resources are not there, things become problematic.

So the bottom line is, and I think what we are trying to say here, as we wrap it up, we have got a lot of issues, but we need to focus on some of these core issues, about the economy, investments to make sure that we are producing enough engineers and computer scientists to compete with these other countries who are focusing on those kind of issues, having a national program.

I think the space program and going to the Moon was a lot more about getting people educated and into corporate America and into our universities than it was actually putting somebody on the Moon. That was the goal. But we need something like that. We need something, some national goal that is going to set and coordinate our efforts here, to inspire young children to study math, to study science, to become engineers and contribute to the economy. We have to generate a lot of wealth.

We are going to be losing a lot of wealth because of the outsourcing. These jobs are moving to China and India, they are moving to Ireland, they are moving to these other countries; and if we are going to keep our status as a tier-one economy so that we can have a tier-one military, we have to make these investments. You do not hear that word ''investment'' used much around here anymore.

Just drop us e-mail. It will be interesting to hear what people who are out there watching think that the priorities should be here in the United States Congress: 30something democrats@mail.house.gov.

I thank the gentleman for allowing me to join him here tonight and be part of this great debate. I thank him for his leadership on the Committee on Homeland Security. I know that, unfortunately, it is going to be a focus more and more for our country and this Congress. I thank the gentleman for his leadership.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I want to thank the gentleman for pointing out not only the importance of future generations, but also we talked about tonight the issue of relationships versus what we are sent up here to do.

This issue of homeland security, the gentleman knows we are working on a piece of legislation as it relates to disclosure to the American people. I think that is important also as it relates to some financial issues.

But we appreciate the gentleman's representation of his fine district in Ohio. We hope that we can work in a bipartisan way on many pieces of legislation.

The whole issue as it relates to private accounts, the name ''private accounts'' lets us know on this side of the aisle that the majority side has already decided on what it is going to be. We know what private accounts are going to bring. We have to continue to fight.

That is why we come to the floor, not only to talk about the difference, but to talk about the will to lead in the areas we need to lead.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank not only the Democratic leader, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), but the leadership, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) and all the way to our Democratic Caucus, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and also the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN) and others for allowing us to come to the floor one more time.

THE CONGRESSIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, this evening several of my colleagues and I are going to discuss a topic which is a little bit different from what normally is discussed here on the House floor. I think the general impression that one would get in watching the debate and some of the Special Orders is that this is a highly partisan, very divided body, and somewhat a Godless body at times. I do not believe that this is the whole story.

One activity in the House that is not partisan or contentious is the weekly prayer breakfast that is held every Thursday morning. There are roughly 30 to 40 Republicans and Democrats who meet during that hour. It is completely nonpartisan. It is Members only. It is confidential. Whatever is said there stays there. Of course, it is the precursor to the national prayer breakfast which is held every spring.

Just a word or two of historical background. I think it is important that we from time to time recall that we are a spiritual Nation and that our foundation is of a spiritual nature.

To quote Benjamin Franklin, who many believe was somewhat irreligious, this is what he said in a speech on the House floor: ''We have been assured, sir, in the sacred writings, that except the Lord build a house they labor in vain that build it. I firmly believe this. I also believe that without his concurring aid, we shall succeed in the political building no better than the builders of Babel. We shall be divided by our little partial local interests, our projects will be confounded and we ourselves shall become a reproach and a byword down to future ages.''

Then he goes on to say: ''I therefore beg leave to move that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of heaven and its blessing on our deliberation be held in this assembly every morning before we proceed to business.''

Of course, that speech was the precursor of the morning prayer that we have every day that we meet in Congress. So Franklin was alluding to the fact that without acknowledging the divine presence and without prayer, that many of the deliberations of this body were of no more worth than the builders of Babel.

George Washington, of course, was a Founding Father that also was one who relied heavily upon his faith. This is what he said in his inaugural address. He said: ''The propitious smiles of heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right which heaven itself has ordained.''

Both Benjamin Franklin and George Washington indicated that the foundation of a successful nation really needed to be based upon spiritual principle.

Mr. Speaker, our purpose here tonight is to talk a little bit about the prayer breakfast, what we think the benefit of the prayer breakfast is. It is not to proselytize, it is not necessarily to even express our personal faith, but to let people know that there is an organization, there is a group here that meets regularly that is certainly not contentious and is focused upon spiritual issues.

I would just like to say one word about my personal experience at the prayer breakfast that has been very beneficial, and that is that I began to see people as they really are. We all have a facade. We bear titles. We are Republicans, we are Democrats, we are chairmen, we are vice chairmen, and

we are from different parts of the country. As we speak on the floor, many times we are somewhat contentious. At the prayer breakfast, all of those titles and all of those masks that we wear tend to be stripped away, and you begin to see a person as he or she really is.

I remember particularly one morning where a Member was to speak. I was not looking forward particularly to that particular day, because the image that I had of that individual was that of a person who was highly partisan, someone who had no relationship to anything that I believed. And yet as I listened to that person and I began to feel the pain in that person's life and I began to understand him better, I saw him entirely different. As a result, that person has become a very close friend, even though politically we are a long ways apart. I think many people have experienced that as well.

At this point, I am going to yield to a number of individuals who attend the breakfast who want to just give those who would be viewing a snapshot of how they feel about this particular organization and the service that it renders to this body.

The first person I believe who was here this evening was the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY), so I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) at this time.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Nebraska for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, it is one of the best times of the week for me to reflect on why I am here, what is my purpose in being a Member of this body; why did I leave my prior profession, that of a physician, an OB/GYN doctor for 26 years, and in the comforts of my own hometown and all my patients, and all of a sudden embark on another career. I have to believe that I was sent here by the grace of God. I think that my fellow Members on both sides of the aisle must have that same feeling.

But it is the coming together once a week at the prayer breakfast that the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) just described that reminds us of that purpose, and reminds us, each Member, why we are here.

Just listening tonight, this evening, Mr. Speaker, from both sides of the aisle, you will hear a lot of times a discussion that sounds so highly partisan, you would think that we literally hated each other. Some Members are a little more strident, Mr. Speaker, than others, but it is not hatred; and I think it is important for us always to remember why this type of dialogue goes back and forth.

Both sides want to be in control. In this body and the other body, there is no sharing of this power and everybody wants to be in those leadership positions. Sometimes the dialogue gets pretty strident, and you literally would think, Mr. Speaker, those of us sitting as we come as new Members listening to the discussion from the other side and them us, that we literally hate each other.

Truly, we do not, and to have an opportunity to come, as I say, and as the gentleman from Nebraska explains about the prayer breakfast, you get to know your colleagues in a different way. You know that they have parents and grandparents and husbands and wives and they have brothers and sisters and moms and dads, and they love the Lord, and they talk about it.

Some are more eloquent than others. I know I have to admit that I have not yet been the speaker, to talk about my life and why I am here and what purpose I hope to serve in this great body. I probably should not have admitted that, because the coach may have me down next week to give my testimonial, Mr. Speaker; and I may be more nervous during that than I am here participating in this Special Order tonight.

But I love my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. Thursday morning at that prayer breakfast, that devotional, it gives me an opportunity to really understand why I am here, why we all are here: to do good, just to do good, to do the right thing, not to ever let political expediency get in the way of our principles, and always try to do God's will.

So for me to share a few moments talking about that tonight is a great pleasure, and I appreciate the gentleman from Nebraska bringing us together in a bipartisan fashion. You are going to hear from Members on both sides of the aisle; and because of our participation in that group, that Thursday morning prayer breakfast, they are my good friends and I am their good friend, and we respect one another and we love one another and we are going to continue to try, Mr. Speaker, to always do God's will.

□ 2245

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to recognize the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. Fox).

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity very much. I thank the gentleman from Nebraska for coming up with the idea of our doing this.

I think there are a lot of misconceptions about Congress. People think from the media, and I am not sure from where else, that we are a bunch of people who go out at night with lobbyists and carry on, and a lot of people do not have an idea that we do have this prayer breakfast every Thursday morning. I think that it is very important that we share as broad a perspective on what we do here in Congress as we possibly can.

There are 435 Members in the House of Representatives, and I think one of the best things that our prayer breakfast does is give us a chance to get to know people that we would not have an opportunity to get to know otherwise. As we have all pointed out, and others will too, it is bipartisan, and that is one of the better parts of the breakfast. Because most of the time, we do meet by party and talk with people by party, and it is very difficult to get to know people of the other party unless you are serving with them on a committee. But this gives us an opportunity, as my colleague said earlier, to get to know people in a way that we would not get to know them otherwise.

It is a very structured meeting that we have in many ways. We are blessed that we have scripture reading brought to us by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER) who does a wonderful job every week. I will have to say that many of us think when we go to church and hear a sermon, if it is a good sermon, the preacher is preaching right at us; and I think that I have been amazed at our scripture reading and the message that he brings every week. It seems always to hit the spot for me. So I am very grateful for that. We do a lot of praying and we do a lot of music. We sing. And we have been very blessed to have had the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN) lead our music this time, and it has been some of the most vigorous music that I have had a chance to participate in. I am very, very grateful for that.

As the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) said earlier, our Founding Fathers turned to God in prayer at the most difficult times of the founding of this Nation. And they did set a pattern for us, a pattern that I am pleased that we are continuing here by every day opening this session with a prayer but, again, encouraging us to get together to pray.

In addition to our having scripture and prayer and music, we also have someone who reminds us of the sick and wounded. When I thought about speaking tonight, I realized that is basically the only place where we are gathered together where we take the time to remember those amongst us who are having problems. I want to say I am very grateful for the group. My husband recently had surgery and our group prayed for him very vigorously, and I think those prayers meant a lot in terms of God bringing him through that in a very successful way.

We need our prayer breakfast. Those of us who go there need it. We call it the best hour of the week. It provides a grounding for us. It helps us remember what is important about life. We are here to do important work.

I remember once when I was in the legislature, somebody said to a group of us that we were important people; and one of the Members said, no, we are not important people; we are just ordinary people doing important work. And I think by going to our prayer breakfast on a regular basis, we understand we are not important people, but we are ordinary people doing important work and doing it with the values and the morals that I think that the people of this country expect us to have.

I am very grateful for those who have kept the prayer breakfast going over

the years and made it possible for those of us who are there now. I hope that our sharing tonight a little bit about our prayer breakfast will help break some of the misconceptions that people might have about us and give a broader viewpoint about how we spend our days in Congress and what we focus on.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Nebraska (Coach OSBORNE) for organizing this Special Order, and I thank the gentleman for the leadership that he provides to us at the prayer breakfast.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her comments. At this time I would like to yield to the cochair of the prayer breakfast, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for having the foresight to bring a group of us together here this evening on the House floor to talk about something that is an event that happens each Thursday morning, not something, but an event that happens each Thursday morning that I think helps mold us to realize that all of us have deep, abiding faith, regardless of which political party we claim to be of.

We keep saying that Thursday morning is the best, it is the best hour of the week. Well, there is no question that is the case. But for me it gives me an opportunity; most of us in our districts, I have 10,000 square miles, and Tennessee is 40,000 square miles, and in my congressional district, you probably would not find any more God-fearing people, God-loving people than in the district I represent. Now, I know each of you will challenge that, I am sure. But I know the folks that I represent, and my colleagues know the people that they represent. But the people I represent are very rural people, they are close to nature, and worship is important to them.

From time to time, Sunday mornings, never Wednesday nights can I go to prayer meetings anymore, but on Sunday mornings sometimes we have schedules that prevent us from being at our own home church. I am Southern Baptist. So Thursday morning has become the day that I look to as kind of my church day. It is the day that I know that I will get together with people here in Congress, 435 of us, I wish all of us came, that I could get with individuals and we share our faith, without knowing which party that we are a member of.

I go back to my youth when I was growing up, and I think when you start looking especially in the rural areas, the gentleman from Nebraska represents a huge area of Nebraska, and I am sure he probably has small communities that have less than 20 to 30 people, but there is a church there, is there not? There is a house of faith that is built there.

So when our early settlers first came to this country, a family or two would locate, and one of the first buildings they would build other than their home was a house where they could worship, a house of worship. Oftentimes it was used also to educate the young children. That has always been the nucleus that has held that community together.

So I think our prayer breakfast basically gives me that same magnetic feeling of being among those who share a faith. We have had different faiths who speak, and I have been impressed with each one of them. I have been surprised, in many cases, by each of them as they talk about how they grew up and what their father and mother did and how their mother and father encouraged them and took them to church with them and encouraged them to develop a deep, abiding faith. I listen to those Members of Congress and I think, there is no partisanship there.

Sometimes, when we are looked upon by those outside of this Chamber, through the media, through some of the partisan efforts, quite frankly, probably in our different parties in our local communities, I am not sure they realize how close many of us are at those Thursday morning prayer breakfasts and how we pray for each other and for this country and for our soldiers that are in harm's way. And we pray for the wisdom to look to God's will as we make the decisions here inside this Chamber.

I often get an opportunity to go down to the country stores. Some of my colleagues may not have the rural country stores where that also is kind of an area where if it is not Wednesday night or Sunday morning or Sunday evening, where people gather. I go to a little place called Forbus General Store. It has been in operation since 1887; it is over 100 years old and continues to operate.

Years ago, if you wanted medications, if you were sick, the doctor would write a prescription, or you would go to that store, and even though a fellow may or may not have been a pharmacist, he would give you a prescription. If you had lost a family member, you could buy a casket. If you had a team of mules, you could buy a harness. It is a huge facility that is still in operation.

Obviously, those particular items you do not purchase there any more, but one thing we will do. We will sit back in the back, and there is usually a table where you can sit and drink coffee, and I know the Republicans and I know the Democrats. I think all of them probably are for me; at least I hope they are. But as we talk about issues, there is never a time when it appears that we get angry at each other. There is always that, because we know each other, there is that camaraderieship amongst each other, and issues that come up that are important to them.

As a Congressman, the other day I was there; I tell this joke and I probably should not. But this one fellow, I was carrying on a pretty good conversation, and one of the boys in the back named Johnny Anderson reared back and he said, Lincoln, you are getting just like those fellows in Washington. I believe you are getting so winded you could blow up an onion sack.

So, in essence, they look at us sometimes differently in these small rural areas; and maybe in the urban areas it is the same way. But what I hope, after our presentations tonight, that Americans will realize that as a group of men and women collectively, men and women of faith, that our faith does mean something to us; that in most cases, I truly believe all of us make a faith-based decision on the issues that come before this House. I know I do. And I think all of the Members do.

So it has been a delight for me to work with the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE). He is of a different political party than me. As a matter of fact, Tennessee Vols learned to have a greater respect for the gentleman from Nebraska (Coach OSBORNE) when he was a coach in Nebraska. So, in essence, I have learned a greater respect for him as well, for the man, for the man of faith that I know him to be, and for a spiritual leader that many of us can look to for spiritual guidance.

So to me, on Thursday mornings, bringing together folks who seem to be so different in the eyes of the American public, if they were only here, would realize that there is at least one place that bipartisanship thoroughly survives and is loved among those of us who go on Thursday morning to a prayer breakfast. In February we have the Congressional Day of Prayer, and it is attended by many people from different nations. And at that prayer breakfast, I think we have been able to probably minister and reach out to individuals of different faiths and some even to help establish a faith in them and perhaps in their country.

So I look forward to working with the gentleman for the rest of the year and continue as long as I am in Congress to share with men and women of faith on the special hour each Thursday morning.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much, and I certainly appreciate his leadership at the prayer breakfast. I was hoping we would get through this hour without talking about football, but it did come up and, fortunately, we do not get too involved with that and it keeps things on a little higher plane. So at this point, I would like to recognize a gentleman who has really added a lot to the prayer breakfast through the fact that he plays guitar and can carry a tune and usually gets us started on the right note, and that is the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN).

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Nebraska. I think some people might be surprised that there is a prayer breakfast like this

down here and that people get along very well and encourage each other, pray for each other and really have a time of sharing, but also it is very special to me, because when you are in Congress, everybody here is so busy all the time. And this is a time where you can actually set aside a little bit of time in the morning, and you can get to know somebody new in a special kind of way.

But this thing should not really surprise us all that much. If we go back to the beginning of our country, this is a country that just has been loaded up on faith right from the beginning. The Pilgrims came here and the very first Constitution they wrote says ''in ye name of God, amen'' it starts out. In 1620, 1630, the Puritans arrive and coming down the coast, they say, we believe that God has confirmed His covenant by bringing us safely to this country, and that we shall be as a city on a hill, a light to all people, if we deal faithfully with our God.

□ 2300

You can spin forward another 150 years to the time when they are framing, trying to put the constitution together. You have got old Ben Franklin there, 84 years old, and everybody is arguing, these politicians making long winded speeches, it is hot, there is no screens on the windows, everybody's patience is a little bit short. And old Ben Franklin gets up and look over his old bifocals and he is speaking to George Washington now at the time. He says, we have been assured, sir, in the sacred writing of scripture that a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without the notice of God. Is it probable that a Nation can rise without his blessing? And he goes on to say that we really need to start with prayer as we start looking at putting this new constitution together.

And then you get this building built, a certain number of years later, the great big old Capitol dome right next to us here this evening. It was for I guess about 80 or 90 years, the biggest church in Washington, D.C. because on Sunday that is where they held services. So we stand in a long tradition. And that tradition is continuing to go on in this wonderful time that we have Thursday mornings to just let each other pray for each other. And then usually the way it works is somebody stands up for about a half an hour and just shares about what their life is about. And you know there are so many wonderful people that have been elected down here, and they all have such unique stories and every one of them is a picture of the side of America. And those of us that take the time to go really get to love it. It is almost sort of like a living Norman Rockwell picture when people share their lives, and it is such a treat to be able to do it.

And the one thing there is a little bit of lack of talent in the music department so they called on me. I used to get kicked out of choir all the time, so they did not know that when they asked me to do it. But we do manage to sing through a few songs and have a little bit of fun in the process.

But I thank the gentleman from Nebraska for his leadership and just taking a little bit of moment tonight so we could share with everybody who is interested what a wonderful time that is Thursday morning at 8 o'clock.

Mr. OSBORNE. Well, I certainly thank the gentleman and we really have appreciated the music that he has brought to the prayer breakfast.

And at this time I would like to recognize the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE), who also has been very faithful in his attendance and adds a lot to the Thursday morning activities.

Mr. PEARCE. I thank the gentleman for verifying that. My pastor at home would be deeply interested to understand that I do attend prayer breakfast every week or almost every week. And I thank the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVIS) for his leadership in that group.

You know, when I travel at home, people, the most common comment that people make to me, first of all, is tell the President we are praying for him. And that is often repeated, even into this last weekend when I was at home.

The second thing that people ask, and they are almost surprised to find out, is there are not many Christians in Congress. And they are surprised to find out that not only are there many Christians, but that we actually gather in a bipartisan basis once a week and have this prayer breakfast.

And I think it is essentially one of the strongest components of our Nation that we still recognize the founding of this Nation on the Christian principles. It was our Founding Fathers who declared that a democracy demands a moral people. They understood that a democracy does not use the force of strength on its people to cause them to follow the law; that instead it depends on a voluntary compliance, and that volunteer compliance depends on having a moral fiber and a moral instruction.

Now we go to schools to understand knowledge and wisdom. But I think that our religious education, our moral education helps us to understand how to live correctly and rightly, how best to order our lives, that we do not impair the freedom of others, and yet we access the blessings that are given to us. And what better opportunity for us to explore that than to come together in a bipartisan way to pray for those things that a Nation should be praying for, for wisdom for its leaders, for steadfastness that we would keep to the same course, that we would not vary back and forth, for clarity, that as we deal with difficult subjects, that we can understand and discern correctly between the competing value systems that we are confronting.

What better prayer group could we have than to ask for the blessings of God on to this Nation. And I think as we do that in a bipartisan way each week, it softens up the tendency to for us to see the differences between the two parties and the two different philosophical sets and we begin to see the commonalities that are approached from different directions. And that, for me, gives the real strength to this country because the strength of a country is not one single set of ideas but a single set of values that are approached from different directions, and the dramatic tension that plays back and forth between competing philosophical sets is what gives us the strength.

Commonly we think of the strength of trees and pine trees that grow up in New Mexico without winds that blew from more than one direction have one kind of strength. But the people who know lumber say that in Washington State where the winds blow from all directions and the cellular structure in the tree is moving back and forth creates a strength that the pine trees in our state do not have. And I think that we as a Nation must understand that as we toss ideas back and forth that is a strengthening process as long as we keep it civil. And I say to the gentleman from Nebraska and the gentleman from Tennessee, for me, you all lead that prayer breakfast in an excellent fashion to help us get that tension back and forth in a reasonable, and a calm and spiritual way. So for me the prayer breakfast serves a very compelling reminder that God uses ordinary people in extraordinary ways as our colleague had mentioned elsewhere.

Finally, the thing that the prayer breakfast does for me is it offers accountability. The lifestyle of a congressional representative with the travel back and forth is extremely disorienting, and that accountability to members of the same faith who are declaring similar values is a very important part of me coming here and remembering who I am and where I am from and what my commitments are too.

So again, I thank all of the people in this Congress who participate in the prayer breakfast and who reach out hands of encouragement and accountability each week. So I thank the gentleman from Nebraska again for his leadership in this.

Mr. OSBORNE. I thank the gentleman from New Mexico. We appreciate the gentleman's faithfulness.

Madam Speaker, at this time I would like to yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP). The gentleman has been a long time faithful member of the Thursday morning prayer breakfast. Currently the gentleman does the accountability in terms of those people who are hurting, those people who are injured, those people who are ill, and we really appreciate that part of his service here. And I think the gentleman has a genuine ministry here within Congress. And so it is my pleasure to yield time to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP).

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, I am so grateful the gentleman from Nebraska has done this. I can feel the sweet spirit in this room that we feel every Thursday morning, that most people would really never have a chance to feel and many people come to this body with great success in their previous vocation. Few people come with greater success than the gentleman from Nebraska. Yet the gentleman is among the most humble, decent, selfless thoughtful people that I have ever seen and here the gentleman truly is salt and light in a place that needs that. It is the best hour of the week. It is what many of us look forward to each week. I find it very interesting that when Members leave this place, if they came to the prayer breakfast and people will say what do you miss the most, that is always the first thing that they say is I miss that prayer breakfast, or if there was some bipartisan activity they were engaged in, whether it was a trip, family activities or maybe in the gym to exercise, they miss that. They miss the bipartisan aspects of the House more than anything else. And I think that is important and instructive for us.

We should not be too surprised though that this is a time of great tension and political division. I can remember in the mid-90s, I was here, Speaker Gingrich was the Speaker. Many things that he said were almost a forewarning, almost prophetic. He said he thought we had entered into a period that may go 20 years of very close competition between the parties, and that political power may swing back and forth.

□ 2310

And since he said that, we had the Senate that changed hands without an election, just with one person switching parties. We had the closest election in the history of our country in 2000, and the country still ideologically is very divided. So you can see how people might engage in rancor or very divisive debate. That is why it is even more important for us to be active at trying to bring people together, trying to hold up the institution, the things that are good, and to talk openly about civility.

I think we talk about a whole lot of things that do not matter as much, and we do not talk near enough about things that do matter more, and that is what we are here tonight to talk about.

Senator Brock, who served in the House seat I am in, gave a speech in Tennessee last week about the lack of the civility in the public arena in this country today and how important that is. Dr. David Abshire, former ambassador, just wrote an essay called ''The Grace and Power of Civility.'' The Grace and Power of Civility.

We need to claim that grace and that power. This weekly hour that we come to is truly salt and light in a place here; and the scripture calls us to be salt and light. This gives us an opportunity to be salt and light.

Let me say humbly as a member of the majority party that it is imperative if we are going to have civility and we are going to have any unity, unity is a powerful force in a family, in a Congress, in the country. It is the goal that caused Abraham Lincoln to keep us together at our worst hour. He said, We are going to preserve our union. We are going to stay unified.

Unity is a powerful principle. And humbly may I say, it is the responsibility of the majority to reach out in a civil way to try to work together to work together with the minority. It is a lot easier for the minority to get along with the majority than it is for the majority to take the initiative to try to find ways to be civil and decent and uphold the institution.

Now, there are so many wonderful stories of this hour; and as the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) said, what is said there stays there. But I want to give you just a little snapshot of a couple of the moments that have taken my breath away in the last 11 years.

We had the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) speak one day. The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) is a great leader of the civil rights movement. He almost went into fire and brimstone preaching that day, and it was powerful. But when he talked about the civil rights march going from Alabama to Mississippi and how he was met, that group was met at the Mississippi State line with the Adjutant General from the Mississippi National Guard having orders to arrest them as they entered the State of Mississippi. And that very general, General Sonny Montgomery of Mississippi, a member of Congress for over 30 years and for over 30 years the anchor of this weekly prayer breakfast, he was sitting in the room when John Lewis told the story, the very man that arrested them was in the room as a colleague, a Member of Congress. And the two of them that day, the love they have for each other years later is such an example of reconciliation and forgiveness. If they cannot only get along but find a way to love each other, surely, goodness, we can with the silly disagreements that we have from time to time.

I think of relationships that were forged. George Herbert Walker Bush when he was a Member of the House was a regular at this prayer breakfast and he became best friends, he was a Republican from New England, became best friends with a Democrat from Mississippi named Sonny Montgomery, and their friendship has lasted a lifetime, but it was forged on Thursday morning. It transcends everything that is done here. This is so meaningful.

I think of Charlie Stenholm, my friends for years. I think of Bob Stump, who is in heaven today, from Arizona who came for over 20 years every Thursday morning to pour coffee, walk around the room and serve his colleagues, faithfully coming early and staying late to clean up and serve others.

Someone chairs each week, as has been said. One of my favorite lines of any contemporary Christian song was written by Ray Boltz in a song that says, ''When others see a shepherd boy, God sees a king.''

Every Thursday somehow we all see a king or a queen because there is such goodness in every person that when they peel their heart back and show who they are, you can find something good. That is what we do not do enough around here is look for the good in the other person. When we do, this place gets a lot better; and I think a lot more will get done.

It has been said, but I want to say it this way, the vast majority of people in this body are good and decent people just trying their best to represent the folks back home to the best of their ability. But I want to close on this note. It takes maintenance to stay informed. It takes maintenance to stay fit of mind, body, and spirit. It does not just happen. It takes maintenance to be civil and decent and thoughtful and kind. You cannot just flip a switch and go from being a crass and cold and egotistical person to being good and decent and thoughtful to the other person. It takes maintenance.

That is one thing that we are here tonight to promote and say in a bipartisan way. We want this place to function as best it can. Before they introduce any of us, not just now but for the rest of their lives, they use one word in front of our name and that word is ''honorable.'' They will say ''honorable'' for the rest of our lives. And I would say that if every one of us wants to live up to that call, we should think long and hard about how honorable we act towards each other while we are here. Because when it is all said and done, we are all just children of God called for two purposes: to serve him and to serve each other.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much. The gentleman certainly, as you can tell from his comments, is a mainstay in one of the pillars of the prayer breakfast, and we really appreciate his leadership.

The last person I believe that I have here tonight to call on is the person who currently handles our scripture, the gentleman from Kansas City, Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER). He has been the mayor of Kansas City. He is also an ordained minister. And since the gentleman has joined our breakfast, I think that we have seen a heightened quality and a real contribution. We want to thank him for all that he has contributed. And we are pleased that he would join us at this late hour.

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) has benefited all of us and perhaps even the Nation by arranging for us to discuss something that perhaps many men and women around the country did not know existed. And the only untrue statement tonight is, I think, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) perhaps overstated our singing

ability. I do think that we have a couple of people with talent, but it certainly does not go past a couple. And I just wanted to get the record straight for purposes of history.

When I was elected to this body, this hallowed hall, I made a commitment to the people of my district, to my family and to my God that I would not come here to call people names, that I would not come here and disrespect my colleagues. I might disagree, but I would never disrespect.

I did not realize that there was a prayer group here. The second week after I was sworn in, the gentlewoman from my State of Missouri invited me to the prayer breakfast. I came to the prayer breakfast with some uncertainty. I had no idea what it was about. I had no idea whether I would get anything from it. That quickly melted into the woodwork of that room where we meet.

□ 2320

My commitment not to call names, my commitment not to be disrespectful is now empowered by the Hour of Power, the prayer breakfast. It is an opportunity for renewal for me to be with people who are like minded, men and women of faith.

There is a great deal of discussion taking place across the length and breadth of this Nation about the relevance of religion in politics. It is important for me to say that there is great relevance between faith and public service through elective office. If there is not relevance, then faith is frail. All of us are informed by our faith, albeit differently, because self-interest, unavoidably, creeps into our theology. So there are times when I am absolutely certain that I hear the voice of God, when in fact I may be hearing my own voice, disguised.

And so, because of that, in our prayer breakfasts there is no proselytizing. No one comes to the prayer breakfast to speak about legislation and the rightness or wrongness of it, or whether God has embraced it or whether God is against it. We come there in prayer. We come there as men and women looking for a moment. If we can just snatch this little moment where we can come into a setting where nobody is trying to do anybody any harm. It is a nonpolitical hour. You do not find Democrats standing up trying to present a donkey prayer. There are no elephant prayers. Men and women come to pray. So I am convinced that through that prayer breakfast we are able to build up our own personal faith so that it can inform us on how we conduct ourselves politically.

I realize that in this Congress there are no saints, just elected sinners who, for the most part, are trying to do the right thing and coming to the prayer breakfast reminds us that we are trying to do the right thing. Now, everybody here is fallible. We are flawed. We make mistakes. But I am convinced, at least based on what I have seen, that everybody is here trying to do the right thing, and those of us who come to the prayer breakfast are working on it. We are not a complete product, but we are in fact working on it. We realize that working on our faith is a tortuously difficult and long process, but this helps.

I have family in Tanzania, Africa, in the City of Arusha, which sits in the shadows of Mount Kilimanjaro. When last there, I went to the Episcopal church, which is in downtown Arusha, such as it is, and I listened to a priest reprimand one of his parishioners. You see, in Tanzania, many of the people who live in huts build a little prayer spot somewhere near their door, usually a back door, and the priest can walk by and see whether there is a well-worn path from the door to the prayer spot. And I listened to a priest say to one of his parishioners, I saw much weeds growing in your prayer path, which meant that he had not been frequenting the place where he had established a relationship with God.

Without the prayer breakfast, I do not think that I would have the well-worn prayer path that I have now. For me, Thursday morning at 8 o'clock is the Hour of Power. There are people here who are in powerful positions, there are people here even now trying to become even more powerful in this Congress, but the real power, for me, the power that enables me to continue to function is the Hour of Power on Thursday mornings, and I thank God for it.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague very much. We appreciate all that he contributes each Thursday, and certainly his knowledge of scripture and his use of scripture has been something that has been an inspiration to all of us.

I would like to conclude this time, Mr. Speaker, by just making a few other observations and reflections. We want to make sure that people understand this is not an exclusive hour. We have many foreign dignitaries. These are all members of parliament, members of governments around the world. You have to be an elected member to attend. Some of them are Muslims, some are Jews.

We have had many of our Jewish Members in the Congress who have come and shared with us, and we want to have each person who comes to understand that they are cared for, that they are accepted, and that they are loved during that hour. So we find that by being inclusive in that way that we are able to share what we are put on this earth to do.

I would like to conclude by just reading a brief excerpt from a book by David Barton. Again, he was alluding to some of the Founding Fathers. And we know they had tremendous foresight and great anticipation of what was to come. ''Franklin had warned,'' and Barton says this, ''Franklin had warned 'forgetting God' and imagining we no longer need his 'concurring aid' would result in international disputes, the decay of the nation's prestige and reputation, and a diminished national success. Washington had warned if religious principles were excluded, the nation's morality and political prosperity would suffer.''

So these were some words from 200 years ago that I think resonate today. And certainly not necessarily as warnings but as indications that this Nation was founded on spiritual principle, and that forgetting those principles and moving away from them does have an inherent danger in it.

Reggie White is certainly much more contemporary. Reggie was a great defensive football player from the University of Tennessee and later played in the National Football League. Reggie said something that I thought was rather profound at one time. He said, ''God honors those who honor him.'' I think Reggie was talking on a personal level, that certainly those individuals who honor God will in turn be honored, but I think Reggie also was referring to the fact that this is true at a national level, that those nations who honor him and remember him, and serve him and honor him will also be honored by God or divine providence, as Franklin and as Washington mentioned.

So it is worth mentioning and worth remembering at this time that this Nation is in a time of peril and a time of crisis and, therefore, we feel that the Thursday morning breakfast serves a useful purpose. And we hope that by having this hour this evening and having these Members come and share, that maybe the general public would get a little better understanding of what this assemblage is about and some of the things we think are important.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2601, FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2006 AND 2007

Mr. BISHOP of Utah, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109–175) on the resolution (H. Res. 365) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2601) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. ETHERIDGE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. HIGGINS (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. HINOJOSA (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and until July 21 on account of a district emergency.

Ms. MCKINNEY (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. REYES (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and July 19.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mrs. MCCARTHY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. GUTKNECHT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for 5 minutes, today and July 19.

Mr. OTTER, for 5 minutes, July 19, 20, 21, and 22.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and July 19, 20, 21, and 22.

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, July 19 and 20.

Mrs. BLACKBURN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WELDON of Florida, for 5 minutes, July 19.

Mr. GINGREY, for 5 minutes, today.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House reports that on July 15, 2005 he presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.R. 1001. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 301 South Heatherwilde Boulevard in Pflugerville, Texas, as the ''Sergeant Byron W. Norwood Post Office Building''.

H.R. 3071. To permit the individuals currently serving as Executive Director, Deputy Executive Directors, and General Counsel of the Office of Compliance to serve one additional term.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, July 19, 2005, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2737. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a request for a FY 2006 budget amendment for the Department of Veterans Affairs; (H. Doc. No. 109–46); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

2738. A letter from the Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's quarterly report as of December 31, 2004, entitled, ''Acceptance of contributions for defense programs, projects and activities; Defense Cooperation Account,'' pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2608; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2739. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting information submitted to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, pursuant to Public Law 101–510, section 2903(c)(6) and 2914(b)(1); to the Committee on Armed Services.

2740. A letter from the Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting notification of the Department's intention to close the Defense commissary stores at Aschaffenburg and Rhein-Main Air Base, Germany by the end of July 2005; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2741. A letter from the Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's quarterly report as of March 31, 2005, entitled, ''Acceptance of contributions for defense programs, projects and activities; Defense Cooperation Account''; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2742. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's STARBASE Program 2004 Annual Report; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2743. A letter from the Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the fifteenth annual report on the Profitability of Credit Card Operations of Depository Institutions, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1637 note. Public Law 100–583, section 8 (102 Stat. 2969); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2744. A letter from the Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Ninety-First Annual Report of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System covering operations during calendar year 2004; to the Committee on Financial Services.

2745. A letter from the President and Chairman, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting a report involving U.S. exports to Canada, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 635(b)(3)(i); to the Committee on Financial Services.

2746. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Navy's Proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Australia for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 05-22), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

2747. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Army's Proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Egypt for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 05-24), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

2748. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Army's Proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Egypt for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 05-26), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

2749. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Navy's Proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Australia for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 05-16), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

2750. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting a copy of Transmittal No. 04-05 which informs you of our intent to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Concerning the Medium Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) between the United States and the United Kingdom as pursuant to Executive Order 11958, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2767(f); to the Committee on International Relations.

2751. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a proposed Manufacturing License Agreement with Austrailia (Transmittal No. DTC 009-05), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(d); to the Committee on International Relations.

2752. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting notification of a proposed license for the export of major defense articles or defense services sold commercially to Austrailia (Transmittal No. DDTC- 007-05), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c); to the Committee on International Relations.

2753. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction that was declared in Executive Order 12938 of November 14, 1994, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); to the Committee on International Relations.

2754. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles that are firearms controlled under category I of the United States Munitions List sold commercially to the Government of Ghana (Transmittal No. DDTC 003-05), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c); to the Committee on International Relations.

2755. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles that are firearms controlled under category I of the United States Mutitions List sold commercially to the government of Haiti (Transmittal No. DDTC 010-05), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c); to the Committee on International Relations.

2756. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Inspector General's semiannual report for the period October 1, 2004 through March 31, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

2757. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period October 1, 2004 through March 31, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

2758. A letter from the Investment Manager, Treasury Division, Army & Air Force Exchange Service, transmitting a copy of the Retirement Savings Plan and Trust for Employees of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service for the year ending December 31, 2003, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9503(a)(1)(B); to the Committee on Government Reform.

2759. A letter from the Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the six-month period ending March 31, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

2760. A letter from the Chairman, Broadcasting Board Of Governors, transmitting the Annual Program Performance Report on the FY 2004 Performance Plan, pursuant to

the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA); to the Committee on Government Reform.

2761. A letter from the Acting White House Liaison, Department of Commerce, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

2762. A letter from the Acting White House Liaison, Department of Commerce, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

2763. A letter from the Acting White House Liaison, Department of Commerce, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

2764. A letter from the Acting White House Liaison, Department of Commerce, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

2765. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel for Equal Opportunity and Administrative Law, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

2766. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's FY 2006 Annual Performance Plan; to the Committee on Government Reform.

2767. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the Commission's semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period October 1, 2004 to March 31, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 8G(h)(2); to the Committee on Government Reform.

2768. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2004 through March 31, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

2769. A letter from the Chairman, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the 2004 Annual Report of the National Credit Union Administration, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1752a(d); to the Committee on Government Reform.

2770. A letter from the Chairman, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the semiannual report on activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period October 1, 2004 through March 31, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(d); to the Committee on Government Reform.

2771. A letter from the Chairman, U.S. Postal Service, transmitting the semiannual report on activities of the Inspector General for the period ending March 31, 2005 and the Management Response for the same period, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 8G(h)(2); to the Committee on Government Reform.

2772. A letter from the Chief Administrative Officer, transmitting the quarterly report of receipts and expenditures of appropriations and other funds for the period April 1, 2005 through June 30, 2005 as compiled by the Chief Administrative Officer, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 104a Public Law 88–454; (H. Doc. No. 109–45); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

2773. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting a report on the activities of the Community Relations Service for Fiscal Year 2004, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 2000g–3; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2774. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting a report on the activities of the Community Relations Service for Fiscal Year 2004, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 2000g–3; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2775. A letter from the Executive Director & CEO, American Chemical Society, transmitting the Society's annual report for the calendar year 2004 and the comprehensive report to the Board of Directors of the American Chemical Society on the examination of their books and records for the year ending December 31, 2004, pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 1101(2) and 1103; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2776. A letter from the Attorney, National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements, transmitting the 2004 Annual Report of independent auditors who have audited the records of the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements, pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 4514; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2777. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works, Department of the Army, transmitting a copy of the the Final Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment of the Southwest Valley Flood Damage Reduction Project, Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2778. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. 30441; Amdt. No. 3119] received April 19, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2779. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Newburgh, NY [Docket No. FAA-2005-20673; Airspace Docket No. 05-AEA-06] received June 20, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2780. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revocation of VOR Federal Airway V-623 [Docket No. FAA-2005-21329; Airspace Docket No. 05-AEA-13] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received June 20, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2781. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Newburgh, NY [Docket No. FAA-2005-20674; Airspace Docket No. 05-AEA-07] received June 20, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2782. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Harrisburg, PA [Docket No. FAA-2005-20056; Airspace Docket No. 05-AEA-01] received June 20, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2783. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revision of Class E Airspace; Nome, AK [Docket No. FAA-2005-20449; Airspace Docket No. 05-AAL-06] received June 20, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2784. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class E Airspace; Harper, KS Correction [Docket No. FAA-2005-20577; Airspace Docket No. 05-ACE-14], pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2785. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airport Noise Compatibility Planning [Docket No. FAA-2004-19158; Amendment No. 150-4] (RIN: 2120-AI37) received May 24, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2786. A letter from the FHWA Regulations Officer, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Procedures for Abatement of Highway Traffic Noise and Construction Noise [FHWA Docket No. FHWA-2004-18309] (RIN: 2125-AF03) received April 12, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2787. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Area Navigation Routes; FL [Docket No. FAA-2004-19667; Airspace Docket No. 04-ASO-13] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received June 20, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2788. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Definition of Commuter Aircraft at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport [Docket No. FAA-2005-21249; Amendment No. 93-84] (RIN: 2120-AI58) received May 24, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2789. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Parsons, TN [Docket No. FAA-2005-20235; Airspace Docket No. 05-ASO-1] received April 19, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2790. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class D Airspace; Grissom ARB, IN [Docket No. FAA-2004-17896; Airspace Docket No. 04-AGL-13] received April 19, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2791. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Tracy, MN [Docket No. FAA-2003-19237; Airspace Docket No. 04-AGL-19] received April 19, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2792. A letter from the FMCSA Regulatory Ombudsman, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Rules of Practice [FMCSA Docket No. FMCSA-1997-2299] (RIN: 2126-AA15) received May 24, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2793. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. 30445; Amdt. No. 3122] received May 24, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2794. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Ineligibility for an Airman Certificate Based on Security Grounds [Docket No. FAA-2003-14293; Amendment Nos. 61-108, 63-32, 65-44] (RIN: 2120-AH84) received May 24, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2795. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revocation of VOR Federal Airway V-623 [Docket No. FAA-2005-21329; Airspace Docket No. 05-AEA-13] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received June 20, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2796. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 747 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2005-21027; Directorate Identifier 2005-NM-048-AD; Amendment 39-14070; AD 2005-09-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 20, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2797. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Cessna Model 750 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2005-21026; Directorate Identifier 2005-NM-069-AD; Amendment 39-14069; AD 2005-09-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 20, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2798. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. 30446; Amdt. No. 3123] received June 20, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2799. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Certification of Aircraft and Airman for the Operation of Light-Sport Aircraft; Correction [Docket No. FAA-2001-11133; Amdt. 65-45] (RIN: 2120-AH19) received June 20, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2800. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revision of Class E Airspace; Blanding, UT [Docket FAA 2004-16896; Airspace Docket 02-ANM-08] received June 15, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2801. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Restricted Areas 5103A, 5103B, and 5103C and Revocation of Restricted Area 5103D, McGregor, NM [Docket No. FAA-2004-17773; Airspace Docket No. 04-ASW-11] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received June 27, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2802. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Area Navigation Instrument Flight Rules Terminal Transition Routes (RITTR); Charlotte, NC [Docket No. FAA-2005-20246; Airspace Docket No. 04-ASO-15] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received June 27, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2803. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment to Class E Airspace; Wray, CO [Docket FAA 2003-16460; Airspace Docket 02-ANM-16] received June 27, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2804. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment to Restricted Area 2211 Blair Lakes; AK [Docket No. FAA-2005-20616; Airspace Docket No. 05-ANM-04] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received June 27, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2805. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company (GE) CF6-80E1A2 Turbofan Engines [Docket No. 2003-NE-27-AD; Amendment 39-13325; AD 2003-20-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2806. A letter from the Administrator, Small Business Administration, transmitting the Annual Report on Minority Small Business and Capital Ownership Development for Fiscal Year 2004, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 636(j)(16)(B); to the Committee on Small Business.

2807. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a recommendation to continue in effect a waiver of application of subsection (d)(1) of section 402 of the Trade Act of 1974 with respect to Vietnam for a further 12-month period and a determination that continuation of the waiver currently in effect for Vietnam will substantially promote the objectives of section 402 of the Act and the reasons for such a determination, pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 2432(d)(1); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2808. A letter from the United States Trade Representative, Executive Office of the President, transmitting consistent with the Trade Act of 2002, supporting reports to implement the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2809. A letter from the Secretaries, Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs, transmitting a report on the implementation of the health resources sharing portion of the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense Health Resources Sharing and Emergency Operations Act for FY 2004, pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 8111(f); jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs.

2810. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's annual report to Congress on the FY 2002 program operations of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP), the administration of the Black Lung Benefits Act (BLBA), the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act (LHWCA), and the Federal Employees' Compensation Act for the period October 1, 2001, through September 30, 2002, pursuant to 30 U.S.C. 936(b); jointly to the Committees on Education and the Workforce and Ways and Means.

2811. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report entitled, ''Suspension of Limitations Under the Jerusalem Embassy Act'' (Presidential Determination No. 2004-24), pursuant to Public Law 104–45, section 6 (109 Stat. 400); jointly to the Committees on International Relations and Appropriations.

2812. A letter from the Acting President and Chief Executive Officer, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's annual Management Report for FY 2004, Performance Budget for FY 2006, Performance and Accountability Report for FY 2004, and Report on Development and U.S. Effects on OPIC's FY 2004 projects and Report on Cooperation with Private Insurers, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106; jointly to the Committees on International Relations and Government Reform.

2813. A letter from the Deputy Director of Communications and Legislative Affairs, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting the Commission's Annual Report on the Federal Work Force for Fiscal Year 2004, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 2000e–4(e); jointly to the Committees on Government Reform and Education and the Workforce.

2814. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a copy of the report entitled, ''Finalizing Medicare Regulations under Section 902 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA) for Calendar Year 2004''; jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia: Committee on Government Reform. The National Drug Control Strategy for 2005 and the National Drug Control Budget for Fiscal Year 2006 (Rept. 109–172). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. BOEHLERT: Committee on Science. H.R. 3070. A bill to reauthorize the human space flight, aeronautics, and science programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 109–173). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 3199. A bill to extend and modify authorities needed to combat terrorism, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 109–174, Pt. 1).

Mr. HOEKSTRA: Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. H.R. 3199. A bill to extend and modify authorities needed to combat terrorism, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 109–174, Pt. 2). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 365. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2601) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for the fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 109–175). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin (for himself and Mr. POMEROY):

H.R. 3318. A bill to amend the Clayton Act to restore the application of the antitrust laws to rail carriers; and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WELDON of Florida (for himself and Mr. SHAYS):

H.R. 3319. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exemption from the harbor maintenance tax for certain shipping between United States mainland ports; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia (for himself, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr.

SMITH of New Jersey, and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California):

H.R. 3320. A bill to extend eligibility for refugee status of unmarried sons and daughters of certain Vietnamese refugees; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts:

H.R. 3321. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the Taunton River in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut (for herself, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. SHAW, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire):

H.R. 3322. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to the H-1B and L-1 visa programs to prevent unintended United States job losses, to increase the monitoring and enforcement authority of the Secretary of Labor over such programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PENCE (for himself and Mr. BOUCHER):

H.R. 3323. A bill to maintain the free flow of information to the public by providing conditions for the federally compelled disclosure of information by certain persons connected with the news media; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REICHERT:

H.R. 3324. A bill to arrest methamphetamine abuse in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REICHERT:

H.R. 3325. A bill to conduct a study evaluating whether there are correlations between the commission of methamphetamine crimes and identity theft crimes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SLAUGHTER (for herself, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. ALLEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CROWLEY, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. DICKS, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. FARR, Mr. FILNER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HOLT, Mr. HONDA, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mrs. LOWEY, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. ROTHMAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. STARK, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. WATSON, Mr. WAXMAN, and Ms. WOOLSEY):

H.R. 3326. A bill to establish a public education and awareness program relating to emergency contraception; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SPRATT:

H.R. 3327. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to allow certain beneficiaries covered by TRICARE for Life to be reimbursed for travel expenses for certain medical care; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SHAW (for himself, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mrs. CAPPS, Mrs. MYRICK, and Mr. ISRAEL):

H. Con. Res. 210. Concurrent resolution supporting the goal of eliminating suffering and death due to cancer by the year 2015; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DELAY (for himself, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. HYDE, and Mr. LANTOS):

H. Res. 364. A resolution commending the continuing improvement in relations between the United States and the Republic of India; to the Committee on International Relations. considered and agreed to.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. SPRATT introduced A bill (H.R. 3328) for the relief of Gerald Robert Christopher Haefelin; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 11: Mr. MCCAUL of Texas.
H.R. 97: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 98: Mr. SHADEGG.
H.R. 193: Mr. BACA, Mr. FILNER, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. HARMAN, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. BAIRD, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado.
H.R. 220: Mr. MCCOTTER.
H.R. 302: Ms. BEAN and Mrs. TAUSCHER.
H.R. 398: Mr. LANTOS.
H.R. 503: Ms. DELAURO.
H.R. 515: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. ACKERMAN, and Mr. STUPAK.
H.R. 521: Mr. DOOLITTLE.
H.R. 552: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 576: Mr. FLAKE.
H.R. 581: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 609: Mr. PRICE of Georgia.
H.R. 698: Mr. NEUGEBAUER.
H.R. 747: Ms. KAPTUR and Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 764: Mr. PUTNAM and Mr. JEFFERSON.
H.R. 865: Mr. CONYERS and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
H.R. 867: Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, and Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 872: Mr. CAMP, Mr. FILNER, Mr. LEACH, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 896: Mr. KING of New York and Mr. MARSHALL.
H.R. 923: Mr. DAVIS of Florida and Mr. MCCAUL of Texas.
H.R. 931: Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. DUNCAN, and Mr. ROYCE.
H.R. 985: Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 998: Mr. ISRAEL.
H.R. 1000: Mr. MCDERMOTT and Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.
H.R. 1106: Mr. STRICKLAND.
H.R. 1201: Mr. HINCHEY.
H.R. 1245: Mr. NADLER and Mr. DUNCAN.
H.R. 1293: Mr. DEFAZIO.
H.R. 1298: Mr. LATHAM and Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 1307: Mr. ROTHMAN.
H.R. 1342: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey and Mr. ROTHMAN.
H.R. 1351: Mr. PASTOR.
H.R. 1402: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD and Mr. HINCHEY.
H.R. 1409: Mr. MCHUGH, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. PASTOR, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. PUTNAM, and Mrs. BONO.
H.R. 1426: Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 1471: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. JEFFERSON, and Mr. ETHERIDGE.
H.R. 1498: Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 1500: Mr. ADERHOLT.
H.R. 1545: Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. ISRAEL, and Mr. SOUDER.
H.R. 1558: Mr. BACHUS and Mr. ENGEL.
H.R. 1648: Ms. PELOSI, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.
H.R. 1658: Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky.
H.R. 1668: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 1671: Mr. SANDERS.
H.R. 1704: Mr. OSBORNE, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 1714: Mr. CUELLAR.
H.R. 1742: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 1837: Mr. KOLBE.
H.R. 1850: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 1853: Mr. GERLACH.
H.R. 1898: Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. JENKINS, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire, and Mr. CUNNINGHAM.
H.R. 1951: Mr. BUYER, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan, Mr. CUELLAR, and Mr. KANJORSKI.
H.R. 2000: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 2012: Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. UPTON, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. PITTS, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. BASS, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. LEACH, Mr. SWEENEY, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. GOHMERT, and Mr. AKIN.
H.R. 2037: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 2045: Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 2049: Mr. SHAYS.
H.R. 2106: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 2206: Mrs. MUSGRAVE.
H.R. 2207: Mr. HINOJOSA.
H.R. 2209: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
H.R. 2238: Mr. WAMP.
H.R. 2308: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2389: Mr. GORDON.
H.R. 2409: Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 2412: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 2526: Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 2646: Mr. ORTIZ and Mr. HOSTETTLER.
H.R. 2793: Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota.
H.R. 2803: Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. HOOLEY, and Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland.
H.R. 2842: Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina.
H.R. 2930: Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan and Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan.
H.R. 2960: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 2961: Mr. GOODE.
H.R. 2963: Mr. UDALL of New Mexico.
H.R. 2989: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. UPTON, Mr. ROTHMAN, and Mr. FORD.
H.R. 2992: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. ENGEL, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Ms. DELAURO.
H.R. 3059: Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 3082: Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida.
H.R. 3135: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. ISTOOK, Mr. SHAW, and Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico.
H.R. 3146: Mr. CROWLEY.
H.R. 3147: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
H.R. 3166: Mr. MARSHALL.
H.R. 3178: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 3196: Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 3205: Mr. BAIRD, Mr. WHITFIELD, and Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 3263: Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, and Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico.
H.R. 3273: Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3274: Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3282: Mr. POE.
H.R. 3298: Mr. MARCHANT and Mr. SMITH of Texas.
H.R. 3304: Mr. BURTON of Indiana.
H.J. Res. 59: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. CAPUANO, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
H. Con. Res. 38: Mr. RYAN of Ohio and Mr. KIND.

H. Con. Res. 85: Mr. KIND.

H. Con. Res. 137: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.

H. Con. Res. 197: Mr. PAUL.

H. Con. Res. 206: Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. BACA, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. COSTA, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. FARR, Mr. FILNER, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. HOYER, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. KANJORSKI, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. MURTHA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. RAHALL, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUSH, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mr. WEINER.

H. Res. 76: Ms. WOOLSEY.

H. Res. 316: Mr. MARKEY, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. ALLEN, Miss MCMORRIS, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. NADLER, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. ENGEL, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. HONDA, Mr. OLVER, and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.

H. Res. 323: Mr. CAPUANO, and Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia.

H. Res. 325: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

H. Res. 326: Mr. OWENS and Mr. ACKERMAN.

H. Res. 329: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. EMANUEL, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. DINGELL, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. WATT, Mr. JEFFERSON, and Mr. ENGEL.

H. Res. 357: Mr. LEWIS of California, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, and Mrs. MCCARTHY.

H. Res. 360: Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. ISRAEL, and Mr. PALLONE.

H. Res. 361: Mr. BAIRD, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, and Mr. MILLER of Florida.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 3154: Mr. DAVIS of Alabama.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 2601

OFFERED BY MR. BURTON OF INDIANA

AMENDMENT NO. 1: At the end of title X (relating to reporting requirements), add the following new section:

SEC. 1027. ALIEN SMUGGLING AND TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS FROM ECUADOR.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than six months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report, based on a cost-benefit analysis, that examines and describes the most effective use, across all responsible Federal departments and agencies, of United States security assistance (including assistance under chapter 8 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2291 et seq.; relating to international narcotics control)) to Ecuador, including the use of intelligence gathering and surveillance, to establish mechanisms to—

(1) prevent and interdict alien smuggling, including trafficking in persons, from Ecuador, either at land points of assembly, or later at sea;

(2) prevent potential concealment of terrorists attempting to enter the United States within the smuggled group; and

(3) identify and prosecute individuals or organizations that engage in or promote such alien smuggling.

(b) COOPERATION IN PREPARATION.—The Secretary shall prepare the report referred to in subsection (a) in cooperation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, who shall specifically address the roles and impacts of alien smuggling from Ecuador on United States air and surface assets assigned to counternarcotics missions in the eastern Pacific Ocean.

H.R. 2601

OFFERED BY MR. BURTON OF INDIANA

AMENDMENT NO. 2: Page 241, after line 21, insert the following new section:

SEC. 947. TRANSFER OF MARINE PATROL AIRCRAFT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA.

(a) TRANSFER AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of State, acting through the Assistant Secretary of the Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, is authorized to transfer to the Government of Colombia two tactical, unpressurized marine patrol aircraft for use by the Colombian Navy to interdict and disable drug trafficking vessels in the territorial waters of Colombia. Such transfers may be on a grant or lease basis, as appropriate.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section $25,000,000 for fiscal year 2006.

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

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Senate

The Senate met at 2:30 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, we thank You for the beauty and wonder of life. Thank You for the people we know and love. Thank You for the opportunity to experience life's richest joys. Sustain our lawmakers today. Deepen and cultivate their understanding of primary things. Deliver them from majoring in minors and minoring in majors. Bless the thousands who labor for liberty on Capitol Hill. Keep them from becoming weary in doing well, as You remind them that their perseverance will bring a productive harvest.

We pray today for our military men and women and their families who sacrifice so much to keep us free. Protect them from the dangers of the sea, land, and air, and from the violence of the enemy.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 3057, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3057) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today, we return to the consideration of the Foreign Operations appropriations bill. We began that bill last Friday with opening statements. Senators MCCONNELL and LEAHY are ready for Members to offer their amendments during today's session. They are not encouraging amendments, but if Senators do want to offer amendments, we do ask they come forward as soon as possible. I am very hopeful we can complete this bill tomorrow. I think it is likely we can do that if Senators will come forward today and offer amendments, if they have any.

We will be voting this afternoon at about 5:30, and we will be announcing a little bit later today what the nature of that vote will be. Senators will be notified once we lock in the time. It will be around 5:30 today.

As a reminder, tomorrow, at 10 o'clock in the morning, there will be a joint meeting with the House of Representatives. The Prime Minister of India, Manmohan Singh, will be speaking to both Houses of Congress at that joint meeting.

We have 2 weeks remaining before our next recess. We have a lot of business over the next 2 weeks to conduct. The Democratic leader and I were just talking, going through our objectives, and will be sharing that and consulting with our colleagues as to how these next 2 weeks will play out. The floor schedule is going to be very busy. It will take precedence over other schedules, so we do ask Senators to keep their schedules flexible so we can accomplish the many tasks before us.

HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Mr. President, on another issue, briefly—but it is an issue that means a lot to me as one who sees the real advantage in legislating in this arena—I want to comment on the issue of electronic medical records and the increasing necessity, if we are going to eliminate the waste and abuse in our health care system today, of focusing on ways to share information throughout our health care system, which has been too fragmented and too disjointed in terms of communication.

I want to share with our colleagues that we have worked a lot on this issue over the last 4 to 5 days, including the weekend, and that we have made real progress and have come very close to achieving the goal of having privacy-protected electronic health records legislation come before this body.

Senator CLINTON and I introduced legislation last June. Senators ENZI and KENNEDY have been working on legislation. Our goal has been to pull this legislation together. Indeed, we have made real progress in agreeing to outlines of strong legislation, which I am absolutely convinced will eliminate a lot of waste in the system, will improve quality, will increase efficiencies in the delivery of health care, will empower payments, and will improve patient safety throughout our health care system. So I am very excited about it.

We promote the use of electronic health records by adopting standards. You have to have similar standards throughout the system if people are going to come in and participate and share information. So we approached standards. We ensure quality measurement. We eliminate barriers to the adoption of this technology of electronic health records. And we incentivize providers and those throughout the system who use this information to actually adopt the standards with lowered barriers so the advantages can be realized.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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I thank Senators CLINTON, ENZI, and KENNEDY for all of their tremendous work. Chairman ENZI plans to take that legislation to the HELP Committee, I believe, on Wednesday morning. Following that, I look forward to working with my colleagues for Senate passage.

Mr. President, we have a very busy week before us. Again, we will be turning to the foreign operations legislation shortly.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 3130

Mr. REID. Mr. President, before my distinguished colleague leaves the floor, I ask unanimous consent that the Appropriations Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3130, the veterans health care supplemental bill, that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration, and that the bill be amended to increase the funding level to $1.5 billion; that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, we have been here before. Indeed, the Senate has voted twice, most recently on the Homeland Security appropriations bill we finished last week, and then a week before that on the Interior appropriations bill, to provide $1.5 billion for veterans health programs for the current fiscal year, with the remainder of it to be used until expended.

I supported those amendments, as did the Democratic leader.

The conference on the Interior bill, I understand, is well underway and will be completed by the end of this week. I fully expect that the $1.5 billion in additional funding for veterans health care will be on the President's desk for his signature before we leave in 2 weeks for the August recess.

In addition, I should also mention it is important that no veteran right now—no single veteran—is being denied needed health care. The other thing I want to mention to the Democratic leader, because I have not mentioned it before, is that if, for some unexpected reason, the Interior appropriations conference report is not finished, then I think he and I could join together and sponsor legislation, stand-alone legislation if need be, to accomplish the same thing that he requests. I do not believe it is necessary today because we will accomplish this goal before we leave. The conference on the Interior bill is underway and will provide that funding.

Therefore, I object to the unanimous consent request by the minority leader.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if I could just briefly say, I appreciate the statement of the distinguished majority leader. I want this matter to stay before the attention of the Senate. I think it would be better to do it this way and send it to the House. I think that would be so much better. It would be done, I believe, more quickly.

But I also say at this stage the veterans programs are being cannibalized. Those programs for capital construction are being used for health care. I think it would be better if we dispose of this. I will watch the conference committee very closely. It is really not a place for veterans funding programs, but we will take it wherever we get it. Again, I am sorry we were not able to work it out more quickly, but I do look forward to completing it in this work period.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a question I want to ask my friend.

The money in the Interior bill, I hope it is additional money, not money coming from other programs. Does the distinguished majority leader know about that? Do you understand my question? I hope it is new money. I hope it is not money we are taking from other programs.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, in response, I will check with Chairman BURNS to see where specifically the money comes from. I am not exactly aware where the money comes from.

Mr. REID. Because if it is going to come from other Interior programs, I would even go so far as to suggest maybe the Presiding Officer would not want $1.5 billion to come out of the Interior bill for programs that are not within the Interior bill. I know I would not like that.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, it is all new money. It is not being taken from other programs.

Mr. REID. That is real good news.

I suggest the absence of a quorum, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ALEXANDER). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that at 5:15 this evening the Senate proceed to executive session for 30 minutes of debate equally divided in relation to calendar No. 172, Lester Crawford to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs; provided further that following that time the Senate proceed to a vote on the nomination, with no intervening action or debate. I further ask that following the vote the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING THE PASSENGERS AND CREW OF UNITED AIRLINES FLIGHT 93

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Rules Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Con. Res. 26 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will state the concurrent resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 26) honoring and memorializing the passengers and crew of the United Airlines Flight 93.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment at the desk be agreed to, the concurrent resolution, as amended, be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 1228) was agreed to, as follows:

On page 3, line 2, strike ''and the minority leader of the Senate'' and insert ''the minority leader of the Senate, the Chairman and the Ranking Member of the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, and the Chairman and the Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives''.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 26), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 26

Whereas on September 11, 2001, acts of war involving the hijacking of commercial airplanes were committed against the United States, killing and injuring thousands of innocent people;

Whereas 1 of the hijacked planes, United Airlines Flight 93, crashed in a field in Pennsylvania;

Whereas while Flight 93 was still in the air, the passengers and crew, through cellular phone conversations with loved ones on the ground, learned that other hijacked airplanes had been used to attack the United States;

Whereas during those phone conversations, several of the passengers indicated that there was an agreement among the passengers and crew to try to overpower the hijackers who had taken over Flight 93;

Whereas Congress established the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (commonly referred to as ''the 9–911 Commission'') to study the September 11, 2001, attacks and how they occurred;

Whereas the 9–911 Commission concluded that ''the nation owes a debt to the passengers of Flight 93. Their actions saved the lives of countless others, and may have saved either the U.S. Capitol or the White House from destruction.''; and

Whereas the crash of Flight 93 resulted in the death of everyone on board: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That

(1) the United States owes the passengers and crew of United Airlines Flight 93 deep respect and gratitude for their decisive actions and efforts of bravery;

(2) the United States extends its condolences to the families and friends of the passengers and crew of Flight 93;

(3) not later than October 1, 2006, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the minority leader of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the Senate, the Chairman and the Ranking Member of the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, and the Chairman and the Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives shall select an appropriate memorial that shall be located in the United States Capitol and that shall honor the passengers and crew of Flight 93, who saved the United States Capitol from destruction; and

(4) the memorial shall state the purpose of the honor and the names of the passengers and crew of Flight 93 on whom the honor is bestowed.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006—Continued

AMENDMENTS NOS. 1229 THROUGH 1235

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, we have several cleared amendments to the State, Foreign Operations bill which I send to the desk and ask for immediate consideration en bloc.

There is one on behalf of Senator MARTINEZ regarding the Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy; by Senator LEAHY, a technical amendment; for myself regarding activities of OPIC in Libya; three Leahy amendments, two technicals and an amendment regarding assistance to Pakistan; a Leahy amendment regarding assistance for the North Caucus.

All of these amendments have been cleared on both sides. I ask for their immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] proposes amendments numbered 1229 through 1235 en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the amendments?

If not, without objection, the amendments are agreed to en bloc.

The amendments were agreed to, as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 1229

(Purpose: To extend the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy until October 1, 2006)

On page 326, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following new section:

UNITED STATES ADVISORY COMMISSION ON PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

SEC. 6113. Section 1334 of the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6553) is amended by striking ''October 1, 2005'' and inserting ''October 1, 2006''.

AMENDMENT NO. 1230

(Purpose: Technical amendment relating to Iraq)

On page 309, line 24, after ''Fund'', insert the following:

in chapter 2 of title II of P.L. 108–106

AMENDMENT NO. 1231

(Purpose: To provide an exception for activities of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation in Libya)

On page 210, on line 23, after the words ''or its agents'' insert the following:

: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this section, the prohibition shall not include activities of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation in Libya

AMENDMENT NO. 1232

(Purpose: Technical amendment concerning foreign nongovernmental organizations)

On page 295, line 23, strike ''local'' and insert in lieu thereof:

foreign nongovernmental

On page 296, line 2, strike ''local'' and insert in lieu thereof:

foreign nongovernmental

On page 311, line 9, strike ''local'' and insert in lieu thereof:

foreign

AMENDMENT NO. 1233

(Purpose: Technical amendment relating to a reporting requirement)

On page 191, line 24, after ''Appropriations'' insert:

and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives

AMENDMENT NO. 1234

(Purpose: Reporting requirement relating to assistance for Pakistan)

On page 172, line 7, strike ''defenders'' and insert in lieu thereof

lawyers and journalists

AMENDMENT NO. 1235

(Purpose: To provide certain assistance to the North Caucasus)

On page 176, line 2, after the colon insert:

Provided further, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, not less than $5,000,000 should be made available for humanitarian, conflict mitigation, relief and recovery assistance for Chechnya, Ingushetia, and elsewhere in the North Caucasus:

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 1239

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, for many years, I have been active in efforts to stop exploitative child labor as well as trafficking in child and female slaves around the world. In my travels to many countries, I have seen this scourge firsthand. I have come to the floor of the Senate many times to speak about this issue. I have spoken about how shocked I was to see the deplorable conditions under which these kids are forced to work. Many are physically, emotionally, and sexually abused. All of them, every child engaged in abusive child labor is deprived of a childhood solely for someone else's gain.

Why should we as a nation tolerate children being used in such a manner? We should not. It is a moral outrage and an affront to human dignity. When a child is exploited for the economic gains for others, not only does the child lose, but the family loses and I think the whole world loses. It is bad economics, and it is bad development strategy. A nation cannot achieve prosperity on the backs of children, and there should simply be no place in the global economy for child labor.

So when news reports about forced child labor on west African cocoa farms first emerged in 2001, I was not entirely surprised. According to one report in a series of articles by Knight Ridder, the child laborers of Ivory Coast ''are whipped, beaten, and broken like horses to harvest the almond-sized beans that are made into chocolate treats for more fortunate children in Europe and the United States.''

After looking into this, I resolved to do everything I could to end this tragic exploitation of children working on cocoa farms. However, I sought a legislative remedy not as a first resort but as a last resort. Together with Congressman ELIOT ENGEL of New York, we engaged the major chocolate companies in lengthy, intense negotiations. The result is what is now called the Harkin-Engel protocol for the growing and processing of cocoa beans in a manner that complies with the International Labor Organization Convention 182 concerning the prohibition and immediate action for the elimination of the worst forms of child labor. This protocol would apply to everywhere cocoa is grown and processed.

The agreement laid out a series of date-specific actions, including the development of credible, mutually acceptable, voluntary industrywide standards of public certification by July 1 of 2005, this month, in order to give a public accounting of labor practices in cocoa farming.

The Harkin-Engel protocol marked an important first—an entire industry, including companies from the United States, Europe, and the United Kingdom, taking responsibility for addressing the worst forms of child labor and forced labor in its supply chain.

Today the protocol stands as a framework for progress in west Africa, bringing together industry, west African governments, organized labor, nongovernmental organizations, farmers groups, and experts in a concerted effort to eliminate the worst forms of child labor and forced labor from the growing and processing of cocoa.

Since the Harkin-Engel protocol was signed, a number of positive steps have been taken to address the worst forms of child labor in cocoa growing. These include the creation of the International Cocoa Initiative Foundation, which is now beginning to form partnerships with nongovernmental organizations to provide social protection programs in west Africa. Also, in Ghana, the International Labor Organization carried out a small pilot project, and in the Ivory Coast, the government is committed to conducting a similar pilot project to examine the labor situation and social protection needs on cocoa farms. These pilot programs will then be assessed and used to develop a child labor monitoring system.

Although I was disappointed that the July 1 deadline was not fully met by the industry, they have given us a commitment to achieving a certification system which can be expanded across the cocoa-growing areas of west Africa and which will cover 50 percent of the cocoa-growing areas of Ivory Coast and Ghana in 3 years' time. I am very pleased with this commitment.

Going forward, the industry has pledged to dedicate more than $5 million annually to support the full implementation of a certification system for cocoa growing farming practices and for programs to improve the well-being of the more than 1.5 million farm families growing cocoa in west Africa, including efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor and forced labor.

Specifically, the rollout of the certification system, including monitoring, data analysis reporting, and activities to reduce the worst forms of child labor, will proceed as aggressively as possible in Ivory Coast and Ghana with the goal of covering 50 percent of the two countries' cocoa-producing areas by July of 2008. This is, indeed, a milestone on the way toward the ultimate goal of 100 percent coverage in cocoa-producing countries around the world.

In addition, the industry pledges to improve conditions in west Africa cocoa farming communities and to address the worst forms of child labor and forced labor at the community level through the International Cocoa Initiative Foundation, the World Cocoa Foundation, and the Initiative for Africa Cocoa Communities. Congressman ENGEL and I have accepted the industry's pledge and commitment, and we congratulate them for this.

The protocol framework continues. However, as President Reagan used to say regarding arms agreements with the Soviet Union, we decided to trust but verify. To ensure accountability and transparency, Congressman ENGEL and I will establish an independent oversight entity to monitor future implementations of the accord. This entity will include experts on child and forced labor, as well as on corporate social responsibility, and will monitor the industry's work and produce periodic publicly available reports on its progress.

Again, I applaud the cocoa industry, the chocolate industry for their agreement to accept such an independent oversight entity.

In addition, to accelerate progress, I support the recommendation of the verification working group, a group charged under the protocol with an independent assessment of the certification system to create a skilled, multi-stakeholder working group on certification.

Yes, I am disappointed that the July 1 deadline was not fully met, but I am reassured that the industry is committed to the goal we all share, which is to eliminate the scourge of the worst forms of child labor and forced labor in cocoa-producing countries.

Obviously, I will be closely monitoring progress under the protocol in the months and years ahead, and I will make periodic reports on the Senate floor and in the media. As Justice Brandeis once said, sunlight is the best disinfectant. Progress under the protocol will be transparent. It will be documented and reported for the entire world to see.

Congressman ENGEL and I are fully committed to meeting the terms and goals of the protocol. As I also said, we are pleased that the chocolate industry likewise has pledged its full commitment to these terms and goals. I would also like to commend the governments of the Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana for their cooperation in meeting the terms of the protocol. Clearly, it is in the interest of these national governments to eradicate the worst forms of child labor for their own economic and social well-being.

We all realize the stakes are incredibly high and that the time for just talking has passed. Child labor and forced labor continue in the cocoa fields of west Africa and elsewhere. Children today are suffering, being deprived of their childhood, being beaten, being deprived of education. And ultimately the chocolate companies have a big responsibility in stopping this suffrage. I will continue to work with them and with the west African governments to eliminate this scourge.

At this time I would like to inform my colleagues of my intent to offer a sense-of-the-Senate resolution to the Foreign Operations appropriations bill that the Senate is now considering. My amendment simply reaffirms the industry's commitments to eradicate child labor from cocoa plantations. The resolution I will offer reflects the main points I have mentioned today. I hope it will be a noncontroversial amendment and that it can be accepted by the managers of the bill.

Furthermore, Mr. President, I would remiss if I did not mention in passing, at least right now, some of the other problems facing the African continent today: HIV/AIDS, hunger, the genocide in Darfur, debt relief, millions of displaced people. Unfortunately, the list is long and the problems severe. I was pleased that the recent G8 meeting held in Scotland addressed some of these issues. This is a positive but, I must add, a small step forward. In order to successfully meet the challenges facing African nations, nations of the world must work together. And I will continue to support our chairman and ranking member and our committee on the foreign operations appropriations subcommittee to do all we can to help in those efforts.

Mr. President, I am going to just read briefly some parts of the amendment that I will be offering to H.R. 3057. Basically, it is just, again, a sense-of-the-Senate resolution to express the sense of Congress regarding abusive child labor practices in the growing and processing of cocoa. It has a number of findings, but it is a sense of Congress that:

The cocoa industry is to be commended, as the Protocol agreement is the first time that an industry has accepted moral, social, and financial responsibility for the production of raw materials wherever they are produced;

The Government of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire and the Government of the Republic of Ghana should be commended for the tangible steps they have taken to address the situation of child labor in the cocoa sector;

An independent oversight body should be designated and supported to work with the chocolate industry, national governments and nongovernmental organizations on the progress of the development and implementation of the certification system by July 1, 2008 through a series of public reports;

The governments of West African nations that grow and manufacture cocoa should consider child labor and forced labor issues of top priorities;

The Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons of the Department of State should include information on the association between trafficking in persons and the cocoa industry of Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, and other cocoa producing regions in the annual trafficking in persons that is submitted to Congress.

Mr. President, I will not read all of it, but those are some of the basic elements of the sense-of-the-Congress resolution that I want to propose.

Mr. President, parliamentary inquiry: Is there an amendment pending at this time?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is not.

Mr. HARKIN. I would ask the manager of the bill, would this be an appropriate time to send my amendment to the desk.

Mr. MCCONNELL. That would be fine. I would like to take a look at it. I am not sure we have seen it.

Mr. HARKIN. Certainly. I just got it finished a bit ago.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I think it would be appropriate to send it to the desk.

Mr. HARKIN. I appreciate it.

Mr. President, I send the amendment to the desk and ask for its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows.

The Senator from Iowa [MR. HARKIN] proposes an amendment numbered 1239.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that further reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To express the sense of Congress regarding abusive child labor practices in the growing and processing of cocoa)

On page 326, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

ABUSIVE CHILD LABOR PRACTICES IN COCOA INDUSTRY

SEC. 6113. (a) Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The plight of hundreds of thousands of child slaves toiling in cocoa plantations in West Africa was reported in a series by Knight Ridder newspapers in June 2001. (global)

(2) The report found that some of these children are sold or tricked into slavery. Most of them are between the ages of 12 and 16 and some are as young as 9 years old.

(3) There are 1,500,000 farms in West Africa that produce approximately 72 percent of the total global supply of cocoa, with Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana producing about 62 percent and 22 percent, respectively, of the total cocoa production in Africa. Other key producers are Indonesia, Nigeria, Cameroon, and Brazil.

(4) United States consumers purchase over $13,000,000,000 in chocolate products annually.

(5) On September 19, 2001, representatives of the chocolate industry signed a voluntary Protocol for the Growing and Processing of Cocoa Beans and their Derivative Products in a Manner that Complies with ILO Convention 182 Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor.

(6) The Protocol outlines 6 steps the industry formally agreed to undertake to end abusive and forced child labor on cocoa farms by July 2005.

(7) A vital step of the Protocol was the development and implementation by the industry of a credible, transparent, and publicly accountable industry-wide certification system to ensure, by July 1, 2005, that cocoa beans and their derivative products have not been grown or processed by abusive child labor or slave labor.

(8) Since the Protocol was signed, some positive steps have been taken to address the worst forms of child labor and slave labor in cocoa growing, but the July 1, 2005, deadline for creation and implementation of the certification system was not fully met.

(b) It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the cocoa industry is to be commended, as the Protocol agreement is the first time that an industry has accepted moral, social, and financial responsibility for the production of raw materials, wherever they are produced;

(2) the Government of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire and the Government of the Republic of Ghana should be commended for the tangible steps they have taken to address the situation of child labor in the cocoa sector;

(3) even though the cocoa industry did not fully meet the July 1, 2005, deadline for creation and implementation of the labor certification system, it has agreed to redouble its efforts to achieve a certification system that will cover 50 percent of the cocoa growing regions of Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana by July 1, 2008;

(4) the cocoa industry should make every effort to meet this deadline in Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana and expand the certification process to other West African nations and any other country where abusive child labor and slave labor are used in the growing and processing of cocoa;

(5) an independent oversight body should be designated and supported to work with the chocolate industry, national governments, and nongovernmental organizations on the progress of the development and implementation of the certification system by July 1, 2008, through a series of public reports;

(6) the governments of West African nations that grow and manufacture cocoa should consider child labor and forced labor issues top priorities;

(7) the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons of the Department of State should include information on the association between trafficking in persons and the cocoa industries of Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, and other cocoa producing regions in the annual report on trafficking in persons that is submitted to Congress; and

(8) the Department of State should assist the Government of Cote d'Ivoire and the Government of Ghana in preventing the trafficking of persons into the cocoa fields and other industries in West Africa.

Mr. HARKIN. I thank the chairman for taking a look at it. I hope it will meet his approval.

Basically, as I said, the chocolate industry, I believe, is to be commended for taking positive steps in agreeing to do 50 percent of the farms by July 1 of 2008. We have to be vigilant. It is really a sense of the Congress commending them and then urging we stay on to meet those goals and eventually the ultimate goal of making sure that we don't have any forced labor and child trafficking on cocoa farms anywhere.

It always struck me as really kind of telling, almost bordering on the obscene that so many of our kids in our country, in Europe, around the world enjoy eating chocolate. Who doesn't enjoy eating chocolate? We all love chocolate, hot chocolate, or chocolate of any form. And so I think many people who enjoy chocolate don't know that it is being produced by forced child labor in many cases, kids who are beaten, kids who are deprived of their childhood, kids who are basically child slaves. So I think this is something that we should pay attention to. As I said, we have been working on this now, this is our fourth year, working with the chocolate industry. We have this protocol. We have the framework. Progress is being made. We just need to make sure we don't slip behind, that we continue to support these efforts, to support the Governments, as I said, both Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana, in their efforts, and the chocolate industry, also.

That is basically what this sense-of-the-Congress resolution is all about.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as the distinguished Senator from Kentucky said earlier, we are on the Foreign Operations, State Department bill. We have virtually completed our work. There is a pending amendment. We are going to be ready very soon to go to third reading.

We have had a number of Members say they might have an amendment, and I am delighted to hear that, but if they ''might,'' they might want to do it while the bill is still on the floor because it is going to be gone.

Some of these amendments are very well thought out. Some Members have their press releases already written. But if Members want the press release released—as well as the well-thought-out amendment—one might want to do it while the bill is on the floor.

I have no desire to hold up this piece of legislation. Senator MCCONNELL has no desire to hold up this legislation. We spent several hours of quorum calls Friday and today. If Members are serious about an amendment, bring it to the floor. Otherwise, from this Senator's point of view, as soon as there is not an amendment pending, I will have no objection to moving to third reading.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I will just take a few minutes. Later this afternoon, at 5:45, we have ordered a vote on the nomination of Dr. Lester Crawford to be Commissioner of the FDA. I had intended to come and speak prior to that vote. My understanding is that there is only a 30-minute time period for debate, equally divided, just prior to the vote on that nomination, so I will take a couple of minutes now to explain why I am going to vote against this nomination.

I have spent most of my time in the Senate voting for nominees sent to us by Presidents, Republicans and Democrats alike, because I believe those who win the Presidency largely have the right to select their own team and to have their own advisers. So I have, in most cases, voted for the nominees who have come before the Senate to serve in the President's Cabinet and other important positions in the administration.

This position is the head of the Food and Drug Administration, a very important agency—one, incidentally, that

has had a substantial amount of controversy in recent years. I have been particularly interested in the FDA because we—myself along with others in the Senate—have spent a lot of time working to try to see if we can put some downward pressure on prescription drug prices.

Much to our chagrin—to those of us on both the Democratic side and the Republican side who have been working toward this end—the opposition, in many cases, has come from the Food and Drug Administration. The FDA has alleged safety issues where, in fact, there are no safety issues at all. It has been the Food and Drug Administration that has been shaking the pompoms for and cheerleading with the pharmaceutical industry on these issues.

Let me describe the issue just for a moment.

The American consumer pays the highest prices in the world for brand-name prescription drugs. Consumers who purchase those prescription drugs are charged much higher prices in the United States than elsewhere around the world. The pharmaceutical industry says it charges these prices because it can. I held a hearing on this issue when I chaired a subcommittee some years ago. The result is, the drug industry said: Well, we can charge that amount here in the United States, but we can't charge it in other countries because other countries have price controls on prescription drugs.

Yet I notice—because of a sweetheart little tax provision that was put in law about a year ago—that the drug industry has made substantial profits overseas. The sweetheart deal allows those companies that have started enterprises overseas and are earning profits overseas to now pay taxes at a 5.25-percent rate for the income they repatriate to this country, quite a deal for big companies that move their jobs overseas. According to newspaper reports, the pharmaceutical industry now has as much as $75 billion in profits they have made in other countries that they are set to repatriate to this country for a 5.25-percent income tax rate.

Interesting. They tell us they have to charge higher prices to the American consumers for prescription drugs, and they charge lower prices elsewhere because they are required by pricing policies in those countries to do so. They say they do not make much money in those countries, yet now they have $75 billion in profits from overseas sales in countries in which they have charged dramatically lower prices. So, obviously, they are making substantial profits in their sales in other countries even though the consumers in those other countries enjoy lower prescription drug prices.

Mr. President, let me, by unanimous consent, show two pill bottles, if I might.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, this is a medicine called Celebrex, made by Pfizer. These bottles are large containers that happen to be empty. It would contain 500 capsules; 200 milligrams, the usual adult dosage, it says. As you can see, this other bottle is also Celebrex. It is the same pill, made by the same company, put in the same bottle. The only difference in these bottles is the color on the labels is a bit different, but the pills that were inside were the same. This one bottle is sold in the United States and the other is sold in Canada.

What is the difference? Well, the U.S. consumer pays $2.93 per capsule out of this bottle. The Canadian consumer pays $1.32 out of the other bottle. So the one costs almost $3, the other just over $1. The American consumer is charged double the price of the Canadian consumer. It is the same pill, put in the same bottle, made by the same company, at an FDA-approved plant, sent to two different places, and the American consumers pay two and a half times more than the Canadian consumer.

Why is that the case? Well, the drug industry says they charge that price in the United States because they can and because they must in order to gather the funds for research and development. But, of course, the record shows that is not the case either. The drug industry actually spends more money on marketing and advertising than they do on research and development. And they actually spend about the same amount on research and development in Europe that they do in the United States when, in fact, in Europe they charge lower prices for exactly the same prescription drugs.

So what does all of this have to do with Dr. Crawford and the FDA? Well, for those of us who are working to allow for the importation of FDA-approved drugs from other countries—notably from Canada and Europe—one of the most significant areas of opposition has been from the FDA.

Dr. Mark McClellan was the head of the FDA for a while. He was an aggressive advocate on behalf of the pharmaceutical industry. The pharmaceutical industry could not have had a better cheerleader than Dr. McClellan. And during that time, Dr. Crawford has also been at the FDA serving as deputy. He has been there as acting commissioner for much of this administration, both before and now after Dr. McClellan. And during that time, the FDA has continued to be a roadblock to try to get lower prices on prescription drugs for American consumers.

The problem is that there is a law on the books that says the only entity that can import a prescription drug from another country is the manufacturer of that prescription drug. So a licensed pharmacist in Minot, ND, cannot go to Regina, Canada, for example, and buy an FDA-approved prescription drug, even one made in the United States and shipped to Canada. A licensed U.S. pharmacist cannot go to a licensed pharmacist in Canada, buy the FDA-approved drug at half or a third of the price and bring it back and pass the savings along to the customer.

Why is that the case? Well, because once again there is a sweetheart deal. Under this deal, trade should apparently only work for everybody but the little guy, the consumer. One would think, with free trade and the opportunity to cross boundaries, that if you are talking about FDA-approved medicines, that American consumers, particularly American pharmacists, would be able to also take advantage of the global marketplace, but they cannot.

So I, along with a bipartisan group of colleagues, have been trying to change the law. We are not proposing price controls but instead competition. Very simple: Allow an American pharmacist, a main street drugstore owner to access the identical prescription drug in Canada or Europe at a fraction of the price and bring it back and pass the savings along to the consumer. We are told that American consumers could save as much as $38 billion—that is with a ''B''—a year if that were to happen.

As a point of fact, if we were able to get our legislation passed, we would not have people shopping in Canada for prescription drugs. But the very fact that they could would force the repricing of prescription drugs based on market forces here in the United States. Unfortunately, we have been thwarted in our efforts. Senator OLYMPIA SNOWE, JOHN MCCAIN, myself, Senator KENNEDY, Senator GRASSLEY, Senator STABENOW, and many others have all worked on this for a long, long time. The first bill I introduced on this was in 1999, and still drug importation has not been allowed because it has been blocked.

Opponents have said there would be safety issues. Well, let me give you an example of the safety issue. In Europe, what we propose is done every single day: cross-border trading in prescription drugs. A pharmacist in Germany wants to buy a prescription drug from Spain, that is not a problem. If you are a pharmacy in England and want to buy a prescription drug from France, that is no problem either because they have something called parallel trading. In fact, we had the person who headed the parallel trading association come and testify before a U.S. Congressional committee. That person said there are no safety issues. But it opens the market, so consumers see lower drug prices as a result of it. But in this country, we are told we apparently cannot do it. It does not take rocket science to understand there is no safety issue.

Let me talk about Canada just for a moment. Canada has nearly an identical chain of custody for the prescription drug that comes from the manufacturer that goes to the consumer. The Canadian system is nearly identical to ours. So if an American licensed pharmacist were to buy a lower

priced FDA-approved drug from a licensed Canadian pharmacist, how on Earth could there be any kind of safety issue? There simply is not.

This is not about safety. It is about profits for the pharmaceutical industry. Now, I understand that issue. If the pharmaceutical industry were represented by people here—rather than serving in the Senate, they served the pharmaceutical industry—I would understand why you would make the case you want maximum profits. But that is not the way our economic system works. It works best for consumers when you have competition and open borders and an opportunity to trade. That is what we have been trying to do.

It is disappointing that over 6 years now we have found a lot of opposition to something that is so filled with common sense. The opposition comes from the pharmaceutical industry, from allies of the pharmaceutical industry here in this Chamber in the Senate, and from the FDA. Now, the FDA is supposed to regulate, not represent. The FDA is to regulate the pharmaceutical industry, not represent the pharmaceutical industry.

These are, in many cases, lifesaving drugs. I don't diminish the importance of prescription drugs. They provide miracles in many cases. But miracle drugs offer no miracles to those who cannot pay for them. We have all heard from people who go to the grocery store and go to the pharmacy in the back of the store first to buy the pharmaceuticals in order to understand how much money they have left for groceries. We also know that senior citizens are especially hard hit. They make up 12 percent of America's population, yet they consume one-third of the prescription drugs. It is not unusual to talk to a senior citizen who is taking 5, 7, 12 different prescription drugs every single day. Many of them simply can't afford it. America's most vulnerable population represents those who are hardest hit by prescription drugs prices.

I was at a farm in North Dakota last summer, as I was touring around. One fellow, who was about 85 years old, and his wife, who was in her mid 80s, sat on a hay bale and told me their story. He said: My wife has been fighting breast cancer for 4 years. For 4 years we have driven to the Canadian border to buy Tamoxifen because you can buy Tamoxifen at 80-percent less cost in Canada than in the United States. He talked about the number of trips they made. The only reason they could afford Tamoxifen was because they could drive to the border and get it. A small supply of drugs for personal use, a 3-month supply, has been allowed to come across the border for individuals. But very few Americans can reach that Canadian border and, on a routine basis, find a way to buy their FDA-approved drugs from Canada.

I took a group of American retired folks to Canada in a bus. We went to a little, one-room drugstore in Emerson, Canada. I saw person to person the prescription drugs they had to buy and the savings with each of them. You should have seen the look of surprise on their faces when they found out what the price was in Canada versus what they had been paying here in the U.S. This is unfair pricing. We need to do something about it. But the cavalier attitude at the FDA, the attitude of representing the drug companies rather than regulating the drug companies, means that we will continue to have to battle the FDA. Having to battle the FDA to do something that is so filled with common sense is a frustrating thing for those of us who have been working on this for years and years.

Incidentally, there are some other issues with this Commissioner, and I will not spend my time talking about those.

My colleagues, including Senator KENNEDY, with whom I spoke the other day, will make the point eloquently that we need an FDA Commissioner. It is unbelievable that we have gone all this time without having an FDA Commissioner. We have had someone who is acting for the bulk of this administration. I don't disagree with that notion. It doesn't make any sense that we have not had a full-time, permanent FDA Commissioner filling that term. But that doesn't mean that Dr. Crawford is the right person. He is not in my judgment. I wish I could vote for him, but I don't intend to.

My hope is that in the coming months, we will persuade the majority leader and others, to get a vote on drug importation legislation. If necessary, we will offer amendments at the right time and on the right bills that forces the hand of those who oppose the work we are trying to do.

My hope is at the end of the day, we will get a vote. If we get a vote allowing the reimportation of prescription drugs, there is no question it is going to pass the Senate. It will get 60–65 or more votes in the Senate. The question is getting the vote. We thought we had a commitment in the last Congress for a vote. The Senate majority leader and I had a disagreement about what the commitment said, and so we didn't get the vote. What has happened is, the majority has successfully blocked it, and the White House that stands with the pharmaceutical industry has successfully blocked it. There is now a very strong bipartisan group of Senators. I mentioned Senator SNOWE, Senators VITTER, MCCAIN, STABENOW, KENNEDY, and many others. We have over 30 Senators who have now joined as cosponsors of this legislation. One way or another we are going to prevail. When it is passed, we will see reasonable and competitive prices for prescription drugs.

I regret to say that I will vote against Dr. Crawford's nomination when the vote occurs. I wish I could come to the floor and say I will vote for the nominee. But I don't want to put further roadblocks in the way of those of us who are trying to get fair prescription drug pricing for American citizens. I believe it is critically important that we understand prescription drugs are something different, something unusual. Most countries have already understood that. If you need a prescription drug, a lifesaving drug that can either save your life or keep you out of an acute care hospital bed, you don't have a choice. You have to try and buy it, at prices that are double, triple and, in some cases, 10 times the cost for the identical drug in other countries. That is unfair to the American consumer.

Some day we will force enough people on the floor of this Senate to stand up and vote. When we do, we will have sufficient votes to move this through the Senate. I will say this: I doubt whether it will be with anything other than the obstruction of Dr. Crawford. He and Dr. McClellan before him have run the play called by the pharmaceutical industry. I really regret that is the way it is going.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I am going to be filing an amendment and also noticing an intention to suspend the rules for such an amendment. I want to preserve the right to address it on this piece of legislation. This is an amendment that would prohibit the sale of Unocal, an American oil company, to CNOOC, a Chinese Government-controlled and owned oil company.

I mentioned Friday that I think that this is a fairly simple proposition. The Chinese Government would never, ever allow an American company, let alone an American oil company, to buy a Chinese oil company. The Chinese oil companies are controlled by the Chinese Government. What we have here is a proposal by CNOOC, which is a Chinese oil company controlled by the Government, wishing to purchase an American oil company. You don't have reciprocal capabilities.

They say: Let the free market deal with this. Let's let the marketplace decide.

There is no free market or marketplace in a circumstance where the Chinese Government controls a company and the controlled company, through deeply subsidized Government loans, wishes to buy an American company, especially in something as strategic as oil.

I don't bear any ill will toward the Chinese. They are a big and growing country with a significant impact around the world. They will be a significant part of our future. But we do

have an extraordinary trade deficit with China which is dangerous for us. It is headed to over $200 billion this year. That is completely unsustainable. It is dangerous for us. Our relationship with the Chinese should and must be mutually beneficial, especially in the area of trade. Regrettably, it is not.

We are a cash cow for the hard currency needs of China. They continue to ratchet up these deficits in a significant way. In many cases, the Chinese markets are closed to our country. We also find on the streets of China a substantial amount of counterfeit and pirated goods that come from intellectual property in this country. The Chinese say they have trouble controlling all that. They don't have trouble controlling it. In fact, the logo now that belongs to the Chinese Government for the Olympic games, the minute that showed up on the streets in China under counterfeiting, the Chinese Government took immediate action, and you can't find it any more because the Chinese Government had an interest in stopping counterfeit and piracy when it came to the logo for the Chinese Olympic games.

We have a lot of issues with the Chinese—counterfeiting, piracy, trade deficit, many more. This issue is simple; should we allow a Chinese-controlled and largely Chinese-owned oil company to purchase an American oil company, especially in circumstances where they would not allow that same transaction to take place?

My answer to that is no. I don't think it makes sense for this country's strategic or economic future, and it does not make sense from the standpoint of national security. I don't believe it makes sense from the standpoint of reciprocal trade opportunities, and I don't believe those who say this is some sort of marketplace transaction. There is not a marketplace when you have government control of both the industry and the companies in the industry trying to buy American businesses.

I am filing the amendment and noticing along with it an intent to suspend the rules which would be required for me to do when I offer such an amendment. I mentioned that I also likely would offer a funding limitation amendment in the Appropriations Committee, and the House of Representatives has done the same. The funding limitation would apply to the Treasury Department, where approval for such a transaction would be required to take place.

This is not a reflection of whether I think the Chinese country is trying to do harm to our economy or anything of the sort. China is a large and growing country with 1.3 billion people, an economy that is growing by leaps and bounds. I have been to China a couple of times, and it is quite a remarkable place. But with respect to our relationship with China, that relationship must be mutually beneficial, especially in the area of international trade. It is not now mutually beneficial. There is one-way trade going on, and we are up to our neck in trade debt to the Chinese.

This transaction does not advance our interest. It might advance the Chinese interest by giving them more access to oil, but it does not advance America's interest. I hope that it is viewed through the prism of what advances our country's interests. What is it that represents the best policy choice for our country?

My sense of that is that we ought to prohibit this sale. The amendment is very simple. It doesn't beat around the bush. It is very short. It is an amendment that would prohibit the sale of an American oil company to a Government-controlled and deeply subsidized oil company in the country of China.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to read into the RECORD a statement about the passing of one of our most dedicated public officials.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Ms. LANDRIEU are printed in today's RECORD under ''Morning Business.'')

AMENDMENT NO. 1245

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I call up an amendment to the underlying bill, Foreign Operations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the pending amendment is set aside.

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Louisiana [Ms. LANDRIEU] proposes an amendment numbered 1245.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that further reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To express the sense of Congress regarding the use of funds for orphans, and displaced and abandoned children)

On page 326, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

ORPHANS, AND DISPLACED AND ABANDONED CHILDREN

SEC. 6113. (a) Congress—

(1) reaffirms its commitment to the founding principle of the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-Operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, that a child, for the full and harmonious development of the child's personality, should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love, and understanding;

(2) recognizes that each State should take, as a matter of priority, every appropriate measure to enable a child to remain in the care of the child's family of origin, but when not possible should strive to place the child in a permanent and loving home through adoption;

(3) affirms that intercountry adoption may offer the advantage of a permanent family to a child for whom a family cannot be found in the child's State of origin;

(4) affirms that long-term foster care or institutionalization are not permanent options and should therefore only be used when no other permanent options are available; and

(5) recognizes that programs that protect and support families can reduce the abandonment and exploitation of children.

(b) The funds appropriated under title III of this Act shall be made available in a manner consistent with the principles described in subsection (a).

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I send this amendment to the desk and I ask my colleagues to consider this amendment. We can vote on the amendment at any time before, of course, the final passage of this bill. I send this amendment to the desk, and I will spend a few minutes this afternoon talking about the underlying bill as it relates to the U.S. work and position on orphans.

We have done a lot of great work promoting the idea that children should be raised in families. We have in the United States made a lot of progress over the last 10 years. The former administration, the Clinton administration, and the current Bush administration have made child welfare a priority, have made families a priority.

We believe very strongly in the Congress, both on the Republican side and the Democratic side, that children are best raised in families. We would like our budget to reflect that commonsense principle. I have been in a couple of hearings and a couple of meetings over the course of the last year or two that have given me, some question whether that is clear in this Foreign Operations bill. So my amendment attempts to make clear in the underlying bill what I think is the clear and overwhelming contention of the Senate—and I would imagine the House of Representatives—that we spend money promoting social policy around the world, and that we adhere to a very commonsense principle—it is not an American principle; it is a universal principle. But I can most certainly say in America people feel very strongly about the fact that children should not raise themselves and should not be raised in orphanages, unless absolutely necessary. They should not be raised in group homes and should not be left alone to raise themselves on the street. We should do everything we can to keep children in families.

Let me spend a few minutes being a little more specific. A couple of years ago, under the great leadership of Senator Jesse Helms, we passed an international treaty that put into place this principle, which basically says that in our foreign policy it is the principle of the United States to say clearly that

children should remain in the families to which they are born—that our policies should promote family stabilization, family reunification, reunifying children who might be separated because of war or disease. We should try our very best to keep children in the families to which they are born.

Separation is occurring at an alarming rate in this world today for a number of reasons. AIDS is like a factory for orphans. There is an unprecedented number of children becoming orphaned because of this particular disease. The way this disease affects families, it takes both the father and the mother, leaving children truly orphaned. ''Double orphaned'' is the way the international community talks about a child who has lost both a mother and a father. So we have a growing number of orphans in the world because of the AIDS epidemic.

But even if it weren't for the AIDS epidemic moving through, for instance, Africa and India at an alarming rate, we would still have a growing number of orphans in the world. The question is: What do we do as a human family to see that each of these children has a home, a place? That is simply what my amendment does. It recognizes it is the sense of the Congress and it recognizes the principle that children should grow up in the homes to which they were born. But if they are separated by disease, or war, or death, or for good reason—because some children are at risk in the home, perhaps from mental or physical abuse; sometimes children, unfortunately, have to be taken from parents, according to laws and customs of some countries. When that happens, those children should be raised by a relative, a caring, responsible relative, someone right there in the extended family.

If a relative is not available or willing or able to take on the care of this orphan or sibling group, then those children should be raised right there in the community or within the country of origin. And if not, then we should find a way for these children to be adopted somewhere in the world. My amendment is not making this the law; this is the law now in the United States. These are the principles that are followed by our treaty, as passed by this Congress.

My amendment simply restates, for the purpose of this bill, that the $1.6 billion the U.S. taxpayers are sending out all over the world to support children's health and survival through USAID, which is our primary agency that distributes these funds, shall be distributed mindful of this principle on which this Congress has already acted.

I believe we will have a unanimous vote on this amendment. I do not think it is something that will generate opposition, but if there are Members who oppose it, I will be happy to talk with them about adjusting any language they find objectionable.

One of the things we need to promote in this world, not only at home but abroad, is the strength and support of families because if families are strong, if children can be nurtured and cared for within the loving context of a family, then I believe communities are strong, and when communities are strong, then nations are strong. It does start with the family unit.

Any idea that we could promote successful social policy around that principle or over it or underneath it instead of embracing it fully I think is a real mistake.

That is all my amendment does. The language tracks from The Hague Treaty which has already been passed. It will leave no shadow of a doubt that the Members of this body think that as USAID gives this money to NGOs or to regular recipients, that this principle be included in the distribution of this $1.6 billion.

I would be happy to answer any questions about the amendment. The amendment is rather short, a page and a half. It is rather clear. Again, I think it will go a long way in restating in this funding bill that we are, in fact, committed to the idea that children should be raised in families and that there is really so such thing as unwanted children, just unfound families. If we would spend a little extra time and be a little bit more committed on this issue, we could, despite the growing numbers, I believe, find a home for every child who needs one. I know that is a tall order, and I know people will say: Senator, that can never be done. I know the number of orphans is on the rise. But I also know from my personal experience and the thousands of parents who have adopted children that there is plenty of room in the homes and hearts of people all over the world. If governments would just make a little better effort to identify some of these families and to promote these concepts and continue to restate them in all of our work, that is not as far-fetched as it may seem.

We want to respect the family, recognize the extended family, recognize the right of relatives to raise children, but when relatives and extended family members cannot be found, we believe that children should be placed in another family, to be raised as their own, and sibling groups kept together, which is the new practice in child welfare, not only in the United States but around the world, and that governments have an obligation to reduce barriers to adoption, to cut down the costs, to eliminate the corruption, to encourage transparency, to cut down on the paperwork, and to do their best to make what is so natural and what happened before governments existed, I am certain of it. When a parent or parents died, the most responsible adult next to the child took that child under their wing and raised them as their own. It is the way it has been done since the beginning of time. I don't know why governments in this world find this very complicated. It really is not. It is quite simple.

I want to make sure our primary aid giver USAID, understands clearly that the Members of this Senate are not trying to dictate, are not trying to earmark, are not trying to tell them the specifics of how to do their work. This amendment says that in giving money for social welfare and child survival and health, the principle that children should be raised in a family should be ever present in their decisionmaking. I believe this amendment would make this issue very clear, and there needs to be clarity on this subject.

If there are no other questions, I submit the amendment for consideration by the body and will expect a vote sometime at the managers' discretion. I yield the floor.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, is the Landrieu amendment now pending?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct, the Landrieu amendment is pending.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Landrieu amendment be temporarily set aside.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NOS. 1248, 1249, AND 1239, AS MODIFIED, EN BLOC

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, Senator LEAHY and I have taken a look at three amendments. We find them acceptable. I send them to the desk and ask for their immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendments, en bloc.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] proposes amendments numbered 1248, 1249, and 1239, as modified, en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendments be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 1248

(Purpose: To encourage assistance for programs to address protracted refugee situations)

On page 189, line 14, strike the period at the end and insert '': *Provided further*, That funds appropriated under this heading should be made available to develop effective responses to protracted refugee situations, including the development of programs to assist long-term refugee populations within and outside traditional camp settings that support refugees living or working in local communities such as integration of refugees into local schools and services, resource conservation projects and other projects designed to diminish conflict between refugee hosting communities and refugees, and encouraging dialogue among refugee hosting communities, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and international and nongovernmental refugee assistance organizations to promote the rights to which refugees are entitled under the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees of July 28, 1951 and the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, done at New York January 31, 1967.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 1249

(Purpose: Technical amendment relating to Nepal)

On page 303, line 17, strike ''a commitment to a clear timetable for the return to democratic representative'' and insert in lieu thereof:

'', through dialogue with Nepal's political parties, a commitment to a clear timetable for the return to multi-party, democratic''.

On page 303, line 21, strike ''Royal'' and everything thereafter through ''process'' on line 25 and insert in lieu thereof:

''Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority is receiving adequate support to effectively implement its anti-corruption mandate and that no other anti-corruption body is functioning in violation of the 1990 Nepalese Constitution or international standards of due process''.

On page 304, line 6, strike ''ensuring'' and insert in lieu thereof: ''restoring''.

AMENDMENT NO 1239, AS MODIFIED

(Purpose: To express the sense of the Senate regarding abusive child labor practices in the growing and processing of cocoa)

On page 326, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

ABUSIVE CHILD LABOR PRACTICES IN COCOA INDUSTRY

SEC. __. (a) The Senate makes the following findings:

(1) The plight of hundreds of thousands of child slaves toiling in cocoa plantations in West Africa was reported in a series by Knight Ridder newspapers in June 2001. (global)

(2) The report found that some of these children are sold or tricked into slavery. Most of them are between the ages of 12 and 16 and some are as young as 9 years old.

(3) There are 1,500,000 farms in West Africa that produce approximately 72 percent of the total global supply of cocoa, with Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana producing about 62 percent and 22 percent, respectively, of the total cocoa production in Africa. Other key producers are Indonesia, Nigeria, Cameroon, and Brazil.

(4) United States consumers purchase over $13,000,000,000 in chocolate products annually.

(5) On September 19, 2001, representatives of the chocolate industry signed a voluntary Protocol for the Growing and Processing of Cocoa Beans and their Derivative Products in a Manner that Complies with ILO Convention 182 Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor.

(6) The Protocol outlines 6 steps the industry formally agreed to undertake to end abusive and forced child labor on cocoa farms by July 2005.

(7) A vital step of the Protocol was the development and implementation by the industry of a credible, transparent, and publicly accountable industry-wide certification system to ensure, by July 1, 2005, that cocoa beans and their derivative products have not been grown or processed by abusive child labor or slave labor.

(8) Since the Protocol was signed, some positive steps have been taken to address the worst forms of child labor and slave labor in cocoa growing, but the July 1, 2005, deadline for creation and implementation of the certification system was not fully met.

(b) It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the cocoa industry is to be commended, as the Protocol agreement is the first time that an industry has accepted moral, social, and financial responsibility for the production of raw materials, wherever they are produced;

(2) the Government of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire and the Government of the Republic of Ghana should be commended for the tangible steps they have taken to address the situation of child labor in the cocoa sector;

(3) even though the cocoa industry did not fully meet the July 1, 2005, deadline for creation and implementation of the labor certification system, it has agreed to redouble its efforts to achieve a certification system that will cover 50 percent of the cocoa growing regions of Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana by July 1, 2008;

(4) the cocoa industry should make every effort to meet this deadline in Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana and expand the certification process to other West African nations and any other country where abusive child labor and slave labor are used in the growing and processing of cocoa;

(5) an independent oversight body should be designated and supported to work with the chocolate industry, national governments, and nongovernmental organizations on the progress of the development and implementation of the certification system by July 1, 2008, through a series of public reports;

(6) the governments of West African nations that grow and manufacture cocoa should consider child labor and forced labor issues top priorities;

(7) the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons of the Department of State should include information on the association between trafficking in persons and the cocoa industries of Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, and other cocoa producing regions in the annual report on trafficking in persons that is submitted to Congress; and

(8) the Department of State should assist the Government of Cote d'Ivoire and the Government of Ghana in preventing the trafficking of persons into the cocoa fields and other industries in West Africa.

Mr. MCCONNELL. For the information of our colleagues, these are three amendments, one is a modification to the Harkin amendment previously filed, one is a Leahy technical amendment regarding Nepal, and one is a Lieberman-Brownback-Kennedy amendment regarding refugees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am advised these amendments are cleared by all the parties with interest on this side of the aisle.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the amendments are agreed to.

The amendments (Nos. 1248, 1249, and 1239, as modified) were agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. LEAHY. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I know Senator LEAHY shares my view that we are going to finish this bill tomorrow. Last year, we were fortunate to finish it in half a day. Obviously, that will not be the case this year because we started it on Friday and clearly will not be able to finish it tonight. We do intend to finish it tomorrow. The Senate will be interrupted in the morning by a speech to a joint meeting by the Prime Minister of India, which many Members will want to attend. But we intend to press on as rapidly as possible. If any Members on this side of the aisle have any amendments they have not discussed yet with either myself or staff, we would appreciate them coming over now and discussing it with us because we intend to move rapidly tomorrow and hopefully clear this bill out of the Senate by sometime in the afternoon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I totally concur with the senior Senator from Kentucky. Friday, both he and I were here in a rather lonely Chamber, I might say. We would have been happy to have gone to third reading on Friday. We were advised Members on both sides of the aisle had matters to come before this committee. Of course, extending the normal courtesy managers do on such bills, we did not go to third reading so we could accommodate those Members. We are fast approaching that time. Frankly, if we reach a time tomorrow where we are ready to wrap up this bill, I will join with the Senator from Kentucky in doing that.

I note to all Members that the bill is different than it has been in past years. We have both the operations of the State Department as well as what we normally consider the foreign aid bill. There are a number of items in the bill strongly supported by both Democrats and Republicans and a number of items sought by the President as part of his efforts in foreign policy.

We have crafted what, by anybody's measure, has to be considered a bipartisan piece of legislation, one that should get overwhelming support by this body. We have taken into consideration those items the White House needs in the normal conduct of foreign affairs, as well as those items the State Department needs in their normal operations. But we still have to pass the bill. The bill, if it was brought to a vote right now, would pass overwhelmingly. But it still has to pass.

I have never served as either leader of the Senate, but I sympathize with them. The leaders of this Senate—majority leaders Senator Mansfield, Senator BYRD, Senator Baker, Senator Dole, Senator Mitchell, Senator LOTT, Senator FRIST, as well as their counterparts—Senator Scott, Senator Griffin, and some of the same Senators I mentioned served as both minority and majority leaders, and Senator REID. It is not an easy job to schedule the Senate. The distinguished Senator from Kentucky is the deputy Republican leader. He knows that. We are trying to accommodate him. We have done everything Senator FRIST or Senator REID have asked us to do in moving this bill forward. With a little cooperation from everybody else, we can wrap up this bill and get on to other matters because we still have to go to conference, which I would like to get to very quickly so we can get a final package before the Senate.

I say that hoping someone will hear and know what the heck we are talking about, other than Supreme Court Justices. We really do want to get this bill wrapped up. Please do because once we reach a point with the amendments, we

are going to vote them up or down and finish the bill. I yield the floor.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, let me add, we will finish the bill tomorrow for certain. It will be, obviously, easier on the membership if we do it earlier in the day.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF LESTER M. CRAWFORD TO BE COMMISSIONER OF FOOD AND DRUGS, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar No. 172, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Lester M. Crawford, of Maryland, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 30 minutes of debate equally divided prior to the vote.

The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I yield myself 5 minutes.

I rise to discuss the pending nomination of Dr. Lester Crawford to be the Commissioner of Food and Drugs. I particularly thank all of the people who have been involved in this nomination process. It has been a great bipartisan effort. It has been thoroughly explored and we finally are at a point where we can have an actual FDA Commissioner approved. It will be a tremendous relief to me and to the Nation, I am sure.

I particularly want to thank Senator KENNEDY for his efforts in proceeding through the different hearings that we have had and all of the other work that we have had to do. The Food and Drug Administration is tasked with the broad and critical mission of protecting public health. The FDA Commissioner is in charge of an agency that regulates $1 trillion worth of products a year.

The agency ensures the safety and effectiveness of all drugs and biological products like vaccines, medical devices, and animal drugs and feed. It also oversees the safety of a vast variety of food products as well as medical and consumer products, including cosmetics.

In addition, the Commissioner is responsible for advancing the public health by helping to speed innovations in its mission areas and by helping the public get accurate, science-based information on medicines and foods. The FDA has been without a confirmed Commissioner for more than a year.

In January of this year, 17 members of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions sent a bipartisan letter to the President urging him to nominate a Commissioner to provide the agency with greater clarity and certainty in its mission to protect our food and drug supplies. Recent breakthroughs in medical science and technology show how quickly science and technology are changing our lives each and every day.

The FDA is at a critical point in its history. The potential benefits from our medical research are staggering. A fully confirmed FDA Commissioner is essential to ensuring that these medical breakthroughs can be brought to the market safely and effectively. Consumers deserve to have a fully functional FDA that can oversee the industry with confidence and authority and harness the technical achievements that can improve and save lives.

I believe the President's nominee, Dr. Lester Crawford, has the right qualifications to lead the FDA and to bring about the necessary reforms to maintain consumer confidence in our Nation's drug safety. Clearly we need someone at the helm of the FDA who can direct the agency and work with Congress to find the answers to these and many other difficult issues that will continue to come before us.

Dr. Crawford has been Acting Commissioner of FDA since March of 2004. He has a long and distinguished career in private and public service. He worked at the FDA in other capabilities before joining the agency again in 2002.

The show of support for Dr. Crawford's nomination has been strong. In the runup to Dr. Crawford's confirmation hearing in March, my committee received letters of support from more than 100 individuals and organizations. It is high time we had this debate and this vote. We waited many months for President Bush to send us a qualified nominee for the post.

In response to our bipartisan letter to the President, the President nominated Dr. Crawford. We have waited long enough. I think we can all agree that we need a strong leader at the FDA right now and one who has a mandate to act. We must be forward looking. There are many items before the FDA that require the immediate attention of an FDA Commissioner vested with full authority.

The authority flows directly from the act of Senate confirmation. Without a Senate-confirmed leader, we cannot expect the FDA to be as effective as we need it to be.

Dr. Crawford's nomination was reported favorably out of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions on June 15. So I am pleased that we are now ready to confirm Dr. Crawford so that he can take charge, take action, and take responsibility for leading the FDA in the best interests of the public health.

I yield the floor and reserve the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I congratulate my friend and chairman of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions for his leadership in ensuring that the Senate will have an opportunity to vote on Dr. Crawford and, hopefully, approve his nomination.

During one time or another during 3 of the last 4 years we have not had a head of the Food and Drug Administration. As Chairman ENZI has pointed out, this agency has enormous power, influence, and say-so on many of the different issues that affect every family in this country. It regulates food, cosmetics, drugs, medical devices, even televisions and cell phones a full quarter of every dollar consumers spend. And FDA really sets the standard for the rest of the world in how it regulates these products. The rest of the world looks to our Food and Drug Administration as the gold standard, and, as Chairman ENZI pointed out, we have not had a permanent Commissioner for 3 of the last 4 years. I think we have suffered because of it.

Now we have the opportunity, with Dr. Crawford, to fill that job, and I will explain in just a few moments why I think he is eminently qualified.

I agree with those who believe that we are in the life science century. We have seen a commitment to the promise of the this century by the Congress and by administrations in recent times when we effectively doubled the NIH budget. We have seen the sequencing of the gene, the progress that we have made with DNA, the real possibility of breakthrough drugs, and the debates we are having on stem cell research. This is truly the life science century.

Quite frankly, the most important position in this life science century is who is heads the Food and Drug Administration, because we will want to have these breakthrough drugs and other treatments available to people at the earliest possible time, and that is FDA's job. We want to make sure these treatments are safe and effective. That is going to be an enormous responsibility, but I believe the possibilities and the meaning for families will be breathtaking.

So that is why this position, and the FDA, is so important. There are many things that we do in this body, and many people who are directly involved say this or that thing is the most important thing that we are going to do in the session. Well, this might not be the most important thing that is done in this session, but having a responsible, informed, enlightened, future-looking, tough-minded administrator at the Food and Drug Administration is enormously important for all Americans. That is what this debate and discussion is about.

It has also been about the importance of following science. This is enormously important, and I will say an additional word about that. It is important for the FDA to have the confidence of the American people that the FDA is calling the important decisions it makes as the science reveals that ideology and politics have not become involved.

I rise in support of Dr. Crawford to be the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration. Modern drugs, vaccines, and medical devices can work miracles but only if FDA does its job to see that they are safe and effective. We use food and food products from around the world and we count on the FDA to see that they are not contaminated.

FDA touches the lives of every American every day. As I said before, a full quarter of consumer products are regulated by the FDA. That is why it is so important the FDA have a full-fledged Commissioner. I fully support Dr. Crawford's nomination for the position.

His impressive record and clear commitment to public health will serve the agency well. He has dedicated his life to public service and to public health. He is trained as both a veterinarian and a pharmacologist and has many years of experience in government, industry, and the academic world.

His leadership experience at FDA dates back to 1978 when he headed the Center for Veterinary Medicine. Over the years since then, he has led the Food Safety and Inspection Service at the Department of Agriculture, headed a major association on veterinary medical education, and most recently served as Deputy Commissioner and Acting Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration itself.

Under Dr. Crawford's leadership at FDA, we have seen stepped up efforts to monitor drug safety and to inform patients and doctors about the risks of drugs. We have recently seen increased scrutiny of drug advertising. FDA also made Herculean efforts to seek and permit the use of flu vaccines from other sources after the vaccine shortage last year, and I am hopeful that these efforts will pay off this year and in the following years in new manufacturers of flu vaccine for the U.S. market.

Clearly, more must be done. With a Commissioner in place, we can work much more effectively on the key issues facing the agency, from how FDA monitors drug safety to ways to address the flu vaccine shortage, to how it handles the conflicts of interest on its advisory committees and how it has acted on Plan B.

I intend to work with Chairman ENZI and the other members of our HELP Committee to see that these issues are addressed, to help Dr. Crawford make any changes at the agency that are needed, and to help craft legislation that will allow FDA to do its vital job more effectively.

On drug safety, FDA can only request drug companies to take action to protect the public. It is obvious that companies often have conflicts of interest and the FDA needs the authority to require better labels and insist on clinical trials of drugs already on the market, not just request them.

We need to improve the post-market monitoring of drug safety. Clinical trials before approval can and do detect many safety problems, but they should not end FDA's responsibility for the safety of drugs already on the market. When needed, new clinical trials should be required.

I just mention at this time that we intend to report out information technology legislation from the HELP Committee, hopefully this week. With information technology, we will be able to better monitor how drugs are used and the adverse reactions to those drugs, and hopefully have those reports promptly so that we will be able to provide greater protection to the public. That legislation will hopefully come out of our committee with a strong bipartisan commitment and with new leadership, and the opportunities that are out at the FDA with these new breakthrough drugs, it can make an enormous difference in terms of the quality of health care and the safety of treatments for the American people.

Above all, FDA needs enough resources to do its job effectively. The Office of Drug Safety does not even have computer systems capable of analyzing data as thoroughly as possible, and it cannot always purchase access to drug usage databases that could identify safety problems. It inspects less than 2 percent of imported food, and this much only because of a large increase in funds to FDA for that purpose after 9/11.

I note my friend and colleague, the Senator from Utah, Mr. HATCH, when he was chairman of the Health and Human Resources Committee, we worked together to try to help make sure the FDA would get the kind of resources to modernize itself and develop the kinds of technology to deal with a number of these issues.

I know of Dr. Crawford's concern for these problems and look forward to working with him to address them. I also commend Senator MURRAY and Senator CLINTON for their leadership in addressing the FDA's refusal to act on Plan B. Thanks to their leadership, the FDA has committed to making a decision on this application by September 1. I commend Secretary Leavitt and Dr. Crawford for this commitment.

I commend Chairman ENZI of the HELP Committee, who both in committee and on the floor has been even handed yet persistent in pursuing Dr. Crawford's nomination to be Commissioner. Once again, he has shown the leadership that will serve our committee well. I look forward to working with him to assist Dr. Crawford and the agency in its important public health work.

Dr. Crawford is well qualified to be Commissioner. He deserves to have full authority as Commissioner. It is time for the Senate to give him the title as well as the responsibility. I support his confirmation. I urge my colleagues to do so as well and I look forward to working with him in the years ahead.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I yield 5 minutes to the Senator from Utah, Mr. HATCH, a former chairman of the committee that handles this. He has handled these confirmations before.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise in strong support of the nomination of Dr. Lester Crawford for the Commissioner of Food and Drugs.

I am pleased that the Senate is finally considering Dr. Crawford's nomination and urge my colleagues to support his nomination.

I want to stress that tonight's vote is extremely important—not only for the FDA—but for all Americans.

FDA needs a permanent Commissioner—in fact, the agency has not had a Commissioner since May 2004.

The FDA needs someone to lead on important matters where the agency has oversight—such as drug safety, food safety, approval for drugs and medical devices, and counteracting biological attacks.

Dr. Crawford is that man.

Since Dr. Crawford has been the Acting Commissioner of the FDA, he has had many accomplishments of considerable note.

Under his leadership, the FDA has undergone the most significant consolidation of FDA expertise in history with the physical facility moves to the Harvey Wiley building—the FDA's Center for Food Safety & Applied Nutrition near University of Maryland—and the White Oak campus.

As a result of Dr. Crawford's personal intervention and involvement, the most at-risk Americans were able to receive a safe and effective flu vaccine last year during the shortage crisis.

Dr. Crawford steered the FDA through one of the most difficult times in its history with the various drug safety issues of last year resulting in the creation of a new Drug Safety Oversight Board and Drug Watch internet page for consumers. This is a landmark milestone in drug safety and a paradigm shift for the FDA to one of openness and transparency.

Dr. Crawford has led the FDA on a series of important decisions that have transformed the regulation of food in the United States.

Under his leadership, the FDA fully implemented the Bioterrorism Act of 2002 a law that helps make our food supply safe on a daily basis. We have much more work to do and I am pleased to say you are helping to lead in that regard, Mr. President, and I am very appreciative of that.

Dr. Crawford implemented a risk management plan for the shell eggs industry that reduces dramatically the probability of salmonella.

Dr. Crawford is personally responsible for the complete overhaul and reform of good manufacturing practices for drugs, foods, and dietary supplements. When all of these major regulations are fully implemented, Dr. Crawford will be successful in creating the best quality control system in the world for regulating these consumer products.

Most recently, he assured me that the agency's final action on dietary supplement GMPs will be forthcoming in the near future. I welcomed his decision and the finality he has promised to this long overdue process.

Dr. Crawford has overseen user fee programs for both medical devices and veterinary drugs.

Dr. Crawford has led the agency in the development of the ''critical path'' that promotes a plan for bringing novel discoveries to market through the FDA system to fight such diseases as cancer.

I am convinced that Dr. Crawford is the best person for the job and the sooner we get him confirmed, the better.

On a personal note, I have known Dr. Crawford for many years.

He is a man of integrity.

He is a strong leader.

He is accessible.

He is someone who understands both science and public policy.

I believe that Dr. Crawford has all the qualities necessary to be the best Commissioner the FDA has ever had.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of Dr. Crawford today, a vote so long overdue.

I yield the remainder of my time to the distinguished chairman.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I yield 2 minutes to the Senator from Iowa, Mr. GRASSLEY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa is recognized for 2 minutes.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I have considered Dr. Crawford's experience and performance on the job for well over a year now. In fact, Dr. Crawford has been the man in charge at FDA since I began taking a hard look at the FDA. It has been a long year for the FDA and I have taken a long look at Dr. Crawford's efforts to address FDA's problems.

I know Dr. Crawford is intimately familiar with how the FDA operates. He has twice served as acting Commissioner, most recently since March 2004, and his lengthy service at the FDA is commendable. Dr. Crawford and I have met on a couple occasions. He is a gentleman and seems to have the best of intentions. He told me personally that he understands there are problems at the FDA that need to be fixed. I believed at one point that he was capable of fixing those problems. However, as the saying goes, ''the proof is in the pudding.'' Today, I am here to say that I cannot vote for Dr. Crawford to be the next Commissioner of the FDA.

During the last 18 months, this country's confidence in the FDA has been shaken. It has been shaken not because of one isolated incident or one isolated whistleblower. It has been shaken because multiple drug safety concerns have been exposed by more than one courageous whistleblower. My oversight of the FDA leads me to the conclusion that there are cultural and systemic problems at the FDA. Unfortunately, Dr. Crawford has long been part of that same culture and system. The evidence is overwhelming that the FDA must change to better protect the American people. Dr. Crawford does not appear willing to be the man to change the FDA.

During Dr. Crawford's tenure, I have witnessed the suppression of the scientific process and the muzzling of scientific dissent. First, with Dr. Mosholder finding a link between antidepressants, children and suicide. And second with Dr. Graham's allegations regarding the FDA, Vioxx and postmarketing safety generally. Dr. Graham's testimony before the Finance Committee suggests that the problems are systemic. Oversight of the FDA exposed the cozy relationship that exists between the FDA and the drug industry. It revealed that the FDA negotiated for almost 2 years with Merck about how to change the Vioxx label so people would know about the risk of heart attacks.

But the problems are not isolated to the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. My staff continues to interview FDA staff across the agency, employees who are doing important work on drugs, devices, and biologics. It is becoming more and more obvious to me that FDA is plagued by structural, personnel, cultural, and scientific problems. Those problems should be equally obvious to Dr. Crawford. But under the leadership of Dr. Crawford, the FDA appears to be in a state of denial. Over the past 18 months, Dr. Crawford has not stepped up to the plate. I have seen no recognition of the depth and breadth of the problems at the FDA. I have only seen a few short-term bandaids.

The systemic problems at the FDA demand visionary leadership. Dr. Crawford has not shown me that he is the leader to fix the FDA.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I rise in favor of the nomination of Dr. Lester Crawford to be the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration. I do this because I believe it is important for the FDA to have stable, permanent leadership at this critical time in its history. Dr. Crawford has valuable experience both in and out of government and has a background that makes him qualified for this position.

I want to highlight several issues where I would like to work with Dr. Crawford in the future. First, Congress passed the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act, DSHEA, in 1994 to ensure the availability and safety of dietary supplements that millions of Americans rely on. Under the leadership of Dr. Crawford as Acting Commissioner, FDA has made significant progress in implementing and enforcing it. There is still work to be done on this issue, and I look forward to continuing to work with FDA to fully implement DSHEA, and to make sure that U.S. consumers have access to safe, effective, and affordable dietary supplements. ,

Second, given the Nation's obesity epidemic, I appreciate the efforts Dr. Crawford and the agency are making to improve consumer education and information regarding nutrition choices. I urge Dr. Crawford to follow-up and implement recommendations contained in the FDA report on obesity, ''Calories Count.'' In particular, Dr. Crawford should direct the entire restaurant industry to follow the recommendation to develop a nationwide and point-of-sale nutrition information campaign for consumers to include information on calories.

However, I am also voting in favor of Dr. Crawford's nomination in full support of the efforts of my colleagues, Senators MURRAY and CLINTON, to obtain a commitment from Dr. Crawford prior to his confirmation that the FDA will act promptly and in a scientifically appropriate manner on the sale of emergency contraception. I understand they have secured that commitment. I share Senator MURRAY's and Senator CLINTON's concern about the FDA's handling of the application for over-the-counter sale of emergency contraception, or the ''morning after'' , pill. There is absolutely no dispute that emergency contraception is safe and effective. The FDA's own advisory panel concluded unanimously in December 2004 that emergency contraception was both safe and effective. I strongly disagree with the FDA's decision last year to deny over the counter status to emergency contraception. Over the counter sale is about prevention. The morning after pill prevents the need for abortions, a goal that every Member of this body supports.

I am voting in favor of Dr. Crawford today. However, with this vote, I urge the FDA to address some fundamental challenges facing it in the future. The FDA must continue to take action to address post-market safety of the drugs it approves. In several high profile cases, the public's trust in the agency has been eroded. I look forward to working with Dr. Crawford on safety issues in the future.

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise in support of the nomination of Lester Crawford to serve as Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, FDA. The FDA has been without a permanent director for too long. I believe Lester Crawford is qualified to head the FDA and hope the establishment of permanent leadership can put to rest some of the uncertainty and delayed decisions that have been plaguing the agency for the last year.

While I remain concerned about resistance by the FDA to allow the reimportation of prescription drugs to ensure that our seniors have access to affordable prescription drugs, I have expressed my concerns to Dr. Crawford. The reality is that drug importation is already happening. It's time to stop defending the status quo and setting up new roadblocks, and I am hopeful that Dr. Crawford will work with Congress to give Americans the price relief and safety assurances they need.

I am also hopeful that the appointment of Dr. Crawford will help restore the agency's focus on ensuring that safe and effective drugs reach the market in a timely manner, and that recent issues that have plagued the FDA, such as questions regarding drug safety, advisory committee conflicts of interest and drug advertisements, to name only a few, will be addressed.

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I rise today to oppose the nomination of Lester Crawford to be Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration.

The FDA is a vitally important agency, charged with ensuring that the products we rely on for our health and well-being are safe and effective. Having a strong leader at the helm is essential to a well-functioning agency.

Ultimately, after weighing the facts and considering the events that have occurred under Dr. Crawford's watch as Acting Commissioner, I came to the conclusion that I cannot support this nominee.

As I said during Dr. Crawford's confirmation hearing and during the HELP Committee's consideration of his nomination, Dr. Crawford's tenure at the FDA has been marked by controversy. The agency has faced scrutiny over its response to various crises: the failure to adequately warn us of the possibility of an influenza vaccine shortage, the failure to heed concerns about drug safety raised by both agency employees and outside scientists, and the failure to adequately separate science from what is viewed as ideology-driven decisionmaking.

As a result, public confidence in the ability of the FDA to ensure the safety and efficacy of drugs is failing. The dedicated scientists and civil servants who work at the agency are losing morale. They have clearly identified the need for reform, for change, and for improvements at the agency.

In December 2004, the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services released the results of a survey that found two-thirds of FDA scientists do not believe the agency adequately monitors the safety of prescription drugs.

In March 2005, Dr. Sandra Kweder, Deputy Director of the Office of New Drugs at the FDA, testified that it ''would be helpful'' to change FDA authority, and give them the power to require changes in drug labels, rather than have to negotiate such changes in a lengthy back-and-forth process with manufacturers.

And just last week, Dr. Janet Woodcock, Deputy Commissioner of Operations at the agency, told an Institute of Medicine panel:

> This system has obviously broken down to some extent, as far as the fully informed provider and the fully informed patient.

But Dr. Crawford's response to these concerns has been less than adequate. He has maintained that the agency ''is fully capable of carrying out its mission under its current regulatory and statutory authority,'' despite statements and evidence to the contrary from both those inside and outside the agency.

His attempts to address the clear issues faced by the agency have been inadequate to the task. For example, despite his November 2004 announcement that the FDA would fill the position of Director of Office of Drug Safety, this position is still vacant—at a time when concerns over drug safety have been at the forefront of news about the FDA.

At a time when the FDA needs a strong leader to restore its reputation, Dr. Crawford represents an unacceptable status quo. I fear that his record demonstrates that he lacks the vision and the drive necessary to ensure that the FDA is the gold standard of drug regulation. He has failed to address the concerns raised by his own employees about the needs of the agency. And he cannot provide assurances that the FDA will place science, not ideology or other interests, as the cornerstone of its decisionmaking.

In addition, I am deeply concerned about the interference of personal beliefs over science in the decisionmaking process surrounding emergency contraception. By now, the details are all too familiar: the FDA's scientific advisory committees voted 23 to 4 in favor of the drug being made available over the counter. More than 70 organizations, including the American Academy of Physicians, American Associations of Family Physicians, American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists, and the American Medical Association, submitted testimony in support of Plan B being made available over the counter.

Press reports later revealed that internal FDA memos indicated that career professionals at the agency had recommended unconditional approval of the application. And according to a May 8, 2004, article in the New York Times, several former FDA officials said they ''could not remember another instance in which Dr. Galson, a career officer in the public health service or any of his predecessors had overruled both an advisory committee and staff recommendations.''

In May, both The Nation and the Washington Post reported that Dr. Hager, a member of the Reproductive Health Advisory Committee, had stated, on videotape that he was asked to write a minority report arguing that Plan B should not be made available over the counter.

And the result, up until Friday, was foot dragging by the FDA. That is why my colleague, Senator MURRAY, and I felt it necessary to hold up Dr. Crawford's nomination. We wanted to send a strong message that the FDA needed to act on this application, which it has had for more than 2 years. We believed, and still do, that the American people have a right to an answer.

On Friday, we received a letter stating that the FDA would make a decision on Barr Laboratory's application to move Plan B to over-the-counter status by September 1, 2005. This is a giant step forward, but it does not erase the missteps under Dr. Crawford's watch.

That is why I cannot in good faith support Dr. Crawford to be Commissioner of the FDA. Like so many Members of this body, I want the FDA to have a permanent Commissioner, and I think it is high time for that. But that Commissioner must be someone who can restore the drug approval and safety processes to the gold standard that the New Yorkers who I represent and the Americans who rely on this process for their health and, even their lives, deserve.

I vote ''nay'' and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise before you today to discuss the nomination of Lester Crawford as Commissioner of the FDA.

I first want to say that I love the FDA. FDA is in my home State of Maryland. It employs over 10,000 of my constituents. It is right down the road from the NIH. I am proud to have all that research at NIH, and then have FDA in Maryland standing up for the food safety of the American people, looking out to make sure that the drugs and the technologies that we use are safe.

Over the years I have fought for the right facilities, the right resources, and now the right leadership at the FDA. But I tell you, today is a very sad day for me because I cannot bring myself to support Lester Crawford as the Commissioner, and it is because I am so enthusiastic about FDA.

While I agree the agency has needed someone in charge, Dr. Crawford has not been in charge. His stewardship of the agency going back to 2002 has been both tepid and passive.

For example, under Dr. Crawford's leadership, the drug Vioxx was found to have increased risk of heart attacks long before FDA took any action. FDA was slow to reveal the knowledge of increased rates of suicides among teenagers taking antidepressants. There was delay. There is the politicizing of science as exemplified by the endless dispute over emergency contraception. And then there has been a ''just say no'' attitude to imported drugs.

And all of those people looking at homeland security tell us that our food supply is vulnerable to terrorist attacks. And what do we get from the FDA? We get passivity.

I am particularly concerned about the issue of drug safety. The FDA has been and must remain the gold standard in maintaining drug safety. Yet today there is a crisis of confidence over drug safety in the public's mind. At Dr. Crawford's nomination hearing in the HELP Committee earlier this year, he suggested that the newly formed Drug Safety Board within the FDA will be a way to guarantee this safety. I asked him how he could guarantee this board—which will exist within the FDA—will be able to provide independent review.

He gave me the bureaucratic answer and bureaucratic structure. I asked if he would be in charge of this important guarantee. He said ''no,'' he was going to delegate that to an Assistant Commissioner. I asked ''Why?'' He said: ''Because I would have to be involved in personnel and budgets.'' Well—that is his job, isn't it? That is exactly the kind of answer we are talking about. You cannot preside over FDA. You have to run FDA.

The nations of the world that cannot afford it look to our FDA to be the gold standard. Physicians and other allied health people who are prescribing drugs or using technologies need to know that they have an FDA that they can count on. And also we, the patients of the United States of America, need to know that we can count on the FDA. And the pharmaceutical industry has to have an FDA that provides evenhanded regulatory authority. That is why I cannot support Lester Crawford as Commissioner.

It is with great reluctance that I have come to this decision, but it is because I love FDA and its mission, and know that the people of America are counting on it. Whether you are a doctor, or whether you are a patient, we need the FDA, and we need strong leadership. Therefore, regretfully, and reluctantly, and sadly, I am going to vote ''nay''.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I yield myself 2 minutes.

I thank everybody who has made comments today. I wish to address the last few comments that were made because our committee has oversight over the Food and Drug Administration. We are concerned about any situation that would give people less than full confidence in the medicines they are taking.

What we have been faced with for the last 18 months, which has been mentioned, is kind of giving a person a job. We have not given him the job, we have kind of given him the job. Anybody who has read transcripts from previous confirmation hearings would know that this is an extremely difficult position to ever get confirmed from. There are a lot of viewpoints from both sides. We have to have somebody in charge who has full authority, who has the right to look at the science and make decisions, who has full authority to make structural changes. I would say that Senator KENNEDY and I have been looking at that, doing the oversight.

With respect to drug safety, I want my colleagues to know that I take the recent drug safety concerns seriously. Senator KENNEDY and I are working together with our fellow committee members to develop comprehensive FDA drug safety legislation in this Congress and to bring that bill before the Senate so there can be those changes.

We will act, but we will act in a way that is mindful of the importance of weighing the risks of drugs and the benefits of the drugs on the same scale. Every drug has risks, and we would do the American people a grave disservice if we overreact to recent controversies.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time? The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KENNEDY I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. President, I agree with the Senator from Iowa that the Vioxx incident was an important failure for FDA. But that was not the failure of Dr. Crawford or even of FDA. The main problem is the FDA does not have the resources necessary to do the kind of work that is required. It happens to be the case. The main problem at FDA is one of resources. The FDA does not have the money it needs to address drug safety, to do the monitoring of drugs, the post-approval surveillance that it should. The Office of Drug Safety needs better computers and better access to the databases that are out there that can tell us about how drugs are being used and what happens when they are used. Congress needs to give the FDA more resources to do this.

With respect to the antidepressants, the FDA quite legitimately worked to better understand the issue before it required the label change. With respect to the Vioxx label change, the Senator is correct that it took too long, but that is because we in Congress have not given FDA the authority to require label changes. We need to change that.

The FDA does not have all of the kinds of authority it needs to regulate drugs after they are approved. I will be glad to work with the Senator from Iowa because, as one who has been interested since I have been in the Senate about strengthening the FDA, we have not given them the authority and the power to be able to do that kind of job.

Mr. HATCH. Will the Senator yield on that point?

Mr. KENNEDY. Yes.

Mr. HATCH. Isn't it true we passed the FDA revitalization bill back in 1989 to create this central campus where we could have the best state-of-the-art equipment? We had 48 different locations where FDA was located all over the greater Washington area; is that true?

Mr. KENNEDY. The Senator is correct.

Mr. HATCH. We have treated the FDA like a wicked stepsister instead of giving it the money it needs. It handles more than 25 percent of all consumer products in America, right?

Mr. KENNEDY. The Senator is correct.

Mr. HATCH. No matter who is FDA Commissioner, under those circumstances it is very difficult to get a handle on everything that needs to be addressed by the FDA.

Mr. KENNEDY. The Senator is correct. I look forward to the opportunity of working with the Senator from Utah, the Senator from Wyoming, and the Senator from Iowa. We ought to give this agency the authority, the power and the responsibility, as well as the resources to use it effectively. I know under Chairman ENZI we will have the oversight to make sure the agency is doing what it should.

But I do believe this nominee deserves to be the Commissioner. I think it is about time we have a Commissioner. Then let's all work together to make sure he and the agency meet his and its responsibilities.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired. Who yields time?

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, as we move to a vote on the nomination of Dr. Lester Crawford to serve as Commissioner of Food and Drugs, I want to remind my colleagues of the important role the Food and Drug Administration plays in protecting and promoting the public health.

The FDA's mission is broad. The FDA regulates food, drugs, biologics, medical devices, animal feed, and cosmetics. The FDA regulates everything from cellular phones to cell tissue and gene therapies. In fact, Americans spend more than 25 cents of every dollar on products regulated by the FDA.

And as science progresses, the challenges of regulation grow. For instance, the FDA regulates a host of new products that blur the FDA's traditional boundaries. Today, the FDA is charged with regulating drug-delivery devices, such as coronary stents coated with drugs that contribute to keeping arteries open. Then there are next-generation orthopedic implants with biologic products built into them to stimulate tissue growth.

All of these new innovations require a nimble and responsive agency to regulate them, and they require resources to match. Today, in fact, Senator KENNEDY and I are introducing legislation to protect and strengthen a critical user-fee program. This program provides FDA with a stable stream of revenues to support the agency's mission to review and approve new medical devices. Without our action, that program would expire at the end of this fiscal year.

I believe that is just one expression of bipartisan support for FDA. Is FDA perfect? Of course not. FDA is staffed by human beings, and from time to time they make mistakes—as do we all.

But the FDA plays a critical role in our Nation's public health, and an important agency such as FDA needs to

have a strong leader with the power vested in him by Presidential nomination and Senate confirmation.

So I urge my colleagues to accept the President's nominee, Dr. Lester Crawford, and to vote to confirm him as the next Commissioner of Food and Drugs.

Mr. KENNEDY. Will the Senator yield another minute? Am I right, we have until a quarter of?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming has a minute 20 seconds remaining, the Senator from Massachusetts has 2 minutes 40 seconds.

Mr. KENNEDY. May I ask the Senator for a minute?

Mr. ENZI. Yes.

Mr. KENNEDY. Seeing who is in the chair, does the Senator not agree with me that one of the additional important responsibilities of the FDA is going to be bioterrorism? We are going to need a Commissioner at the FDA to lead this important work to prepare us against a bioterrorist attack. That is going to be enormously important. The HELP Committee has had our recent briefings on this issue, and bioterrorism is certainly an important area on which we will need the leadership of the FDA. I know the Senator from Wyoming is concerned about this bioterrorism, and the BioShield legislation, to make sure we have the vaccines and other medical products on line to respond to the dangers of bioterrorism. Bioterrorism is a pressing area in which we are going to have to work, and we need a leader at FDA to help us.

Mr. ENZI. The Senator is absolutely correct. The Presiding Officer is chairing that subcommittee and holding extensive hearings on that and bringing together some great experts to help us resolve that.

Mr. HATCH. Will the Senator yield also for just a moment? We introduced the bioshield II, the Lieberman-Hatch bill that has gone a long way to resolving this matter, and I intend to work with the Senator from North Carolina and the distinguished chairman and ranking member to see if we can bring this to a conclusion that works.

I thank the chairman.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I yield any remaining time we have. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There is a sufficient second. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Lester M. Crawford, of Maryland, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services. On this question, the yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD), and the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORNYN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 78, nays 16, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 190 Ex.]

YEAS—78

Akaka	Dole	Lott
Alexander	Domenici	Lugar
Allard	Ensign	Martinez
Allen	Enzi	McConnell
Bayh	Feingold	Nelson (FL)
Bennett	Feinstein	Nelson (NE)
Biden	Frist	Pryor
Bingaman	Graham	Reed
Bond	Gregg	Reid
Brownback	Hagel	Roberts
Bunning	Harkin	Rockefeller
Burns	Hatch	Salazar
Burr	Hutchison	Santorum
Byrd	Inhofe	Sarbanes
Carper	Inouye	Sessions
Chafee	Isakson	Shelby
Chambliss	Jeffords	Smith
Cochran	Johnson	Specter
Coleman	Kennedy	Stevens
Collins	Kerry	Sununu
Conrad	Kohl	Talent
Cornyn	Kyl	Thomas
Craig	Landrieu	Thune
Crapo	Leahy	Voinovich
DeMint	Levin	Warner
DeWine	Lieberman	Wyden

NAYS—16

Baucus	Durbin	Schumer
Boxer	Grassley	Snowe
Cantwell	Lautenberg	Stabenow
Clinton	Mikulski	Vitter
Dayton	Murray	
Dorgan	Obama	

NOT VOTING—6

Coburn	Dodd	McCain
Corzine	Lincoln	Murkowski

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The President will be notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will return to legislative session.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment for the purpose of offering an amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 1250

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am going to offer an amendment. Before I send it to the desk, I want to speak to the amendment.

In March of 2004, the Export-Import Bank approved the issuance of $9.87 million in taxpayer-guaranteed credit insurance to help Angostura Holdings Limited, of Trinidad and Tobago, to finance the construction of an ethanol dehydration plant in Trinidad. The purpose of this credit insurance was to enable Angostura to purchase equipment to be used to dehydrate up to 100 million gallons of Brazilian ethanol annually. Angostura would then reexport the resulting dehydrated ethanol to the United States duty free under the current Caribbean Basin Initiative Trade Preference Program.

The credit insurance approval, however, had one major flaw. It appeared to violate the Export-Import Bank's authorizing statute. I want to explain that statute.

Section 635(e) of the Export-Import Bank's authorizing statute—that is the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945—states that the bank is not to provide credit or financial guarantees to expand production of commodities for export to the United States if the resulting production capacity is expected to compete with U.S. production of the same commodity and the extension of such credit will cause substantial injury—I emphasize ''substantial injury''—to U.S. producers of the same commodity.

The statute goes on to provide that ''the extension of any credit or guarantee by the Bank will cause substantial injury if the amount of the capacity for production established, or the amount of the increase in such capacity expanded, by such credit or guarantee equals or exceeds 1 percent of United States production,'' with emphasis upon exceeding 1 percent of United States production.

I want to go back to last year then. As of last year, when the credit guarantees for Angostura were approved, the total 100 million gallon capacity of the Angostura facility was nearly 4 percent of U.S. production. This amount clearly then exceeds the 1 percent threshold for causing substantial injury to the U.S. ethanol industry as spelled out in the Export-Import Bank's authorizing statute.

I want to make clear, we are not talking about changing existing policy. We are talking about not letting somebody use subterfuge to get around existing law. It appeared to me that the approval of credit guarantees for Angostura by the Export-Import Bank violated the bank's authorizing statute. Moreover, as the amount financed by the Export-Import Bank was less than $10 million—remember, we are talking about $9.87 million—there was no detailed economic impact analysis conducted by the bank. So it seems to me they were conveniently under the $10 million threshold as a way of muddying the waters, camouflaging this transaction, not drawing attention, not even taking their official look at the requirements of the statute by being about $130,000 under the $10 million threshold, hoping that somehow this would get by without our finding out about it.

In the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005, Congress asked the Export-Import Bank for an explanation of the credit guarantees for Angostura. Specifically, the 2005 Act required the Export-Import Bank to submit a report to

the Committees of Appropriations of the Senate and the House containing an analysis of the economic impact on U.S. ethanol producers of the extension of credit and financial guarantees for the development of the ethanol dehydration plant in Trinidad and Tobago. Congress also required that this report determine whether such an extension will cause substantial injury to such producers, as defined in section 2(e)(4) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945.

In January of this year, the Export-Import Bank provided its report. In its report, the Export-Import Bank skirted around the issue of whether its credit guarantees for Angostura caused substantial injury to U.S. producers, and thus whether the approval of these guarantees was in compliance with the Export-Import Bank's authorizing statute. The Export-Import Bank skirted the issue by claiming that the Angostura plant will not ''produce'' dehydrated ethanol. Rather, the Export-Import Bank stated that this plant will merely ''process'' dehydrated ethanol by removing water from wet ethanol produced in Brazil, thus merely ''adding value'' to the wet ethanol from Brazil.

The Export-Import Bank's response to Congress was, to be polite, a curious one. The Export-Import Bank's linguistic gymnastics aside, Angostura's plant will clearly be producing dehydrated ethanol. This is common sense. An ethanol dehydration plant—of course—produces dehydrated ethanol.

Moreover, the Customs Service recognizes that ethanol dehydration plants in Caribbean Basin Initiative countries produce dehydrated ethanol.

From what I can see, the Export-Import Bank's approval of credit guarantees for Angostura's ethanol plant violated the Export-Import Bank's authorizing statute by causing substantial injury to U.S. producers of the same commodity, in violation of the law. Accordingly, it is only right that no further funds should be provided for this facility.

My amendment would simply provide that no funds made available under the 2006 Foreign Operations Appropriations Act may be used by the Export-Import Bank to approve or administer a loan or guarantee for Angostura's ethanol dehydration plant. The credit guarantees for Angostura were improperly approved. Angostura, and ultimately Brazilian ethanol producers, should not continue to benefit from credit guarantees that were improperly provided by this bank.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

I send the amendment to the desk and ask that it be read.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Iowa [Mr. GRASSLEY] proposes an amendment numbered 1250.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that further reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To prohibit the use of funds to approve or administer a loan or guarantee for certain ethanol dehydration plants)

On page 326 between lines 10 and 11 insert the following:

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

SEC. 6113. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by the Export-Import Bank of the United States to approve or administer a loan or guarantee, or an application for a loan or guarantee, for the development, or for the increase in capacity, of an ethanol dehydration plant in Trinidad and Tobago.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana is recognized.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

INDEPENDENT SUPREME COURT

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, in the Declaration of Independence, one reason our Founders decided for a revolution against King George was ''He has made judges dependent on his will alone.''

That same year, the Delaware Declaration of Rights and Fundamental Rules stated:

That the independence and uprightness of judges are essential to the impartial administration of justice, and a great security to the rights and liberties of the people.

In the Federalist Papers, explaining our great Constitution, Alexander Hamilton quoted Montesquieu to say:

There is no liberty, if the power of judging be not separated from the legislative and executive powers.

It is the independence of the Supreme Court that is at stake in the coming consideration of the Court's next nominee. Our Constitution embodies that independence of the Court in its separation of powers, in its checks and balances, and in its structure that provides of the President:

He shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint . . . judges of the Supreme Court.

The Senate's active advice and consent role in the confirmation of a Supreme Court Justice helps to ensure that nominees have the support of a broad political consensus. The Senate's role helps to ensure that the President cannot appoint extreme nominees. The Senate's role helps to ensure that Justices are more independent from the President.

Time and time again the history of our Supreme Court has demonstrated the importance of that independence. Time and time again, it has mattered that the Supreme Court had brave men and brave women who were willing to rule against the interests of the President. Time and time again, it has mattered that the President had to appoint independent thinkers that would withstand the tough scrutiny of the Senate.

It mattered that we had an independent court when our Nation was young, in 1803, when the Supreme Court decided the case of Marbury v. Madison. It mattered that we had an independent court so that Chief Justice Marshall could write for the Court:

It is emphatically the province and duty of the judicial department [that is the judiciary] to say what the law is. . . . If two laws conflict with each other, the courts must decide on the operation of each. . . . That is the very essence of judicial duty.

Today, most take for granted this bedrock principle of judicial review set forth in Marbury v. Madison. But recall the plaintiff in that case, William Marbury, challenged President Thomas Jefferson's administration. If the President, Thomas Jefferson, had been able to appoint Justices without an effective check by the Senate, then perhaps the President would have been able to appoint Justices who believed as he did—as Jefferson did—when he wrote, in 1820, a letter saying:

It is a very dangerous doctrine to consider the judges as ultimate arbiters of all constitutional questions.

Just think for a second what that means. President Thomas Jefferson, back in 1820, wrote that it was unfortunate and dangerous doctrine to consider judges as the ultimate arbiters of constitutional questions. If it wasn't he, who would it be? Clearly, Thomas Jefferson thought it would be he, the President, not the Supreme Court.

Without concern for the Senate's advice and consent, a more recent President might have appointed a Justice who believed as did former Attorney General Edwin Meese, 20 years ago, when Meese argued that the Supreme Court's interpretations of the Constitution, in his words, did not establish a ''supreme law of the land.'' That is Edwin Meese, who was U.S. Attorney General 20 years ago. And recall that Attorney General Meese asserted that the Reagan administration was free to rely on its own views on the meaning of the law.

That is revolutionary, and I don't use that word unadvisedly. It is a long-established principle that the Constitution is what the Supreme Court says it is. It has to be. The Constitution is not what the President says it is, it is what the Supreme Court says it is. The judiciary is a free, independent, third branch of Government.

It also mattered that we had an independent Supreme Court in 1952, when the Court decided Youngstown Sheet & Tube Company v. Sawyer, otherwise known as the ''steel seizure case.''

It was the time of the Korean War, and we faced a steel strike. President Truman tried to seize the steel companies in order to avert a strike. It mattered that we had an independent Supreme Court so that the Court could rule against President Truman—an independent arbiter saying: No, Mr.

President, that is not proper; the Constitution doesn't permit that.

It mattered that Justice Hugo Black was independent enough to write for the majority when he wrote:

> The Constitution limits his [that is, the President's] functions in the lawmaking process to the recommending of laws he thinks wise and the vetoing of laws he thinks bad. And the Constitution is neither silent nor equivocal about who shall make laws which the President is to execute.

That is very clear. The Supreme Court stood up to the President and said, Mr. President, that is unconstitutional.

It mattered that we had an independent Supreme Court in 1974, when the Court heard U.S. v. Nixon, otherwise known as the Watergate tapes case. Let's go back and review those facts.

President Nixon fought against Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski's subpoena to get the Watergate tapes. It mattered that we had an independent Supreme Court, so that the Court could rule against President Nixon's claim of executive privilege. The President thought he had that privilege. If he had his way, he would determine the rule of law in the United States. But, no, we had an independent third branch, the Supreme Court, which ruled that the President in his interpretation of the Constitution was incorrect. In effect, the Constitution was standing up for all of us as Americans, protecting our rights against Presidents who want to have their way, which Presidents want to do after they are in power after several years.

It mattered that Chief Justice Warren Burger was independent enough to write for the majority in that case:

> Neither the doctrine of the separation of powers, nor the need for confidentiality of high level communications, without more, can sustain an absolute, unqualified Presidential privilege of immunity from judicial process under all circumstances.

That, in effect, is what President Nixon was asking for. The Supreme Court stood up for our rights against a President.

Earlier, in 1969, on appointing Justice Burger as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, President Nixon had said:

> Our Chief Justices have probably had more profound and lasting influence on their times and on the direction of the Nation than most Presidents.

Well, in the time of President Nixon, it certainly mattered that we had an independent Supreme Court.

It mattered that we had an independent Supreme Court in 1963. In that year, the Supreme Court decided Gideon v. Wainwright, which upheld the right of counsel in State courts for people who could not afford a lawyer. A President might not want lawyers questioning the Government's prosecutors. Most Presidents don't. It mattered that an independent Supreme Court ensured that they can.

It mattered that we had an independent Supreme Court in 1964, when that Court decided New York Times v. Sullivan. That case has a standard that public officials, including Presidents, would have to meet to sue those who criticize them for the conduct of their office.

It mattered that we had an independent Supreme Court so that the Court could establish a rule against the interest of public officials, something public officials don't like. That is a standard that we don't like in this body. We don't particularly like it, but people can use it. It is the right decision. It makes it uncomfortable at times. The Court could rule that the first amendment protects the publication of statements about public officials, except when made with actual malice—that is, with knowledge that they are false or in reckless disregard of whether or not they are false. That was an independent Supreme Court. So it mattered that Justice William Brennan was independent enough to write the majority in that opinion, and he said:

> We hold today that the Constitution delimits a State's power to award damages for libel in actions brought by public officials against critics of their official contact.

I imagine most Presidents don't like that if the Supreme Court says it is necessary in interpreting the Constitution to protect American rights.

It mattered when we had an independent Supreme Court in 1954 when the Court decided Brown v. Board of Education. A Court that was dependent on the President might have wanted to skirt that issue of segregation, to duck the injustice of racial segregation in our schools.

Why do I say that? Because Jim Newton, a Los Angeles Times editor and biographer of Chief Justice Earl Warren, has written that President Eisenhower, who appointed Chief Justice Warren, tried to influence the Chief Justice on that landmark case. Newton reports that during the period when the Court was considering Brown v. Board of Education, President Eisenhower invited Chief Justice Warren to join him at dinner with a number of guests. That was while that case was pending.

It turned out that President Eisenhower had also invited one of the lawyers for the Southern States in the Brown case.

As the President and Chief Justice stood up from the table—this was dinner, remember, with one of the lawyers for the Southern States there, a private dinner, Chief Justice Warren was there, and President Eisenhower, who appointed Chief Justice Warren, was there—as they stood up from the table, the President took the Chief Justice by the arm. The President motioned to others in the room and then whispered into the Chief Justice's ear: ''These are not bad people.''

The President told the Chief Justice that they were only concerned about their ''sweet little girls'' having to sit in school beside African-American children.

That is what President Eisenhower said at that dinner to Chief Justice Warren when Brown v. Board of Education was pending. So it mattered that we had a Chief Justice who was independent enough not to listen to the President who appointed him.

It mattered that Chief Justice Warren was independent enough to write for the majority:

> We conclude that in the field of public education the doctrine of ''separate but equal'' has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal.

On that point, I don't know if it is true or not, but there are many scholars who say that the current Chief Justice wrote a memo to his judge he was working with when he was a clerk advocating separate but equal. That memo did not come out until after the Chief Justice was appointed and confirmed by the Senate.

We here today can be justifiably proud that America has the oldest living written Constitution. When our Nation's Government was born, our Constitution was a novelty. Our Constitution created, in the words engraved over the west doorway of this Chamber, ''novus ordo seclorum''—''a new order of ages.''

As we examine the great variety of governments in the world today, Americans can still have pride that few nations possess such a charter. Few nations fervently protect their rights—very few, when you stop to think about it. It is astounding, it is amazing, and we do take it for granted. Few nations so preserve an independent supreme court.

Our Constitution is our foundation. It sets forth our basic rights. It preserves our liberties against the eternal danger of the power of the Executive, sometimes against the power of the Congress but many times against the power of the Executive.

Our Constitution preserves precious rights that must be protected, and that is why we must act zealously to ensure that the men and women we entrust to guard that valued heritage is truly independent. That is why we must remember, as Justice Charles Evans Hughes said in 1907:

> [T]he judiciary is the safeguard of our liberty and of our property under the Constitution.

Our Constitution helps to preserve those rights through an ingenious system of checks and balances. Time and time again, our Constitution sets up structures that require two separate, coequal branches of Government to work together and agree before the Government can act. These structures were deeply rooted in the spirit of the times, back when the Constitution was written, that when two work together, one would propose and the other could veto.

You can see that spirit in the original clause where the House can propose revenue measures, but the Senate can amend them. You can see that spirit in the presentation clause where the Congress can propose legislation but the President can veto it. And you can see

that spirit in the nomination clause where the President can nominate judges but the Senate can block them. That was the ingenious development in the late 1700s to forge consensus; somebody can propose but the other can oppose. It forces cooperation, it forces consensus, it forces a better government.

Thus, when the Senate decides whether to confirm a Supreme Court nominee, it is not beholden to the concerns of the President but to the deepest concerns and needs of the people. This is particularly true given lifetime tenure of a Supreme Court Justice and the need for Justices to staunchly defend the people's rights and liberties.

My colleagues should recall that in the history of our Supreme Court, 13 Justices have served for more than 30 years. Justice Douglas served on the Court for more than 36 years, and the Justices appointed since 1970 have served for an average of 25 years. That is a long time. Therefore, it matters that we get good judges. It really matters.

Over the years, this has been one of the issues of greatest importance to me as a Senator, and that is why I worked to set up a merit selection system in my State of Montana that is truly apolitical, truly independent, to select the judges for whom I would then recommend to the bench.

It is very important to me. I said to the people helping me out: I don't care if they are Republicans or Democrats. I don't care if you recommend liberals or conservatives. You just give me the names of three of the very best people in our State who can then serve on the Federal bench because they are going to be there a long time, and they are so important.

I am very proud—twice this happened, and each time the group I put together, which was totally balanced, came up with three very good names. It was difficult for me in sitting down with each of the three to decide who was the best of the three because they were all so good. I did the best I could, and I felt the process worked out very well and was of great value to the people of Montana and to the country.

So it matters that we have an independent judiciary. To ensure we have an independent judiciary, it thus matters that Senators exercise their independent judgment in the nomination process. Senators should not act as rubberstamps for the President's choice. That would be a complete abrogation of senatorial responsibility—complete, total.

It is our Founders' dream of an independent Supreme Court, helping to exercise the Constitution's intricate systems of checks and balances, that is at stake in this nomination process. The Senate's active involvement in the confirmation of Justices helps to ensure that the Supreme Court can lead that independent branch of Government. And in case after case, that independence of the Supreme Court, in turn, has ensured our personal rights and our liberties. We cannot take that for granted.

The Senate can honor that independence by taking its constitutional responsibility to advise and consent very seriously. The Senate can honor that independence by withholding judgment on a nominee until the Judiciary Committee has conducted full and fair hearings. And the President can honor that independence by putting forth a nominee who meets three basic criteria: professional competence, personal integrity, and a view of important issues that is within the mainstream of the contemporary judicial thought. And the Senate can honor the independence of the Supreme Court by holding a nominee to each of these criteria before voting on whether to confirm.

Let me review those three criteria.

First, professional competency: The Supreme Court must not be the testing ground for the development of a jurist's basic values. He cannot learn on the job, nor should a Justice require further training. The stakes are simply too high. He must be very professionally competent on day one.

Second, personal integrity: Nominees to our Nation's highest Court must be of the highest caliber.

And, third, the nominee should fall within the mainstream of contemporary judicial thought. The next Justice must possess the requisite judicial philosophy to be entrusted with the Court's sweeping constitutional powers.

A Senator should not oppose a nominee just because a nominee does not share that Senator's particular judicial philosophy. But the Senate must determine whether a nominee is within the broad mainstream of judicial thought—not an idealogue of the far left, not an idealogue of the far right but mainstream.

Why? Because that is where America is. Also, we need a Judge who can exercise good judgment during the entire time he or she is on the Court. The average tenure since 1970 is 25 years. Times have changed. We don't want an idealogue who has one view or tends to have one view but, rather, somebody who is wise, above the fray, has perspective, listens, has good judgment, deeply understands the history of our country, especially its beginnings when our Constitution was written.

The Senate must determine whether a nominee is committed to the protection of the basic constitutional values of the American people.

So what are some of those values? One is the separation of powers of our Federal Government, including the independence of the Court itself.

Another is freedom of speech. Boy, is that important, stronger in this country than any other on the face of this Earth. It is so important—so important. It helps make America what it is.

Another is freedom of religion, the other side of the establishment clause. Freedom of religion, both direct and indirect, so people are free to worship whomever they choose and in whatever manner they wish.

Equal opportunity, enshrined in the 14th amendment, is the basic bedrock American principle. Again, this is what made this country great. We are great for a lot of reasons, but one is because people want to come to this country and live. We don't see very many Americans heading for the door to get out of America. Americans want to stay in America, and other people want to come to America. Why is that? I submit largely it is opportunity, it is the freedom of opportunity, and no discrimination. Anybody who wants to make something out of himself or herself in America can. There are some practical limitations sometimes, but by and large, if you have the stuff in America, you are going to get there. It is freedom of opportunity.

Another value is personal autonomy, the right to be left alone. That is very basic in America when we talk about freedoms in America. They are so important. Another freedom is the right to be left alone.

Another is an understanding of the basic powers of the Congress to pass important laws, such as those providing for the protection of the environment. We are one country. General laws, especially under the commerce clause, are so important so that all of America can share in matters, not just the equal protection clause, but the commerce clause, sharing and protecting the environment. It is very important. We are one country. That is becoming more and more important each passing day.

Why? Because of integration and large advances in communication technologies, all kinds of technologies. We are all so much of the same country together.

Mainstream philosophy matters because some on the extreme would argue, as Justice Thomas did last month, that the Constitution's establishment clause in the Bill of Rights does not even apply to the States. Think of that for a moment. Justice Thomas said the Constitution's establishment clause in the Bill of Rights—that is the first amendment—does not even apply to the States.

What does that mean? That means States can set up their own laws respecting the establishment of religion. I thought we were one country. I thought that issue was decided long ago. I thought most of the provisions of the Bill of Rights that applied to the Federal Government also applied to States. I thought that. I thought we were American.

To even contemplate the thought of going backward, to even contemplate

the thought that the establishment clause does not apply to States in and of itself sends shivers, I am sure, down the spines of virtually every American, let alone to advocate it as Justice Thomas has, and my recollection is not once but I think twice.

Mainstream philosophy matters because some on the extreme would seek to abolish the right to privacy that the Court recognized 40 years ago in that famous case of Griswold v. Connecticut. There is an inherent right to privacy in the Constitution.

Mainstream philosophy matters because some on the extreme would argue that the Congress cannot pass laws such as the Endangered Species Act or the Clean Water Act pursuant to the Constitution's commerce clause. They say the commerce clause prevents the Clean Water Act; the commerce clause prevents Congress from passing the Endangered Species Act. Think for a moment what that means and how far that could go.

Many of us are concerned that this Court is a couple or three steps away from if not virtually eliminating the commerce clause and therefore Congress's ability to enact statutes, but going so far in that direction it is going to create havoc in this country. We will have more States doing separate sets of statutes because the commerce clause does not apply.

Now, come on. Stop and think a second. That is revolutionary. Yet there are many who advocate that in this country, I am sure hoping the President appoints a nominee with just that view. I will bet dollars to donuts there are many pushing that view upon the President right now.

These are extreme views. They are not mainstream. And the stakes are high. The Senate has a duty to ensure that the nominee will defend America's mainstream constitutional values. We have that duty. It is our responsibility as Senators.

It is only fitting that the Senate set a very high standard. It is only fitting that the Senate distinguish Supreme Court nominations from other nominations, especially those for administrative positions. Administrative positions, that is the President's team, in deference to the President having his own people. We are not talking about the judicial branch. There is no deference to have your own people because we have established we want independent people. We want one's own people. We do not want the President's own people. We do not want the Congress's own people. We want independent people who are in and of themselves their own people.

It is so important the Senate act with very high standards. Because of the importance of an independent Supreme Court, the President is not entitled to have the Senate confirm his nominee. There is no entitlement there.

With some sadness, I have noted over the last several years that that trend is developing. It is becoming almost assumed that the Senate must confirm the President's nominee, that the President has that right. There is no right. The right is for the American people to stand up under the Constitution and do what is right for their people. And, yes, support a nominee who is truly independent, has personal integrity and is competent but, no, not support a nominee for the Supreme Court who does not have those requisite criteria. That is what is right. The Senate must set a very high standard.

The next Supreme Court Justice will affect all of us and our children. This Justice will exercise extraordinary power. We must ensure that Justice's independence.

The independence of the Supreme Court is a doctrine with deep roots in the history of our Nation. In 1765, the great British legal jurist, Sir William Blackstone, published his Commentaries, a book that was well read by our Founders. Every law student in America knows about Blackstone. Blackstone wrote:

> In this distinct and separate existence of the judicial power, in a . . . body of men, nominated indeed, but not removable at pleasure, by the crown, consists one main preservative of public liberty; which cannot subsist long in any state, unless the administration of common justice be in some degree separated both from the legislative and also from the executive power.

In explaining our newly minted Constitution, Alexander Hamilton wrote in Federalist No. 78:

> [T]he judiciary is beyond comparison the weakest of the three departments of power. . . .[T]hough individual oppression may now and then proceed from the courts of justice, the general liberty of the people can never be endangered from that quarter; I mean so long as the judiciary remains truly distinct from both the legislature and the Executive. For I agree, that ''there is no liberty, if the power of judging be not separated from the legislative and executive powers.''

That says we in Congress cannot have our people on the Court. It also says the President cannot have his person on the Court. Rather a process so that the judge is his person on the Court, his own person.

Hamilton continued:

> [L]iberty can have nothing to fear from the judiciary alone, but would have everything to fear from its union with either of the other departments. . . .

That is pretty profound. And Hamilton warned:

> [F]rom the natural feebleness of the judiciary, it is in continual jeopardy of being overpowered, awed, or influenced by its co-ordinate branches. . . .

Marbury v. Madison years later helped establish the independence of the judiciary, saying the Constitution is what the Court says it says, and that has helped. But we all know Presidents have tried to change the Court in their own ways because they did not like what the Court was doing. FDR tried his court-packing plan. He did not like what the Supreme Court was deciding so he tried to influence the Court with court packing, and that did not work. Presidents have all kinds of ways to influence the Court. As I mentioned earlier, President Eisenhower very much tried to influence Justice Warren in Brown v. Board of Education. Fortunately, Justice Warren, who was appointed by President Eisenhower, stood up and said, no, separate but equal is not the law of the land. Rather, we should integrate.

Hamilton then concluded:

> The complete independence of the courts of justice is peculiarly essential in a limited Constitution. By a limited Constitution, I understand one which contains certain specified exceptions to the legislative authority; such, for instance, as that it shall pass no bills of attainder, no ex-post-facto laws, and the like. Limitations of this kind can be preserved in practice no other way than through the medium of courts of justice, whose duty it must be to declare all acts contrary to the manifest tenor of the Constitution void. Without this, all the reservations of particular rights or privileges would amount to nothing.

So I call on the President, I call on my colleagues to defend that ''main preservative of . . . liberty.'' I call on the President, I call on my colleagues to defend the independence of the courts. I call on my colleagues in this Senate to actively exercise their constitutional duties of advice and consent.

There are not many times in our lives as Senators when rising up and exercising our responsibilities is as important as this, not be a rubberstamp, but not vote no just because we have a different view of that person's judicial philosophy but, rather, doing the right thing, and the right thing is to make sure we have nominees of utmost personal integrity who are clearly professionally competent and who are in the mainstream and will not cater to extreme views of either the right or the left but stand above it all and decide cases in the right way.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ISAKSON). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent there now be a period for morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 1224, AS MODIFIED, TO H.R. 2360

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding passage of H.R. 2360, amendment No. 1224, which was previously agreed to, be modified with the change at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment, as modified, is as follows:

On page 81, line 24, increase the first amount by $50,000,000.

On page 82, line 4, after ''tion'' insert '': *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided, an additional $50,000,000 shall be available to carry out section 33 (15 U.S.C. 2229)''.

On page 77, line 18, strike ''$2,694,300,000'' and insert ''$2,714,300,000''.

On page 77, line 20, increase the amount by $20,000,000.

On page 77, line 24, after ''grants'' insert '', and of which at least $20,000,000 shall be available for interoperable communications grants''.

On page 85, line 18, after ''expended'' insert '': *Provided*, That the aforementioned sum shall be reduced by $70,000,000''.

On page 82, line 21, strike ''$5,000,000'' and insert ''$3,000,000''.

(The remarks of Ms. LANDRIEU are printed in today's RECORD under ''Morning Business.'')

HONORING FOX MCKEITHEN

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I rise today in sadness to pay tribute to a man who served the State of Louisiana well for over 22 years, our late Secretary of State Fox McKeithen, who passed away over the weekend at his home, lovingly surrounded by friends, family, and admirers.

Walter Fox McKeithen was born on September 8, 1946. He was a young man when he died this weekend. He was the second of six children in a small northern town of Louisiana called Columbia. He was the son of a very well-respected governor whom we fondly called ''Big John'' McKeithen. He served in the 1960s and is accredited with leading our State of Louisiana at a very tough and tumultuous time in a very progressive and positive direction. Fox McKeithen, the oldest child, took after his father's political skills from an early age. He demonstrated those leadership skills as senior class president at Caldwell Parish High School, and after graduating from Louisiana Tech, he worked as a high school civics teacher and coach.

With his desire to serve the people of Louisiana in a greater role, he was elected to the House of Representatives in 1983. I had the distinct pleasure of working with Fox as a State representative. He went on then to run statewide and was elected Secretary of State. I went on at that same time as State treasurer, and we continued our strong partnership and relationship.

As Secretary of State, however, Fox took his very colorful personality and spirited dedication to make great improvements to an office that was in need of improvement. He modernized the way the State archived its records. He made it easier for businesses to register and get assistance from the Secretary of State's office. Most importantly, he was a friend to local clerks who work diligently in our State to process elections, make sure they are run fairly and openly. He had a very strong view, as Secretary of State and our chief election commission officer, that registered voters should have a chance to vote. Not a radical notion, but in this day and age not something that always happens. So he worked overtime to make sure the machines were there on time and people were well trained. If the clerks had problems, he himself would step in and give personal attention. So we all owe him a debt of gratitude for his dedication and commitment. In fact, once there was a problem—voting machines were arriving late. He jumped in his own pickup truck and went down to one of our parishes to bring them voting machines.

Perhaps his greatest legacy was the renovation of our old State capitol, a building that sat on the banks of the Mississippi River in decay and abandonment for many years. But with his vision and his leadership, he restored that building to its former grandeur, and now it is a place that is used by many different organizations and appreciated and admired by all the people of our State. When he started this project, people said it could not be done, there was not enough money to do it. But because of his tenaciousness and his hard work and leadership ability, he led a group of leaders both in the public sector and in the private sector to restore our own State capitol and enhanced one of the great communities on the banks of the Mississippi River, right there in our capital city, reminding us of our rich and colorful past.

It was truly an honor for me and many people in Louisiana to serve in public office with Fox McKeithen. He loved Louisiana and he loved serving all of her people. He shared his father's famous campaign slogan, ''Won't you h'ep me?'' as if it were a question that the people of Louisiana were asking of him. It didn't matter if you were a Democrat or a Republican, rich or poor, from north or south of I–10 or north or south of I–20, he was always there to help you if he could.

A dedicated public servant who gave everything he had to serving our State, Fox McKeithen will be dearly missed. The people of our State owe a great debt of gratitude to Fox and the entire McKeithen family for a legacy of leadership, compassion, and vision for our State. His eldest daughter Marjorie follows in her father's and grandfather's footsteps through her practice of law and effective advocacy for many important programs and initiatives in our State. She is truly carrying on the great McKeithen legacy of service.

So I come to the floor today saddened by the fact but gladdened by the life this man led and certain of his legacy that he left with the people of our State and the many contributions he made over a long and dedicated career.

On behalf of the people of Louisiana, I say our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family at this time.

CHANGE OF VOTE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama is recognized.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, on rollcall vote 187, I voted ''yea.'' It was my intention to vote ''nay.'' Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to change my vote since it will not affect the outcome.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT TRICIA L. JAMESON

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise to express my sympathy over the loss of Tricia L. Jameson of Omaha, NE, a staff sergeant medic in the Nebraska Army National Guard. Staff Sergeant Jameson was killed by an explosion after stopping to treat wounded Marines on July 14 near Trebil in western Iraq. She was 34 years old.

Staff Sergeant Jameson grew up in St. Paul, NE, before moving to Omaha as a teenager. She graduated from Millard South High School in 1989 and attended Central Community College at Columbus, NE, from 1990–91. She spent the last 10 years in the military, working the last 5 years as a health care specialist at the Nebraska Air National Guard base clinic in Lincoln, NE. Staff Sergeant Jameson was a member of the 313th Medical Company of Lincoln and was mobilized to duty in Iraq less than a month ago. Staff Sergeant Jameson volunteered for the assignment. She was not a regular member of the group but a replacement for another soldier. Staff Sergeant Jameson will be remembered as a loyal soldier who had a strong sense of duty, honor, and love of country. Thousands of brave Americans like Staff Sergeant Jameson are currently serving in Iraq.

Staff Sergeant Jameson was preceded in death by her father, Robert Jameson. She is survived by her mother Patricia Marsh of Omaha: brother, Rob Jameson of Omaha; grandmothers Kathryn Jameson of Weeping Water, NE, and Annamae Donahue of Omaha; and fiancé Mike Coldewey of Omaha. Our thoughts and prayers are with them at this difficult time. America is proud of Staff Sergeant Jameson's heroic service and mourns her loss.

I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring SSG Tricia L. Jameson.

DEPUTY JERRY ORTIZ: IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise to honor the memory of Deputy Jerry Ortiz, a 15-year veteran of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, who was tragically killed in the line of duty on June 24, 2005.

As a young child growing up in Southern California, Jerry Ortiz knew that he wanted to dedicate his life to protecting his fellow citizens. So it came as no surprise when he enlisted in the U.S. Army shortly after his graduation from El Monte High School in

1988. Only 2 years later, he fulfilled his dream of becoming a police officer when he joined the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Deputy Ortiz's strict work ethic and dedication quickly made him a well-respected member of the Department and earned him a position with the elite antigang unit at the Lakewood Station. Although this was a formidable task with great responsibilities, he knew that in this capacity he could truly make a difference in the community and help at-risk youth. Deputy Ortiz did just that.

Jerry Ortiz was an important part of the Sheriff's Department family. He was well known for his sense of humor, positive attitude, and athleticism on the Department boxing team. Over his 15-year career, he became an integral part of the fight against gang crime in the area and went above and beyond to protect the innocent citizens caught in the unfortunate gang violence in their communities. Days before his tragic murder, Deputy Ortiz received word that he was being promoted to detective.

All who knew him said that he loved his job but that he was first and foremost a family man. Ortiz spent most of his free time with his two sons, Jeremy, 16, and Jacob, 6. He was a sports fan and enjoyed sharing this passion with his sons. Only three weeks before his death, Jerry Ortiz married his wife, Chela, and those close to him say he was happier than ever.

I am truly saddened to lose this remarkable public servant. Deputy Jerry Ortiz died doing what he loved—providing protection for his community. He was a leader, an inspiring mentor, a hero, and a wonderful father and husband. We will always be grateful for Deputy Ortiz's heroic service to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the community that he so bravely served.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

Last year, a man was arrested after he and another suspect yelled derogatory insults and hate speech toward a group of five lesbian women and one transgender man. While one of the men later fled the scene, the other continued harassing the group and subsequently physically attacked them. Some of the victims sustained injuries including a broken nose, black eyes, and injuries around the head and face.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I regret that I was unable to be present and cast votes the week of June 27. My mother, Marcia Lieberman, passed away on June 27 and her funeral was June 28, and I observed a period of mourning in Connecticut for the remainder of that week. While, as I stated to Senator REID, I would have returned to the Capitol and voted had my vote been determinative of the outcome, that did not become an issue regarding votes that week. Before I address the various pieces of legislation that the Senate considered during my absence, I would like to express my gratitude to my colleagues and their staffs for their acts of kindness and words of sympathy during this difficult time for me and my family.

I have set forth below for the RECORD, for the information of my constituents, my positions on the legislation and key amendments considered the week of June 27.

Had I been present for vote on H.R. 6, the Energy Policy Act of 2005, I would have voted yes.

The bill is far from perfect; indeed, it does next to nothing to address the challenge of climate change and leaves us much work still to do in creating the kind of robust and diverse fuel mix for our cars and trucks needed to provide America with true energy security.

What the bill does do, however, to stimulate the development and use of technologies that can help us address these challenges—or at least to get a start—justifies supporting it.

I was disappointed that when Senator MCCAIN and I offered the Climate Stewardship and Innovation Act as an amendment to bill, the Senate turned down the opportunity to adopt a truly comprehensive program to reduce economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions using a market system. My disappointment was tempered, however, when the Senate adopted a bipartisan resolution, which Senator MCCAIN and I cosponsored with Senators DOMENICI and BINGAMAN and several others calling for a mandatory market-based emissions reduction program for greenhouse gases. I am hopeful that over time the Senate will come to see that the legislation that Senator MCCAIN and I have been pushing for provides just the right vehicle for producing the legislation called for in the resolution.

At the same time, I believe that the bill will help nudge our energy system towards a cleaner, more efficient future. In addition to including a renewable portfolio standard for electric utilities, the bill includes a range of incentives and other support for businesses and consumers to develop and use clean technologies and clean fuels in their businesses and homes and on our highways.

Finally, I appreciate the fact that the bill—for the most part—does not include provisions that would weaken environmental protections for our air, water and land that, in the past, some have mistakenly believed to be necessary to advance energy policy.

On Thursday, June 29, the Senate voted on H.R. 2361, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. Below are comments on the amendments that were offered and the vote on final passage of the bill.

I would have voted ''nay'' on the motion to waive the Budget Act with regard to Senator COBURN's amendment No. 1019. Combating diabetes and alcohol and substance abuse in Indian country must continue to be a priority for Congress, the Department of the Interior, and the Department of Health and Human Services. It is also important that we continue to support Federal land acquisition programs that preserve the environment in its natural state. I believe that the Appropriations Committee has looked at these programs and made difficult but sound decisions about the funding levels for both of them, and therefore oppose the motion. I also note that I would have voted for Senator DORGAN's subsequent amendment No. 1025.

I would have voted for Senator COBURN's amendment No. 1003 because this amendment and similar sunshine laws would make it easier for Americans to understand how and what the Federal Government does on their behalf. By requiring that all limitations, earmarks, and directives be explicitly stated in the conference report, this amendment would have forced Congress to do a better job explaining to the American people where their tax dollars are being spent.

While I preferred Senator BOXER's amendment No. 1023, I would have voted for Senator BURNS's amendment No. 1068 because it at least ensures that the Environmental Protection Agency will undertake the specific tasks of reviewing this very serious public health issue and reporting its findings to Congress. The amendment also confirms the EPA's rulemaking process, which I believe should be a necessary prerequisite before any human pesticide testing should be allowed to continue. I look forward to reviewing the EPA's final recommendations, and after doing so, will be able to make a decision as to whether any human pesticide testing should be allowed.

In the meantime, I strongly support the moratorium imposed by Senator BOXER's amendment on all pesticide testing involving humans and the use of such studies until the EPA conducts and completes what I expect to be a thorough investigative and rulemaking process that ensures the safety of all

involved. I believe the government should steer clear of even being perceived as sanctioning these types of tests until there is a complete review of the risks involved. A moratorium like the one provided for in Senator BOXER's amendment is the prudent and reasonable course for us to take at this time.

As noted earlier, I would have supported Senator DORGAN's amendment No. 1024 because it finds additional funding in an otherwise unnecessary account for health care on tribal lands. There is a need for additional money to meet the increasing demands for mental heath care and other health care programs designed to meet the unique concerns of Indian Country. Though the motion to waive the Congressional Budget Act to make this amendment possible did not pass, I look forward to working with Senator DORGAN and my colleagues on this very important issue.

I would have supported the efforts of Senators SUNUNU and BINGAMAN in amendment No. 1026 to halt Federal subsidies for logging roads in the Tongass National Forest.

I also support the efforts of Senators MURRAY and SANTORUM in proposing legislation that meets the critical and immediate needs of our veterans. Providing health care to our veterans is a promise we make to our servicemen and servicewomen when they agree to protect our country. We must continue to fulfill that promise by fully funding the veterans health care system at a level that meets the medical needs of all of those who have so valiantly and bravely served our country in the war on terror, in Iraq, in Afghanistan, and in all previous wars and conflicts.

I would like to thank the Appropriations Committee for their work on this legislation and join my colleagues in supporting its final passage.

On Thursday, June 30, the Senate voted on S. 1307, the implementing bill of the Dominican Republic and Central American Free Trade Agreement, DR-CAFTA. Had I been in Washington on June 30, I would have voted for the motion to proceed to consider and for the bill, because I believe that, as is the case with most free-trade agreements, DR-CAFTA overall is good for Connecticut and good for the country.

I must raise two concerns that affect not only this bill, but our future efforts to expand trade. My first concern is with the way in which this agreement addresses—or fails to address—labor and environmental standards. Second, we may need to adjust our priorities when it comes to trade in order to resolve certain key issues in our relationship with China.

When NAFTA was negotiated in the early 1990s, labor and environmental issues were dealt with in a side agreement; the parties' treaty obligations were that they enforce their own labor standards. When, in 2001, the Jordan Free Trade Agreement was adopted, the labor and environment provisions were included in the body of the agreement. As a result, they were fully subject to sanctions through the agreement's dispute resolution process. This was the culmination of crucial progress through the 1990s, not just for workers in Jordan who happened to benefit from the Jordan trade agreement, but also for import-sensitive industries in the U.S.—and for fostering broad bipartisan support for trade expansion. Unfortunately, the more recent trade agreements have retreated from the strong provisions in the Jordan Free Trade Agreement and I believe that in order to garner support of Congress, at a minimum, future trade agreements must include strong enforcement provisions that would prevent countries from backsliding or ignoring labor and environmental standards.

As to my second concern, while we now focus on DR-CAFTA, our constituents continue to be concerned about China. They are right to do so since China is a country with almost ten times the gross domestic product of the Dominican Republic and Central American countries combined. Trade with, and support for, the democracies in Latin and Central America is important. That said, we must focus on the growing need to address trade pressures from China, including China's approach to manipulating its currency and subsidizing its manufacturing sector, as well as its failure to enact strong labor standards. The lack of a comprehensive U.S. trade policy results in a reactive, muddled trade agenda, rather than a focus on issues that will grow our economy, lower the trade deficit, and create jobs.

On Friday, July 1, the Senate voted on H.R. 2419, The Department of Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act. Here are my positions on the amendment that was offered and on the vote on final passage of the bill.

I would have supported Senator BOXER's amendment No. 1085 because the administration has failed to make the case for why the mission of this potential weapon can not be achieved by current weapon systems and America's nuclear arsenal already serves as an effective deterrent. We do not need to launch a new nuclear weapons program at this time.

I would have supported final passage of the bill, which includes support for some important programs in my State.

HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise to discuss the fiscal year 2006 Homeland Security appropriations bill. The Senate passed this measure nearly unanimously and I voted in support of it.

I would like to begin by thanking the principal authors and managers of this legislation: Senator GREGG and Senator BYRD. It is no easy task to write a bill that provides for our domestic security needs. I commend both of our colleagues and their staffs for the hard work they put into crafting this legislation.

The bill that passed the Senate funds our country's homeland security activities at $31.9 billion for the upcoming fiscal year. These activities include port security, rail security, truck security, aviation security, emergency first responders, customs and border patrol, immigration, the Coast Guard, and counter-terrorism research. Taken together, these initiatives form the foundation upon which our country depends for its internal security.

In an age when terrorism continues to be a growing threat to our Nation, one would think that the Congress of the United States would be doing everything it could to shore up that foundation—to make it as impregnable as possible against those who wish us harm. Yet, when we look at the legislation passed by the Senate, I do not believe it does enough to protect our people from terrorism. We are simply not investing the resources that are required to make this Nation as safe as possible. Instead of filling in the gaps that continue to exist within our homeland security foundation, we are letting those gaps and cracks grow in several critical respects.

One does not have to look further than protecting our critical infrastructure and funding our emergency first responders. These 2 areas arguably form the backbone of our efforts to prevent and effectively respond to terrorist attacks at home. They encompass protecting our ports, our railroads, our transit systems and our commercial vehicles. They encompass quickly and effectively responding to real or perceived threats in all parts of our country.

The bill that passed the Senate provides $3.9 billion to protect our critical infrastructure, equip our first responders, and assist local governments in planning and coordinating their homeland security activities. While this may seem like a large number to many Americans, it has been cited by numerous national security and public health experts, along with first responders themselves, as being wholly inadequate to meet the homeland security demands of the twenty-first century. Furthermore, the number is actually less than what has been provided in the past. It is approximately $500 million less than what was provided last year and approximately $700 million less than 2 years ago. Clearly, we are heading in the wrong direction—doing less to protect our country adequately when we ought to be doing more.

As we have seen in Madrid last year, in London 2 weeks ago and in Iraq almost every week, terrorists have become adept at exploiting weak points in critical infrastructure, particularly transportation systems. I question what it will take for us to realize that we need to be investing more in our domestic critical infrastructure and in our first responders.

Although we have taken steps to boost our homeland security since the

attacks on September 11th, our critical infrastructure remains largely exposed and our emergency first responders spread too thin. Today, less than 5 percent of commercial cargo arriving at our seaports is screened for threats; our rail systems and bus systems remain largely open and unsupervised. Meanwhile, our first responders lack both the staff and resources they need to protect lives and property. Hundreds of police departments—both large and small—have experienced alarming personnel shortages. A super majority of fire departments in this Nation does not have the manpower required to meet the 21st century needs of their districts or municipalities.

As the Senate considered this legislation, I was pleased to lend my support to several amendments that sought to raise resources for critical infrastructure protection and first responders. Among these measures were those to simplify homeland security grants, increase resources to local homeland security programs, enhance air cargo security, increase truck security, ensure greater protection of our rail and transit systems and provide first responders with advanced communication systems. I also offered an amendment that would have increased critical infrastructure security and first responder funding by $16 billion to a total of $20 billion. My amendment would have codified a recommendation made 2 years ago by a task force chaired by our former colleague, Warren Rudman, along with a distinguished panel of national security, intelligence, military and public health officials.

Regrettably, none of these measures was adopted. They were largely rejected because they exceeded the budget caps placed on the bill. Members who spoke in opposition to these amendments argued that we could not afford the extra cost. Instead of finding new resources, they suggested using existing resources already in the bill to boost infrastructure protection and first responders.

For this reason, I had to cast my vote against two amendments that would have increased funding for first responder and border patrol security by decreasing State homeland security grant and Coast Guard funding. This kind of bureaucratic shell game is a wholly inadequate means to protect our critical infrastructure, our first responders and our borders. It entails investing in new resources to do what it is right to put our country on a more secure and sound footing.

Ironically, many of the Members who opposed these amendments have supported permanent tax cuts for the most affluent of Americans—tax cuts that have been projected to cost $1 trillion over the next 15 years. If we can afford to give such a generous tax break to the few thousand wealthiest Americans, then why can we not afford adequately to safeguard 281 million Americans from terrorist attacks at a mere fraction of that cost?

We are living in extraordinary times. Never before in our history has there been a period of time when the threat of harm to Americans on their own soil has been so high. While it has been almost 4 years since terrorists attacked the World Trade Center, the more recent attacks in Madrid and London tell us that we must remain vigilant about our domestic security. They tell us that we must renew and redouble our efforts to prevent and respond to terrorism here at home.

I applaud Homeland Security Secretary Chertoff's decision earlier this week to streamline his department's administrative bureaucracy. I believe that this will enable the Department to respond more effectively to the needs of our States and localities. At the same time, I am deeply disturbed by the Secretary's comments yesterday which suggested that transit security should be paid for entirely by States. I find this view to be dangerously outdated and incongruous with the one needed to combat terrorism effectively. If the events of last week did not remind us already, we no longer live in the 19th century but in the 21st. Our very survival depends on planning and coordination that involves all levels of government. No one entity should bear the enormous financial burden of protecting Americans from terrorist attacks.

On balance, I voted for this legislation because the funding it appropriates is much better than nothing. However, I look forward to working with my colleagues in the coming years to find and provide the necessary resources that can make our Nation as safe and strong as it can possibly be.

PETITION TO DISCHARGE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 802(c), I have submitted a petition to discharge the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works from consideration of S.J. Res. 20, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the rule relating to the delisting of coal and oil-direct utility units from the source category list under the Clean Air Act, submitted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under chapter 8 title 5, United States Code, the Congressional Review Act.

DISCHARGE PETITION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with Chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works be discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 20, a resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the rule submitted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency relating to the delisting of coal and oil-direct utility units from the source category list under the Clean Air Act, and further, that the resolution be placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Patrick Leahy, Jim Jeffords, Barbara Boxer, Joe Biden, Tom Carper, Jon S. Corzine, Susan Collins, Olympia Snowe, John F. Kerry, Maria Cantwell, Jay Rockefeller, Mark Dayton, Harry Reid, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Russell D. Feingold, Tom Harkin, Herb Kohl, Frank R. Lautenberg, Joe Lieberman, Patty Murray, Paul Sarbanes, Chris Dodd, Dick Durbin, Dianne Feinstein, Ted Kennedy, Barack Obama, Carl Levin, Barbara A. Mikulski, Jack Reed, Charles Schumer, Ron Wyden, Daniel K. Akaka.

NOTICE OF INTENT

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I submit the following notice in writing: In accordance with rule V of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby give notice in writing that it is my intention to move to suspend paragraph 4 of rule XVI for the purpose of proposing to the bill H.R. 3057 the following amendment:

S.A. 1256

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Oil and natural gas resources are strategic assets critical to national security and the Nation's economic prosperity.

(2) The National Security Strategy of the United States approved by President George W. Bush on September 17, 2002, concludes that the People's Republic of China remains strongly committed to national one-party rule by the Communist Party.

(3) On June 23, 2005, the China National Offshore Oil Corporation Limited (CNOOC), announced its intent to acquire Unocal Corporation, in the face of a competing bid for Unocal Corporation from Chevron Corporation.

(4) The People's Republic of China owns approximately 70 percent of CNOOC.

(5) A significant portion of the CNOOC acquisition is to be financed and heavily subsidized by banks owned by the People's Republic of China.

(6) Unocal Corporation is based in the United States, and has approximately 1,750,000,000 barrels of oil equivalent, with its core operating areas in Southeast Asia, Alaska, Canada, and the lower 48 States.

(7) A CNOOC acquisition of Unocal Corporation would result in the strategic assets of Unocal Corporation being preferentially allocated to China by the Chinese Government.

(8) A Chinese Government acquisition of Unocal Corporation would weaken the ability of the United States to influence the oil and gas supplies of the Nation through companies that must adhere to United States laws.

(9) As a de facto matter, the Chinese Government would not allow the United States Government or United States investors to acquire a controlling interest in a Chinese energy company.

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON SALE OF UNOCAL TO CNOOC.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the merger, acquisition, or takeover of Unocal Corporation by CNOOC is prohibited.

EDDIE ALBERT: IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise to honor an extraordinary actor, entertainer, and humanitarian. Upon his passing, Eddie Albert leaves a legacy of talent, determination, and good will.

Eddie Albert Heimberger was born in Illinois on April 22, 1906, and moved to Minneapolis as a child. It was there

that Mr. Albert began his stage career, hosting magic shows and singing in small venues to put himself through drama school. After becoming a crowd pleaser in Minnesota, he decided to pursue his creative passion in other cities and on the radio. After dropping his last name to avoid being mistakenly called Eddie Hamburger, he shifted his focus to comedy. His success on the airwaves led to his 1935 Broadway debut in the comedy ''O Evening Star.''

Mr. Albert went on to appear on Broadway several times before making it to Hollywood in 1937 as Bing Edwards in the film ''Brother Rat.'' His fame grew, and in 1939 Mr. Albert started entertaining audiences as an aerialist and clown in a traveling Mexican circus. During his time there, he began providing intelligence to the U.S. Government on Japanese and Nazi activity in Mexico. His career was put on hold when he bravely served in the Marines during World War II. He was awarded the Bronze Star for his courageous fighting in the Battle of Tarawa.

Upon returning from his service overseas, he started Eddie Albert Productions and worked behind the camera to make sex education films, a rarity in their time. One of his best known roles was in the 1960s sitcom ''Green Acres,'' in which he portrayed lawyer turned farmer Oliver Wendell Douglas. Appearing in nearly 100 films, Mr. Albert earned two best supporting actor Academy Award nominations for his parts in ''Roman Holiday'' (1953) and ''The Heartbreak Kid'' (1972).

Throughout his lifetime, Mr. Albert traveled the world and became interested in the fight against poverty and preserving the environment. In the 1970s, he established the City Children's Farms and dedicated his free time to publicly speaking about the importance of nutrition for the world's children. He served as a special envoy for the philanthropic mission ''Meals for Millions'' and as a consultant for the World Hunger Conference. An avid outdoors man, Mr. Albert treasured the beaches, trails, and wildlife near his home in Southern California. He used his fame to bring much needed attention to the harmful effects of DDT and, on his birthday in 1970, Mr. Albert helped inaugurate the first Earth Day. Later that year, he and his wife opened a community arts center in Los Angeles, which is still in operation today.

In 1945, Mr. Albert married actress Margo, nee Maria Marguerita Guadalupe Teresa Estela Bolado Castilla y O'Donnell. She preceded him in death in 1985. Eddie Albert died of pneumonia on May 26, 2005, at his home in Pacific Palisades, CA. He is survived by his son, daughter, and two grandchildren. Whether as an entertainer or philanthropist, Mr. Albert will be remembered for his passion and dedication to making others smile. His talents and kindness will surely be missed.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:32 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2864. An act to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2864. An act to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes.

The following joint resolution was discharged pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 802(c) and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 20. Joint resolution disapproving a rule promulgated by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to delist coal and oil-direct utility units from the source category list under the Clean Air Act.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–3041. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Weighted Average Interest Rate Update Notice—Pension Funding Equity Act of 2004'' (Notice 2005–54) received on July 12, 2005; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3042. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Weighted Average Interest Rate Update Notice—Pension Funding Equity Act of 2004'' (Notice 2005–54) received on July 12, 2005; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3043. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Rulings Declared Obsolete'' (Rev. Rul. 2005–43) received on July 12, 2005; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3044. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Procedures for Section 482 Setoffs'' (Rev. Proc. 2005–46) received on July 12, 2005; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3045. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, a report of proposed legislation to amend title 42, United States Code, to extend the authorization for the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness until October 1, 2012; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–3046. A communication from the General Counsel, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Capitalization of Tangible Assets; Correction'' (48 CFR Part 9904) received on July 12, 2005; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3047. A communication from the President/Chief Executive Officer and the Senior Vice President/Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston, transmitting jointly, pursuant to law, the Bank's 2004 Annual Report, Statement on the System of Internal Controls, and Audited Financial Statements; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3048. A communication from the Chief Operating Officer/President, Board of Directors of the Resolution Funding Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation's Statement on the System of Internal Controls and a report on Audited Financial Statements; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3049. A communication from the Chief Operating Officer/President, Board of Directors of the Financing Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation's Statement on the System of Internal Controls and a report on Audited Financial Statements; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3050. A communication from the President/Chief Executive Officer and the Controller/Senior Vice President, Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis, transmitting jointly, pursuant to law, the Bank's 2004 Annual Report, Statement on the System of Internal Controls, and Audited Financial Statements; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3051. A communication from the President/Chief Executive Officer and the Interim Chief Financial Officer/Senior Vice President, Federal Home Loan Bank of Seattle, transmitting jointly, pursuant to law, the Bank's Statement on the System of Internal Controls, and a report on Audited Financial Statements; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3052. A communication from the President/Chief Executive Officer and the Executive Vice President/Chief Financial Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati, transmitting jointly, pursuant to law, the Bank's 2004 Annual Report, Statement on the System of Internal Controls, and Audited Financial Statements; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3053. A communication from the President/Chief Executive Officer and the Executive Vice President, Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago, transmitting jointly, pursuant to law, the Bank's 2004 Annual Report,

Statement on the System of Internal Controls, and Audited Financial Statements; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3054. A communication from the President/Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Accounting Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines, transmitting jointly, pursuant to law, the Bank's 2004 Annual Report, Statement on the System of Internal Controls, and Audited Financial Statements; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3055. A communication from the President/Chief Executive Officer and the Senior Vice President/Chief Accounting Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas, transmitting jointly, pursuant to law, the Bank's Statement on the System of Internal Controls, and a report on Audited Financial Statements; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3056. A communication from the President/Chief Executive Officer, the Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer, the Senior Vice President/Chief Financial Officer and the Senior Vice President/Controller, Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco, transmitting jointly, pursuant to law, the Bank's 2004 Annual Report, Statement on the System of Internal Controls, and Audited Financial Statements; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3057. A communication from the President/Chief Executive Officer and the Senior Vice President/Chief Financial Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of New York, transmitting jointly, pursuant to law, the Bank's Statement on the System of Internal Controls, and a report on Audited Financial Statements; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–3058. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Primary Copper Smelting'' (FRL No. 7838–5) received on July 13, 2005; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3059. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Delaware; Ambient Air Quality Standard for Ozone and Fine Particulate Matter'' (FRL No. 7939–1) received on July 13, 2005; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3060. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Two Isopropylamine Salts of Alkyl C4 and Alkyl C8–10 Ethoxyphosphate Esters; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance; Technical Correction'' (FRL No. 7725–1) received on July 13, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3061. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Sulfuryl Fluoride; Pesticide Tolerance'' (FRL No. 7723–7) received on July 13, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3062. A communication from the Director, Executive Secretariat, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Deposit of Proceeds from Lands Withdrawn for Native Selection'' (RIN1076–AE74) received on July 13, 2005; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC–3063. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report (2 subjects on 1 disc beginning with ''Memorandum for Proposed Correction to BRAC Testimony'') relative to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990, as amended; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3064. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report (5 subjects on 1 disc beginning with ''USAF Response to Regional Hearing Testimony by the Eielson Community'') relative to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990, as amended; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3065. A communication from the Director, Office of White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination for the position of Deputy Secretary and the confirmation of the nominee received on July 14, 2005; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–3066. A communication from the Director, Office of White House Liaison, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination for the position of Assistant Secretary received on July 14, 2005; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–3067. A communication from the Director, Office of White House Liaison, Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the designation of an acting officer for the position of Assistant Secretary received on July 14, 2005; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–3068. A communication from the Director, Office of White House Liaison, Office of Communications and Outreach, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination for the position of Assistant Secretary (new position) received on July 14, 2005; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–3069. A communication from the Director, Office of White House Liaison, Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination for the position of Assistant Secretary (new position) received on July 14, 2005; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–3070. A communication from the Director, Office of White House Liaison, Office for Civil Rights, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination for the position of Assistant Secretary received on July 14, 2005; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–3071. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of the Chief Financial Officer, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Protection of Human Subjects'' (RIN1890–AA08) received on July 13, 2005; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–3072. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, the report of a proposed legislative amendment to the Higher Education Act of 1965 received July 14, 2005; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–3073. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Fiscal Year 2003 Biennial Report on the Status of Children in Head Start Programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–3074. A communication from the Ombudsman, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Transportation of Household Goods; Consumer Protection Regulations; Final Rule'' ((RIN2126–AA32) (2005–0001)) received on July 13, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3075. A communication from the Attorney, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Dealer Notification of Defect or Noncompliance Determination'' (RIN2127–AJ48) received on July 13, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3076. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''December 2004 Wassenaar Arrangement Plenary Agreement Implementation: Categories 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Part I (telecommunications), 6, 7, 8, and 9 of the Commerce Control List; Wassenaar Reporting Requirements; Definitions; and Certain New or Expanded Export Controls'' (RIN0694–AD41) received on July 14, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3077. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives: Agusta S.p.A. Model A119 Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (2005–0306)) received July 13, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3078. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives: Eurocopter France Model EC120 Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (2005–0305)) received July 13, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3079. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives: Agusta S.p.A. Model A109E Helicopters'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (2005–0304)) received July 13, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3080. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives: Boeing Model 777–200 and 777–300 Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (2005–0303)) received July 13, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3081. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives: The Lancair Company Model LC41–550FG Airplane'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (2005–0302)) received July 13, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3082. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives: CENTRAIR 101 Series Gliders'' ((RIN2120–

AA64) (2005–0301)) received July 13, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3083. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives: CFM International CFM56–5, 5B, and 5C Series Turbofan Engines'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (2005–0300)) received July 13, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–3084. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Airworthiness Directives: Airbus Model A310 Series Airplanes'' ((RIN2120–AA64) (2005–0299)) received July 13, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. COLLINS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 501. A bill to provide a site for the National Women's History Museum in the District of Columbia (Rept. No. 109–104).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. JEFFORDS, and Mr. CHAFEE):

S. 1415. A bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to protect captive wildlife and make technical corrections; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SANTORUM:

S. 1416. A bill to amend the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to reauthorize the Interagency Council on Homelessness; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CRAIG (for himself, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. SPECTER):

S. 1417. A bill to impose tariff-rate quotas on certain casein and milk protein concentrates; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. FRIST, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. DODD, Mr. BURR, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. TALENT, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. BOND, and Mr. NELSON of Florida):

S. 1418. A bill to enhance the adoption of a nationwide inter operable health information technology system and to improve the quality and reduce the costs of health care in the United States; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LUGAR (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. JEFFORDS, and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. 1419. A bill to maintain the free flow of information to the public by providing conditions for the federally compelled disclosure of information by certain persons connected with the news media; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BURR, Mr. DEWINE, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. DODD, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 1420. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to medical device user fees; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. DODD, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. TALENT, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. COBURN, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. OBAMA, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. NELSON of Florida):

S. Res. 198. A resolution commemorating the 25th anniversary of the 1980 worker's strike in Poland and the birth of the Solidarity Trade Union, the first free and independent trade union established in the Soviet-dominated countries of Europe; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. REID):

S. Res. 199. A resolution to authorize the production of records by the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. Res. 200. A resolution honoring the life of Nobel Laureate Jack St. Clair Kilby, inventor of the integrated circuit and innovative leader in the Information Age; considered and agreed to

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 37

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 37, a bill to extend the special postage stamp for breast cancer research for 2 years.

S. 113

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) were added as cosponsors of S. 113, a bill to modify the date as of which certain tribal land of the Lytton Rancheria of California is deemed to be held in trust.

S. 246

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 246, a bill to repeal the sunset of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 with respect to the expansion of the adoption credit and adoption assistance programs.

S. 313

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 313, a bill to improve authorities to address urgent nonproliferation crises and United States nonproliferation operations.

S. 333

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 333, a bill to hold the current regime in Iran accountable for its threatening behavior and to support a transition to democracy in Iran.

S. 350

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 350, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide assistance for orphans and other vulnerable children in developing countries, and for other purposes.

S. 390

At the request of Mr. DODD, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) were added as cosponsors of S. 390, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of ultrasound screening for abdominal aortic aneurysms under part B of the medicare program.

S. 392

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 392, a bill to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of Congress, collectively, to the Tuskegee Airmen in recognition of their unique military record, which inspired revolutionary reform in the Armed Forces.

S. 580

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 580, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow certain modifications to be made to qualified mortgages held by a REMIC or a grantor trust.

S. 633

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE) were added as cosponsors of S. 633, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of veterans who became disabled for life while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

S. 642

At the request of Mr. FRIST, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 642, a bill to support certain national youth organizations, including the Boy Scouts of America, and for other purposes.

S. 754

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 754, a bill to ensure that the Federal student loans are delivered as efficiently as possible, so that there is more grant aid for students.

S. 912

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Connecticut

(Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 912, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify the jurisdiction of the United States over waters of the United States.

S. 1047

At the request of Mr. SUNUNU, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 1047, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of each of the Nation's past Presidents and their spouses, respectively to improve circulation of the $1 coin, to create a new bullion coin, and for other purposes.

S. 1076

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1076, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the excise tax and income tax credits for the production of biodiesel.

S. 1081

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1081, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a minimum update for physicians' services for 2006 and 2007.

S. 1197

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1197, a bill to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994.

S. 1200

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1200, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the depreciation recovery period for certain roof systems.

S. 1269

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1269, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify certain activities the conduct of which does not require a permit.

S. 1352

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1352, a bill to provide grants to States for improved workplace and community transition training for incarcerated youth offenders.

S. 1353

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1353, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment of an Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Registry.

S. 1370

At the request of Mr. BENNETT, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1370, a bill to provide for the protection of the flag of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1386

At the request of Mr. MARTINEZ, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1386, a bill to exclude from consideration as income certain payments under the national flood insurance program.

S. 1411

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1411, a bill to direct the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish a pilot program to provide regulatory compliance assistance to small business concerns, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 19

At the request of Mr. CHAMBLISS, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 19, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the importance of life insurance and recognizing and supporting National Life Insurance Awareness Month.

S. CON. RES. 26

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 26, a concurrent resolution honoring and memorializing the passengers and crew of United Airlines Flight 93.

S. RES. 42

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 42, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on promoting initiatives to develop an HIV vaccine.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. FRIST, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. DODD, Mr. BURR, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. TALENT, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. BOND, and Mr. NELSON of Florida):

S. 1418. A bill to enhance the adoption of a nationwide inter operable health information technology system and to improve the quality and reduce the costs of health care in the United States; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a bipartisan bill to improve the quality and efficiency of health care by harnessing the potential of information technology. I am joined in this effort by Senators KENNEDY, FRIST and CLINTON.

In recent weeks, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced legislation to move our health care system into the electronic information age to serve patients better. Separately, Senators FRIST and CLINTON also introduced a bill to spur the adoption of health information technology to improve health care quality.

Both of our bills were referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, which I chair and on which we all serve. All of us put a lot of time and effort into crafting our bills, and we quickly realized that if we took the best of both of our bills and combined them into one, the whole would be much more than the sum of its parts.

All of us believe that if we move from a paper-based health care system to secure electronic medical records, we will reduce mistakes and save lives, time and money. And because we share this goal, we worked together to combine our bills into one piece of legislation that will bring the government and the private sector together to make healthcare better, safer and more efficient by accelerating the adoption of interoperable information technology across our healthcare system.

The sponsors of this bill span the political spectrum, but we still have many things in common. One of our common bonds—in fact, one of the things we have in common with all Americans—is that all of us are, or have been, or will someday be patients. And all of us either have stories to tell about frustrating experiences we've had, or that our family or friends have had, with navigating our health care system.

We have an outstanding health care system in the United States. That's doesn't mean there isn't room for improvement, though. And one of the most important things we need to do in healthcare is to put information technology to work for patients, improving quality while reducing costs.

I want to thank Senators KENNEDY, FRIST and CLINTON for working together in a spirit of bipartisan compromise to mold our separate bills into one measure that will advance our vision of the future of health care. We know President Bush shares our commitment, because he has called for every American to have his or her own electronic health record by the middle of the next decade, and he has his Secretary of Health and Human Services, Michael Leavitt, working assiduously toward this objective.

So I look forward to working with Senators KENNEDY, FRIST, and CLINTON and the rest of my fellow Senators in the coming weeks and months to send this legislation to the President so that we can meet the ambitious goals that we all share.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of this bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1418

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Wired for Health Care Quality Act''.

SEC. 2. IMPROVING HEALTH CARE, QUALITY, SAFETY, AND EFFICIENCY.

The Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 201 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''TITLE XXIX—HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

''SEC. 2901. DEFINITIONS.

''In this title:

''(1) HEALTH CARE PROVIDER.—The term 'health care provider' means a hospital, skilled nursing facility, home health entity, health care clinic, federally qualified health center, group practice (as defined in section 1877(h)(4) of the Social Security Act), a pharmacist, a pharmacy, a laboratory, a physician (as defined in section 1861(r) of the Social Security Act), a health facility operated by or pursuant to a contract with the Indian Health Service, a rural health clinic, and any other category of facility or clinician determined appropriate by the Secretary.

''(2) HEALTH INFORMATION.—The term 'health information' has the meaning given such term in section 1171(4) of the Social Security Act.

''(3) HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN.—The term 'health insurance plan' means—

''(A) a health insurance issuer (as defined in section 2791(b)(2));

''(B) a group health plan (as defined in section 2791(a)(1)); and

''(C) a health maintenance organization (as defined in section 2791(b)(3)).

''(4) LABORATORY.—The term 'laboratory' has the meaning given that term in section 353.

''(5) PHARMACIST.—The term 'pharmacist' has the meaning given that term in section 804 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

''(6) QUALIFIED HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.—The term 'qualified health information technology' means a computerized system (including hardware, software, and training) that—

''(A) protects the privacy and security of health information;

''(B) maintains and provides permitted access to health information in an electronic format;

''(C) incorporates decision support to reduce medical errors and enhance health care quality;

''(D) complies with the standards adopted by the Federal Government under section 2903; and

''(E) allows for the reporting of quality measures under section 2908.

''(7) STATE.—The term 'State' means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

''SEC. 2902. OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR OF HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.

''(a) OFFICE OF NATIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.—There is established within the Office of the Secretary an Office of the National Coordinator of Health Information Technology (referred to in this section as the 'Office'). The Office shall be headed by a National Coordinator who shall be appointed by the President, in consultation with the Secretary, and shall report directly to the Secretary.

''(b) PURPOSE.—It shall be the purpose of the Office to carry out programs and activities to develop a nationwide interoperable health information technology infrastructure that—

''(1) ensures that patients' health information is secure and protected;

''(2) improves health care quality, reduces medical errors, and advances the delivery of patient-centered medical care;

''(3) reduces health care costs resulting from inefficiency, medical errors, inappropriate care, and incomplete information;

''(4) ensures that appropriate information to help guide medical decisions is available at the time and place of care;

''(5) promotes a more effective marketplace, greater competition, and increased choice through the wider availability of accurate information on health care costs, quality, and outcomes;

''(6) improves the coordination of care and information among hospitals, laboratories, physician offices, and other entities through an effective infrastructure for the secure and authorized exchange of health care information;

''(7) improves public health reporting and facilitates the early identification and rapid response to public health threats and emergencies, including bioterror events and infectious disease outbreaks;

''(8) facilitates health research; and

''(9) promotes prevention of chronic diseases.

''(c) DUTIES OF THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR.—The National Coordinator shall—

''(1) serve as a member of the public-private American Health Information Collaborative established under section 2903;

''(2) serve as the principal advisor to the Secretary concerning the development, application, and use of health information technology, and coordinate and oversee the health information technology programs of the Department;

''(3) facilitate the adoption of a nationwide, interoperable system for the electronic exchange of health information;

''(4) ensure the adoption and implementation of standards for the electronic exchange of health information to reduce cost and improve health care quality;

''(5) ensure that health information technology policy and programs of the Department are coordinated with those of relevant executive branch agencies (including Federal commissions) with a goal of avoiding duplication of efforts and of helping to ensure that each agency undertakes health information technology activities primarily within the areas of its greatest expertise and technical capability;

''(6) to the extent permitted by law, coordinate outreach and consultation by the relevant executive branch agencies (including Federal commissions) with public and private parties of interest, including consumers, payers, employers, hospitals and other health care providers, physicians, community health centers, laboratories, vendors and other stakeholders;

''(7) advise the President regarding specific Federal health information technology programs; and

''(8) submit the reports described under section 2903(i) (excluding paragraph (4) of such section).

''(d) DETAIL OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Upon the request of the National Coordinator, the head of any Federal agency is authorized to detail, with or without reimbursement from the Office, any of the personnel of such agency to the Office to assist it in carrying out its duties under this section.

''(2) EFFECT OF DETAIL.—Any detail of personnel under paragraph (1) shall—

''(A) not interrupt or otherwise affect the civil service status or privileges of the Federal employee; and

''(B) be in addition to any other staff of the Department employed by the National Coordinator.

''(3) ACCEPTANCE OF DETAILEES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Office may accept detailed personnel from other Federal agencies without regard to whether the agency described under paragraph (1) is reimbursed.

''(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the duplication of Federal efforts with respect to the establishment of the Office, regardless of whether such efforts were carried out prior to or after the enactment of this title.

''(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the activities of the Office under this section for each of fiscal years 2006 through 2010.

''SEC. 2903. AMERICAN HEALTH INFORMATION COLLABORATIVE.

''(a) PURPOSE.—The Secretary shall establish the public-private American Health Information Collaborative (referred to in this section as the 'Collaborative') to—

''(1) advise the Secretary and recommend specific actions to achieve a nationwide interoperable health information technology infrastructure;

''(2) serve as a forum for the participation of a broad range of stakeholders to provide input on achieving the interoperability of health information technology; and

''(3) recommend standards (including content, communication, and security standards) for the electronic exchange of health information for adoption by the Federal Government and voluntary adoption by private entities.

''(b) COMPOSITION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Collaborative shall be composed of—

''(A) the Secretary, who shall serve as the chairperson of the Collaborative;

''(B) the Secretary of Defense, or his or her designee;

''(C) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or his or her designee;

''(D) the Secretary of Commerce, or his or her designee;

''(E) the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology;

''(F) representatives of other relevant Federal agencies, as determined appropriate by the Secretary; and

''(G) representatives from each of the following categories to be appointed by the Secretary from nominations submitted by the public—

''(i) consumer and patient organizations;

''(ii) experts in health information privacy and security;

''(iii) health care providers;

''(iv) health insurance plans or other third party payors;

''(v) standards development organizations;

''(vi) information technology vendors;

''(vii) purchasers or employers; and

''(viii) State or local government agencies or Indian tribe or tribal organizations.

''(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In appointing members under paragraph (1)(G), the Secretary shall select individuals with expertise in—

''(A) health information privacy;

''(B) health information security;

''(C) health care quality and patient safety, including those individuals with experience in utilizing health information technology to

improve health care quality and patient safety;

''(D) data exchange; and

''(E) developing health information technology standards and new health information technology.

''(3) TERMS.—Members appointed under paragraph (1)(G) shall serve for 2 year terms, except that any member appointed to fill a vacancy for an unexpired term shall be appointed for the remainder of such term. A member may serve for not to exceed 180 days after the expiration of such member's term or until a successor has been appointed.

''(c) RECOMMENDATIONS AND POLICIES.—The Collaborative shall make recommendations to identify uniform national policies for adoption by the Federal Government and voluntary adoption by private entities to support the widespread adoption of health information technology, including—

''(1) protection of health information through privacy and security practices;

''(2) measures to prevent unauthorized access to health information;

''(3) methods to facilitate secure patient access to health information;

''(4) the ongoing harmonization of industry-wide health information technology standards;

''(5) recommendations for a nationwide interoperable health information technology infrastructure;

''(6) the identification and prioritization of specific use cases for which heath information technology is valuable, beneficial, and feasible;

''(7) recommendations for the establishment of an entity to ensure the continuation of the functions of the Collaborative; and

''(8) other policies determined to be necessary by the Collaborative.

''(d) STANDARDS.—

''(1) EXISTING STANDARDS.—The standards adopted by the Consolidated Health Informatics Initiative shall be deemed to have been recommended by the Collaborative under this section.

''(2) FIRST YEAR REVIEW.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this title, the Collaborative shall—

''(A) review existing standards (including content, communication, and security standards) for the electronic exchange of health information, including such standards adopted by the Secretary under paragraph (2)(A);

''(B) identify deficiencies and omissions in such existing standards; and

''(C) identify duplication and overlap in such existing standards;

and recommend modifications to such standards as necessary.

''(3) ONGOING REVIEW.—Beginning 1 year after the date of enactment of this title, and annually thereafter, the Collaborative shall—

''(A) review existing standards (including content, communication, and security standards) for the electronic exchange of health information, including such standards adopted by the Secretary under paragraph (2)(A);

''(B) identify deficiencies and omissions in such existing standards; and

''(C) identify duplication and overlap in such existing standards;

and recommend modifications to such standards as necessary.

''(4) LIMITATION.—The standards described in this section shall be consistent with any standards developed pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996.

''(e) FEDERAL ACTION.—Not later than 60 days after the issuance of a recommendation from the Collaborative under subsection (d)(2), the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the Secretary of Defense, in collaboration with representatives of other relevant Federal agencies, as determined appropriate by the Secretary, shall jointly review such recommendations. The Secretary shall provide for the adoption by the Federal Government of any standard or standards contained in such recommendation.

''(f) COORDINATION OF FEDERAL SPENDING.—Not later than 1 year after the adoption by the Federal Government of a recommendation as provided for in subsection (e), and in compliance with chapter 113 of title 40, United States Code, no Federal agency shall expend Federal funds for the purchase of any form of health information technology or health information technology system for clinical care or for the electronic retrieval, storage, or exchange of health information that is not consistent with applicable standards adopted by the Federal Government under subsection (e).

''(g) COORDINATION OF FEDERAL DATA COLLECTION.—Not later than 3 years after the adoption by the Federal Government of a recommendation as provided for in subsection (e), all Federal agencies collecting health data for the purposes of surveillance, epidemiology, adverse event reporting, research, or for other purposes determined appropriate by the Secretary shall comply with standards adopted under subsection (e).

''(h) VOLUNTARY ADOPTION.—Any standards adopted by the Federal Government under subsection (e) shall be voluntary with respect to private entities.

''(i) REPORTS.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Committee on Finance of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, on an annual basis, a report that—

''(1) describes the specific actions that have been taken by the Federal Government and private entities to facilitate the adoption of an interoperable nationwide system for the electronic exchange of health information;

''(2) describes barriers to the adoption of such a nationwide system;

''(3) contains recommendations to achieve full implementation of such a nationwide system; and

''(4) contains a plan and progress toward the establishment of an entity to ensure the continuation of the functions of the Collaborative.

''(j) APPLICATION OF FACA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall apply to the Collaborative, except that the term provided for under section 14(a)(2) shall be 5 years.

''(k) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the duplication of Federal efforts with respect to the establishment of the Collaborative, regardless of whether such efforts were carried out prior to or after the enactment of this title.

''(l) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section for each of fiscal years 2006 through 2010.

''SEC. 2904. IMPLEMENTATION AND CERTIFICATION OF HEALTH INFORMATION STANDARDS.

''(a) IMPLEMENTATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, based upon the recommendations of the Collaborative, shall develop criteria to ensure uniform and consistent implementation of any standards for the electronic exchange of health information voluntarily adopted by private entities in technical conformance with such standards adopted under this title.

''(2) IMPLEMENTATION ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may recognize a private entity or entities to assist private entities in the implementation of the standards adopted under this title using the criteria developed by the Secretary under this section.

''(b) CERTIFICATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, based upon the recommendations of the Collaborative, shall develop criteria to ensure and certify that hardware, software, and support services that claim to be in compliance with any standard for the electronic exchange of health information adopted under this title have established and maintained such compliance in technical conformance with such standards.

''(2) CERTIFICATION ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may recognize a private entity or entities to assist in the certification described under paragraph (1) using the criteria developed by the Secretary under this section.

''(c) DELEGATION AUTHORITY.—The Secretary, through consultation with the Collaborative, may delegate the development of the criteria under subsections (a) and (b) to a private entity.

''SEC. 2905. GRANTS TO FACILITATE THE WIDESPREAD ADOPTION OF INTEROPERABLE HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.

''(a) COMPETITIVE GRANTS TO FACILITATE THE WIDESPREAD ADOPTION OF HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award competitive grants to eligible entities to facilitate the purchase and enhance the utilization of qualified health information technology systems to improve the quality and efficiency of health care.

''(2) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant under paragraph (1) an entity shall—

''(A) submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require;

''(B) submit to the Secretary a strategic plan for the implementation of data sharing and interoperability measures;

''(C) be a—

''(i) not for profit hospital;

''(ii) group practice (including a single physician); or

''(iii) another health care provider not described in clause (i) or (ii);

''(D) adopt the standards adopted by the Federal Government under section 2903;

''(E) require that health care providers receiving such grants implement the measurement system adopted under section 2908 and report to the Secretary on such measures;

''(F) demonstrate significant financial need; and

''(G) provide matching funds in accordance with paragraph (4).

''(3) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts received under a grant under this subsection shall be used to facilitate the purchase and enhance the utilization of qualified health information technology systems.

''(4) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—To be eligible for a grant under this subsection an entity shall contribute non-Federal contributions to the costs of carrying out the activities for which the grant is awarded in an amount equal to $1 for each $3 of Federal funds provided under the grant.

''(5) PREFERENCE IN AWARDING GRANTS.—In awarding grants under this subsection the Secretary shall give preference to—

''(A) eligible entities that are located in rural, frontier, and other underserved areas as determined by the Secretary; and

''(B) eligible entities that will link, to the extent practicable, the qualified health information system to local or regional health information networks.

''(b) COMPETITIVE GRANTS TO STATES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF STATE LOAN PROGRAMS TO FACILITATE THE WIDESPREAD ADOPTION OF HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award competitive grants to States for the establishment of State programs for loans to health care providers to facilitate the purchase and enhance the utilization of qualified health information technology.

''(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND.—To be eligible to receive a competitive grant under this subsection, a State shall establish a qualified health information technology loan fund (referred to in this subsection as a 'State loan fund') and comply with the other requirements contained in this section. A grant to a State under this subsection shall be deposited in the State loan fund established by the State. No funds authorized by other provisions of this title to be used for other purposes specified in this title shall be deposited in any State loan fund.

''(3) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant under paragraph (1) a State shall—

''(A) submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require;

''(B) submit to the Secretary a strategic plan in accordance with paragraph (4);

''(C) establish a qualified health information technology loan fund in accordance with paragraph (2);

''(D) require that health care providers receiving such loans—

''(i) link, to the extent practicable, the qualified health information system to a local or regional health information network; and

''(ii) consult with the Center for Best Practices established in section 914(d) to access the knowledge and experience of existing initiatives regarding the successful implementation and effective use of health information technology;

''(E) require that health care providers receiving such loans adopt the standards adopted by the Federal Government under section 2903(d);

''(F) require that health care providers receiving such loans implement the measurement system adopted under section 2908 and report to the Secretary on such measures; and

''(G) provide matching funds in accordance with paragraph (8).

''(4) STRATEGIC PLAN.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A State that receives a grant under this subsection shall annually prepare a strategic plan that identifies the intended uses of amounts available to the State loan fund of the State.

''(B) CONTENTS.—A strategic plan under subparagraph (A) shall include—

''(i) a list of the projects to be assisted through the State loan fund in the first fiscal year that begins after the date on which the plan is submitted;

''(ii) a description of the criteria and methods established for the distribution of funds from the State loan fund; and

''(iii) a description of the financial status of the State loan fund and the short-term and long-term goals of the State loan fund.

''(5) USE OF FUNDS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Amounts deposited in a State loan fund, including loan repayments and interest earned on such amounts, shall be used only for awarding loans or loan guarantees, or as a source of reserve and security for leveraged loans, the proceeds of which are deposited in the State loan fund established under paragraph (1). Loans under this section may be used by a health care provider to facilitate the purchase and enhance the utilization of qualified health information technology.

''(B) LIMITATION.—Amounts received by a State under this subsection may not be used—

''(i) for the purchase or other acquisition of any health information technology system that is not a qualified health information technology system;

''(ii) to conduct activities for which Federal funds are expended under this title, or the amendments made by the Wired for Health Care Quality Act; or

''(iii) for any purpose other than making loans to eligible entities under this section.

''(6) TYPES OF ASSISTANCE.—Except as otherwise limited by applicable State law, amounts deposited into a State loan fund under this subsection may only be used for the following:

''(A) To award loans that comply with the following:

''(i) The interest rate for each loan shall be less than or equal to the market interest rate.

''(ii) The principal and interest payments on each loan shall commence not later than 1 year after the loan was awarded, and each loan shall be fully amortized not later than 10 years after the date of the loan.

''(iii) The State loan fund shall be credited with all payments of principal and interest on each loan awarded from the fund.

''(B) To guarantee, or purchase insurance for, a local obligation (all of the proceeds of which finance a project eligible for assistance under this subsection) if the guarantee or purchase would improve credit market access or reduce the interest rate applicable to the obligation involved.

''(C) As a source of revenue or security for the payment of principal and interest on revenue or general obligation bonds issued by the State if the proceeds of the sale of the bonds will be deposited into the State loan fund.

''(D) To earn interest on the amounts deposited into the State loan fund.

''(7) ADMINISTRATION OF STATE LOAN FUNDS.—

''(A) COMBINED FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION.—A State may (as a convenience and to avoid unnecessary administrative costs) combine, in accordance with State law, the financial administration of a State loan fund established under this subsection with the financial administration of any other revolving fund established by the State if otherwise not prohibited by the law under which the State loan fund was established.

''(B) COST OF ADMINISTERING FUND.—Each State may annually use not to exceed 4 percent of the funds provided to the State under a grant under this subsection to pay the reasonable costs of the administration of the programs under this section, including the recovery of reasonable costs expended to establish a State loan fund which are incurred after the date of enactment of this title.

''(C) GUIDANCE AND REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall publish guidance and promulgate regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this subsection, including—

''(i) provisions to ensure that each State commits and expends funds allotted to the State under this subsection as efficiently as possible in accordance with this title and applicable State laws; and

''(ii) guidance to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse.

''(D) PRIVATE SECTOR CONTRIBUTIONS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—A State loan fund established under this subsection may accept contributions from private sector entities, except that such entities may not specify the recipient or recipients of any loan issued under this subsection.

''(ii) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—A State shall make publically available the identity of, and amount contributed by, any private sector entity under clause (i) and may issue letters of commendation or make other awards (that have no financial value) to any such entity.

''(8) MATCHING REQUIREMENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not make a grant under paragraph (1) to a State unless the State agrees to make available (directly or through donations from public or private entities) non-Federal contributions in cash toward the costs of the State program to be implemented under the grant in an amount equal to not less than $1 for each $1 of Federal funds provided under the grant.

''(B) DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT OF NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTION.—In determining the amount of non-Federal contributions that a State has provided pursuant to subparagraph (A), the Secretary may not include any amounts provided to the State by the Federal Government.

''(9) PREFERENCE IN AWARDING GRANTS.—The Secretary may give a preference in awarding grants under this subsection to States that adopt value-based purchasing programs to improve health care quality.

''(10) REPORTS.—The Secretary shall annually submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Committee on Finance of the Senate, and the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, a report summarizing the reports received by the Secretary from each State that receives a grant under this subsection.

''(c) GRANTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REGIONAL OR LOCAL HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PLANS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award competitive grants to eligible entities to implement regional or local health information plans to improve health care quality and efficiency through the electronic exchange of health information pursuant to the standards, protocols, and other requirements adopted by the Secretary under sections 2903 and 2908.

''(2) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant under paragraph (1) an entity shall—

''(A) demonstrate financial need to the Secretary;

''(B) demonstrate that one of its principal missions or purposes is to use information technology to improve health care quality and efficiency;

''(C) adopt bylaws, memoranda of understanding, or other charter documents that demonstrate that the governance structure and decisionmaking processes of such entity allow for participation on an ongoing basis by multiple stakeholders within a community, including—

''(i) physicians (as defined in section 1861(r) of the Social Security Act), including physicians that provide services to low income and underserved populations;

''(ii) hospitals (including hospitals that provide services to low income and underserved populations);

''(iii) pharmacists or pharmacies;

''(iv) health insurance plans;

''(v) health centers (as defined in section 330(b)) and Federally qualified health centers (as defined in section 1861(aa)(4) of the Social Security Act);

''(vi) rural health clinics (as defined in section 1861(aa) of the Social Security Act);

''(vii) patient or consumer organizations;

''(viii) employers; and

''(ix) any other health care providers or other entities, as determined appropriate by the Secretary;

''(D) adopt nondiscrimination and conflict of interest policies that demonstrate a commitment to open, fair, and nondiscriminatory participation in the health information plan by all stakeholders;

''(E) adopt the standards adopted by the Secretary under section 2903;

''(F) require that health care providers receiving such loans implement the measurement system adopted under section 2908 and report to the Secretary on such measures;

''(G) facilitate the electronic exchange of health information within the local or regional area and among local and regional areas;

''(H) prepare and submit to the Secretary an application in accordance with paragraph (3); and

''(I) agree to provide matching funds in accordance with paragraph (5).

''(3) APPLICATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a grant under paragraph (1), an entity shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

''(B) REQUIRED INFORMATION.—At a minimum, an application submitted under this paragraph shall include—

''(i) clearly identified short-term and long-term objectives of the regional or local health information plan;

''(ii) a technology plan that complies with the standards adopted under section 2903 and that includes a descriptive and reasoned estimate of costs of the hardware, software, training, and consulting services necessary to implement the regional or local health information plan;

''(iii) a strategy that includes initiatives to improve health care quality and efficiency, including the use and reporting of health care quality measures adopted under section 2908;

''(iv) a plan that describes provisions to encourage the implementation of the electronic exchange of health information by all physicians, including single physician practices and small physician groups participating in the health information plan;

''(v) a plan to ensure the privacy and security of personal health information that is consistent with Federal and State law;

''(vi) a governance plan that defines the manner in which the stakeholders shall jointly make policy and operational decisions on an ongoing basis; and

''(vii) a financial or business plan that describes—

''(I) the sustainability of the plan;

''(II) the financial costs and benefits of the plan; and

''(III) the entities to which such costs and benefits will accrue.

''(4) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts received under a grant under paragraph (1) shall be used to establish and implement a regional or local health information plan in accordance with this subsection.

''(5) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not make a grant under this subsection to an entity unless the entity agrees that, with respect to the costs to be incurred by the entity in carrying out the infrastructure program for which the grant was awarded, the entity will make available (directly or through donations from public or private entities) non-Federal contributions toward such costs in an amount equal to not less than 50 percent of such costs ($1 for each $2 of Federal funds provided under the grant).

''(B) DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT CONTRIBUTED.—Non-Federal contributions required under subparagraph (A) may be in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated, including equipment, technology, or services. Amounts provided by the Federal Government, or services assisted or subsidized to any significant extent by the Federal Government, may not be included in determining the amount of such non-Federal contributions.

''(d) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the first grant is awarded under this section, and annually thereafter during the grant period, an entity that receives a grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary a report on the activities carried out under the grant involved. Each such report shall include—

''(1) a description of the financial costs and benefits of the project involved and of the entities to which such costs and benefits accrue;

''(2) an analysis of the impact of the project on health care quality and safety;

''(3) a description of any reduction in duplicative or unnecessary care as a result of the project involved;

''(4) a description of the efforts of recipients under this section to facilitate secure patient access to health information; and

''(5) other information as required by the Secretary.

''(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of carrying out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated $125,000,000 for fiscal year 2006, $150,000,000 for fiscal year 2007, and such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2010.

''(2) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated under paragraph (1) shall remain available through fiscal year 2010.

''SEC. 2906. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM TO INTEGRATE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INTO CLINICAL EDUCATION.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants under this section to carry out demonstration projects to develop academic curricula integrating qualified health information technology systems in the clinical education of health professionals. Such awards shall be made on a competitive basis and pursuant to peer review.

''(b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant under subsection (a), an entity shall—

''(1) submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require;

''(2) submit to the Secretary a strategic plan for integrating qualified health information technology in the clinical education of health professionals and for ensuring the consistent utilization of decision support software to reduce medical errors and enhance health care quality;

''(3) be—

''(A) a health professions school;

''(B) a school of nursing; or

''(C) a graduate medical education program;

''(4) provide for the collection of data regarding the effectiveness of the demonstration project to be funded under the grant in improving the safety of patients, the efficiency of health care delivery, and in increasing the likelihood that graduates of the grantee will adopt and incorporate health information technology in the delivery of health care services; and

''(5) provide matching funds in accordance with subsection (c).

''(c) USE OF FUNDS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a grant under subsection (a), an eligible entity shall—

''(A) use grant funds in collaboration with 2 or more disciplines; and

''(B) use grant funds to integrate qualified health information technology into community-based clinical education.

''(2) LIMITATION.—An eligible entity shall not use amounts received under a grant under subsection (a) to purchase hardware, software, or services.

''(d) MATCHING FUNDS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award a grant to an entity under this section only if the entity agrees to make available non-Federal contributions toward the costs of the program to be funded under the grant in an amount that is not less than $1 for each $2 of Federal funds provided under the grant.

''(2) DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT CONTRIBUTED.—Non-Federal contributions under paragraph (1) may be in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated, including equipment or services. Amounts provided by the Federal Government, or services assisted or subsidized to any significant extent by the Federal Government, may not be included in determining the amount of such contributions.

''(e) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall take such action as may be necessary to evaluate the projects funded under this section and publish, make available, and disseminate the results of such evaluations on as wide a basis as is practicable.

''(f) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this title, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Committee on Finance of the Senate, and the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives a report that—

''(1) describes the specific projects established under this section; and

''(2) contains recommendations for Congress based on the evaluation conducted under subsection (e).

''(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, $5,000,000 for fiscal year 2007, and such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2010.

''(h) SUNSET.—This section shall not apply after September 30, 2010.

''SEC. 2907. LICENSURE AND THE ELECTRONIC EXCHANGE OF HEALTH INFORMATION.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out, or contract with a private entity to carry out, a study that examines—

''(1) the variation among State laws that relate to the licensure, registration, and certification of medical professionals; and

''(2) how such variation among State laws impacts the secure electronic exchange of health information—

''(A) among the States; and

''(B) between the States and the Federal Government.

''(b) REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this title, the Secretary shall publish a report that—

''(1) describes the results of the study carried out under subsection (a); and

''(2) makes recommendations to States regarding the harmonization of State laws based on the results of such study.

''SEC. 2908. QUALITY MEASUREMENT SYSTEMS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Defense, and representatives of other relevant Federal agencies, as determined appropriate by the Secretary, (referred to in the section as the 'Secretaries') shall jointly develop a quality measurement system for the purpose of measuring the quality of care patients receive.

''(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretaries shall ensure that the quality measurement system developed under subsection (a) comply with the following:

''(1) MEASURES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Secretaries shall select measures of quality to be used by the Secretaries under the systems.

''(B) REQUIREMENTS.—In selecting the measures to be used under each system pursuant to subparagraph (A), the Secretaries shall, to the extent feasible, ensure that—

''(i) such measures are evidence based, reliable and valid;

''(ii) such measures include measures of process, structure, patient experience, efficiency, and equity; and

''(iii) such measures include measures of overuse, underuse, and misuse of health care items and services.

''(2) PRIORITIES.—In developing the system under subsection (a), the Secretaries shall ensure that priority is given to—

''(A) measures with the greatest potential impact for improving the quality and efficiency of care provided under Federal programs;

''(B) measures that may be rapidly implemented by group health plans, health insurance issuers, physicians, hospitals, nursing homes, long-term care providers, and other providers; and

''(C) measures which may inform health care decisions made by consumers and patients.

''(3) WEIGHTS OF MEASURES.—The Secretaries shall assign weights to the measures used by the Secretaries under each system established under subsection (a).

''(4) RISK ADJUSTMENT.—The Secretaries shall establish procedures to account for differences in patient health status, patient characteristics, and geographic location. To the extent practicable, such procedures shall recognize existing procedures.

''(5) MAINTENANCE.—The Secretaries shall, as determined appropriate, but in no case more often than once during each 12-month period, update the quality measurement systems developed under subsection (a), including through—

''(A) the addition of more accurate and precise measures under the systems and the retirement of existing outdated measures under the systems; and

''(B) the refinement of the weights assigned to measures under the systems.

''(c) REQUIRED CONSIDERATIONS IN DEVELOPING AND UPDATING THE SYSTEMS.—In developing and updating the quality measurement systems under this section, the Secretaries shall—

''(1) consult with, and take into account the recommendations of, the entity that the Secretaries has an arrangement with under subsection (e);

''(2) consult with representatives of health care providers, consumers, employers, and other individuals and groups that are interested in the quality of health care; and

''(3) take into account—

''(A) any demonstration or pilot program conducted by the Secretaries relating to measuring and rewarding quality and efficiency of care;

''(B) any existing activities conducted by the Secretaries relating to measuring and rewarding quality and efficiency;

''(C) any existing activities conducted by private entities including health insurance plans and payors; and

''(D) the report by the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences under section 238(b) of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003.

''(d) REQUIRED CONSIDERATIONS IN IMPLEMENTING THE SYSTEMS.—In implementing the quality measurement systems under this section, the Secretaries shall take into account the recommendations of public-private entities—

''(1) that are established to examine issues of data collection and reporting, including the feasibility of collecting and reporting data on measures; and

''(2) that involve representatives of health care providers, consumers, employers, and other individuals and groups that are interested in quality of care.

''(e) ARRANGEMENT WITH AN ENTITY TO PROVIDE ADVICE AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—

''(1) ARRANGEMENT.—On and after July 1, 2006, the Secretaries shall have in place an arrangement with an entity that meets the requirements described in paragraph (2) under which such entity provides the Secretaries with advice on, and recommendations with respect to, the development and updating of the quality measurement systems under this section, including the assigning of weights to the measures under subsection (b)(2).

''(2) REQUIREMENTS DESCRIBED.—The requirements described in this paragraph are the following:

''(A) The entity is a private nonprofit entity governed by an executive director and a board.

''(B) The members of the entity include representatives of—

''(i) health insurance plans and providers with experience in the care of individuals with multiple complex chronic conditions or groups representing such health insurance plans and providers;

''(ii) groups representing patients and consumers;

''(iii) purchasers and employers or groups representing purchasers or employers;

''(iv) organizations that focus on quality improvement as well as the measurement and reporting of quality measures;

''(v) State government health programs;

''(vi) individuals or entities skilled in the conduct and interpretation of biomedical, health services, and health economics research and with expertise in outcomes and effectiveness research and technology assessment; and

''(vii) individuals or entities involved in the development and establishment of standards and certification for health information technology systems and clinical data.

''(C) The membership of the entity is representative of individuals with experience with urban health care issues and individuals with experience with rural and frontier health care issues.

''(D) If the entity requires a fee for membership, the entity shall provide assurances to the Secretaries that such fees are not a substantial barrier to participation in the entity's activities related to the arrangement with the Secretaries.

''(E) The entity—

''(i) permits any member described in subparagraph (B) to vote on matters of the entity related to the arrangement with the Secretary under paragraph (1); and

''(ii) ensures that member voting provides a balance among disparate stakeholders, so that no member organization described in subparagraph (B) unduly influences the outcome.

''(F) With respect to matters related to the arrangement with the Secretary under paragraph (1), the entity conducts its business in an open and transparent manner and provides the opportunity for public comment.

''(G) The entity operates as a voluntary consensus standards setting organization as defined for purposes of section 12(d) of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (Public Law 10409113) and Office of Management and Budget Revised Circular A09119 (published in the Federal Register on February 10, 1998).

''(f) USE OF QUALITY MEASUREMENT SYSTEM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of activities conducted or supported by the Secretary under this Act, the Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, adopt and utilize the measurement system developed under this section.

''(2) COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENTS.—With respect to activities conducted or supported by the Secretary under this Act, the Secretary may establish collaborative agreements with private entities, including group health plans and health insurance issuers, providers, purchasers, consumer organizations, and entities receiving a grant under section 2908, to—

''(A) encourage the use of the health care quality measures adopted by the Secretary under this section; and

''(B) foster uniformity between the health care quality measures utilized by private entities.

''(g) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—Beginning on January 1, 2008, in order to make comparative quality information available to health care consumers, health professionals, public health officials, researchers, and other appropriate individuals and entities, the Secretary shall provide for the aggregation and analysis of quality measures collected under section 2905 and the dissemination of recommendations and best practices derived in part from such analysis.

''(h) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall provide technical assistance to public and private entities to enable such entities to—

''(1) implement and use evidence-based guidelines with the greatest potential to improve health care quality, efficiency, and patient safety; and

''(2) establish mechanisms for the rapid dissemination of information regarding evidence-based guidelines with the greatest potential to improve health care quality, efficiency, and patient safety.

"SEC. 2909. APPLICABILITY OF PRIVACY AND SECURITY REGULATIONS.

''The regulations promulgated by the Secretary under part C of title XI of the Social Security Act and sections 261, 262, 263, and 264 of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 with respect to the privacy, confidentiality, and security of health information shall—

''(1) apply to any health information stored or transmitted in an electronic format on or after the date of enactment of this title; and

''(2) apply to the implementation of standards, programs, and activities under this title.

"SEC. 2910. STUDY OF REIMBURSEMENT INCENTIVES.

''The Secretary shall carry out, or contract with a private entity to carry out, a study that examines methods to create efficient reimbursement incentives for improving health care quality in Federally qualified health centers, rural health clinics, and free clinics.''.

SEC. 3. HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESOURCE CENTER.

Section 914 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 299b-3) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) CENTER FOR BEST PRACTICES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Director, shall develop a Center for Best Practices to provide technical assistance and develop best practices to support and accelerate efforts to adopt, implement, and effectively use interoperable health information technology in compliance with section 2903 and 2908.

''(2) CENTER FOR BEST PRACTICES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Center shall support activities to meet goals, including—

''(i) providing for the widespread adoption of interoperable health information technology;

''(ii) providing for the establishment of regional and local health information networks to facilitate the development of interoperability across health care settings and improve the quality of health care;

''(iii) the development of solutions to barriers to the exchange of electronic health information; or

''(iv) other activities identified by the States, local or regional health information networks, or health care stakeholders as a focus for developing and sharing best practices.

''(B) PURPOSES.—The purpose of the Center is to—

''(i) provide a forum for the exchange of knowledge and experience;

''(ii) accelerate the transfer of lessons learned from existing public and private sector initiatives, including those currently receiving Federal financial support;

''(iii) assemble, analyze, and widely disseminate evidence and experience related to the adoption, implementation, and effective use of interoperable health information technology; and

''(iv) assure the timely provision of technical and expert assistance from the Agency and its contractors.

''(C) SUPPORT FOR ACTIVITIES.—To provide support for the activities of the Center, the Director shall modify the requirements, if necessary, that apply to the National Resource Center for Health Information Technology to provide the necessary infrastructure to support the duties and activities of the Center and facilitate information exchange across the public and private sectors.

''(3) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TELEPHONE NUMBER OR WEBSITE.—The Secretary shall establish a toll-free telephone number or Internet website to provide health care providers and patients with a single point of contact to—

''(A) learn about Federal grants and technical assistance services related to interoperable health information technology;

''(B) learn about qualified health information technology and the quality measurement system adopted by the Federal Government under sections 2903 and 2908;

''(C) learn about regional and local health information networks for assistance with health information technology; and

''(D) disseminate additional information determined by the Secretary.

''(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection, such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2006 through 2010.''.

SEC. 4. REAUTHORIZATION OF INCENTIVE GRANTS REGARDING TELEMEDICINE.

Section 330L(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c-18(b)) is amended by striking ''2002 through 2006'' and inserting ''2006 through 2010''

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 198—COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1980 WORKER'S STRIKE IN POLAND AND THE BIRTH OF THE SOLIDARITY TRADE UNION, THE FIRST FREE AND INDEPENDENT TRADE UNION ESTABLISHED IN THE SOVIET-DOMINATED COUNTRIES OF EUROPE

Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. DODD, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. TALENT, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. COBURN, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. OBAMA, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. NELSON of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 198

Whereas, on May 9, 1945, Europe declared victory over the oppression of the Nazi regime;

Whereas, Poland and other countries in Central, Eastern, and Southern Europe soon fell under the oppressive control of the Soviet Union;

Whereas for decades the people of Poland struggled heroically for freedom and democracy against that oppression;

Whereas, in June 1979, Pope John Paul II, the former Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, returned to Poland, his homeland, and exhorted his countrymen to ''be not afraid'' of the Communist regime;

Whereas, in 1980, the Solidarity Trade Union (known in Poland as ''NSZZ Solidarnosc'') was formed in Poland under the leadership of Lech Walesa and during the 1980s the actions of its leadership and members sparked a great social movement committed to promoting fundamental human rights, democracy, and the independence of Poland from the Soviet Union (known as the ''Solidarity Movement'');

Whereas, in July and August of 1980, workers in Poland in the shipyards of Gdansk and Szczecin, led by Lech Walesa and other leaders of the Solidarity Trade Union, went on strike to demand greater political freedom;

Whereas that strike was carried out in a peaceful and orderly manner;

Whereas, in August 1980, the Communist Government of Poland yielded to the 21 demands of the striking workers, including the release of all political prisoners, the broadcasting of religious services on television and radio, and the right to establish independent trade unions;

Whereas the Communist Government of Poland introduced martial law in December 1981 in an attempt to block the growing influence of the Solidarity Movement;

Whereas the support of the Polish-American community was essential and crucial for the Solidarity Movement to survive and remain active during that difficult time;

Whereas the people of the United States were greatly supportive of the efforts of the people of Poland to rid themselves of an oppressive government and people in the United States lit candles in their homes on Christmas Eve 1981, to show their solidarity with the people of Poland who were suffering under martial law;

Whereas Lech Walesa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1983 for continuing his struggle for freedom in Poland;

Whereas the Solidarity Movement persisted underground during the period when martial law was imposed in Poland and emerged in April 1989 as a powerful national movement;

Whereas, in February 1989, the Communist Government of Poland agreed to conduct roundtable talks with leaders of the Solidarity Movement;

Whereas such talks led to the holding of elections for the National Assembly of Poland in June 1989 in which nearly all open seats were won by candidates supported by the Solidarity Movement, and led to the election of Poland's first Prime Minister during the post-war era who was not a member of the Communist party, Mr. Tadeusz Mazowiecki;

Whereas, the Solidarity Movement ended communism in Poland without bloodshed and inspired Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and other nations to do the same, and the activities of its leaders and members were part of the historic series of events that led to the fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989;

Whereas, on November 15, 1989, Lech Walesa's historic speech before a joint session of Congress, beginning with the words ''We the people'', stirred a standing ovation from the Members of Congress;

Whereas, on December 9, 1989, Lech Walesa was elected President of Poland; and

Whereas there is a bond of friendship between the United States and Poland, which is a close and invaluable United States ally, a contributing partner in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), a reliable partner in the war on terrorism, and a key contributor to international efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan: Now, therefore, let it be

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) declares August 31, 2005, to be Solidarity Day in the United States to recognize the 25th anniversary of the establishment in Poland of the Solidarity Trade Union (known in Poland as the ''NSZZ Solidarnosc''), the first free and independent trade union established in the Soviet-dominated countries of Europe;

(2) honors the people of Poland who risked their lives to restore liberty in Poland and to return Poland to the democratic community of nations; and

(3) calls on the people of the United States to remember the struggle and sacrifice of the people of Poland and that the results of that struggle contributed to the fall of communism and the ultimate end of the Cold War.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the birth of one of the greatest democracy movements in the 20th century: the Polish Solidarity movement. I am proud to join my friend Senator VOINOVICH in submitting a sense of the Senate honoring the people of Poland on this special anniversary.

On August 31 of this year, Poland will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the 1980 shipyard strikes in Gdansk and the creation of the Solidarity Trade Union, the first independent union established behind the Iron Curtain.

This date has a special meaning for me, and for the thousands of Polish Americans, who danced in the streets when Solidarity won freedom for Poland after decades of war and oppression. The history of Poland has, at times, been a melancholy one. Every king, kaiser, czar or comrade who ever wanted to have a war in Europe always started by invading Poland. But we know that while Poland was occupied, the heart and soul of the Polish nation has never been occupied. Poland has always strived to be part of the West in terms of its values and its orientation.

So in 1980, when an obscure electrician named Lech Walesa, working in the Gdansk shipyard, jumped over a wall proclaiming the Solidarity movement, he took the Polish people and the whole world with him, to bring down the Iron Curtain.

At first, we had reason to hope. The fledgling Solidarity movement won a major victory in August 1980, forcing Poland's communist government to accept a list of demands from the striking workers. The government released political prisoners, promised to permit the broadcast of religious services, and agreed to permit the activities of independent trade unions.

But just before Christmas 1980, our hopes were dashed that Poland would soon be free. The Soviets were worried

that Solidarity's growing popularity threatened their tight grip on the people of eastern Europe. Under pressure from Moscow, Poland's communist government declared martial law. Thousands of Solidarity leaders were arrested and imprisoned, including Lech Walesa. The borders were sealed, airports were closed and a curfew was imposed.

Through the dark days of martial law, Polish Americans stood by our cousins abroad, working to support the Solidarity movement. We found ourselves troubled and fearful for our friends and relatives in Poland, but we never doubted that Poland would one day regain its freedom. Polish peoples everywhere, whether we live here, as fully American citizens, or in Poland, know that the heart and soul of Poland lie with democracy and lie with freedom.

Even though the Solidarity movement was driven underground, it continued to grow. Under Lech Walesa's leadership, and with the support of Poland's native son, Pope John Paul II, Solidarity grew from a trade union into a national movement demanding freedom and independence for Poland.

In 1989, Solidarity won the right for the Polish people to hold elections for the National Assembly. They elected a majority in the Assembly supported by Solidarity and Poland's first non-communist Prime Minister in the post-war era.

Poland's peaceful march to freedom offered a beacon of hope to all those in Europe suffering under communist rule. And in December 1989, just weeks after the fall of the Berlin Wall, Lech Walesa was elected President of Poland.

Today, the United States and Poland are close partners and good friends. As Polish troops fight side-by-side with American troops in Afghanistan and Iraq, I hope our colleagues will join us in celebrating the birth of the Solidarity movement and honoring the people of Poland, whose heroic and peaceful resistance hastened the end of the Soviet Union and the emergence of one Europe, whole and free.

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I rise to speak on behalf of a resolution to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Polish worker's strike of 1980, an important day in history for Poland, Eastern Europe and for democracy world-wide.

In 1980, while Poland was still very much under the control of the former Soviet Union, Lech Walesa formed the Solidarity Trade Union. In July and August of that year, he and other members of the Solidarity Trade Union led a worker's strike to demand greater political freedom in Poland.

That August, the Communist government in Poland yielded to the demands of the workers. In doing so, Lech Walesa and the Solidarity Trade Union won the release of all political prisoners held by the Polish government, forced that government to broadcast religious services on television and the radio, and won the right to establish other trade unions.

By late 1981, the Communist government, in an attempt to regain absolute control, instituted martial law in order to drive Lech Walesa and the Solidarity Trade Union underground. However, the seeds of freedom had already begun to grow in Poland, and throughout Eastern Europe.

On December 9, 1989, Lech Walesa was democratically elected President of Poland, signaling an end to Communist rule in Poland. Two years later, that failed ideology was dead in the Soviet Union itself.

As a strong supporter of NATO expansion, I was proud to welcome Poland and two other former Warsaw Pact members into NATO in May of 1999. I have long said that NATO expansion is the best way to guarantee that freedom and democracy continue to thrive in Eastern Europe, Southeastern Europe, and the Baltic states. The acceptance of Poland into the alliance, as well as the acceptance of eight other former Eastern Bloc nations, may not have been possible were it not for the Polish worker's strike of 1980.

Now, twenty-five years after the historic strike, Poland has become a staunch ally of the United States. Poland's contributions to the war on terror have been tremendous.

Today, we honor Lech Walesa and the people of Poland who risked their lives to restore liberty in Poland and to return Poland to the democratic community of nations.

SENATE RESOLUTION 199—TO AUTHORIZE THE PRODUCTION OF RECORDS BY THE PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. REID) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 199

Whereas, the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs has been conducting an investigation into the United Nations ''Oil-for-Food'' Programme;

Whereas, the Subcommittee has received a number of requests from law enforcement officials, regulatory agencies, and other governmental entities for access to records of the Subcommittee's investigation;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate can, by administrative or judicial process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate;

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate is needed for the promotion of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, acting jointly, are authorized to provide to law enforcement officials, regulatory agencies, and other entities or individuals duly authorized by federal, state, or foreign governments, records of the Subcommittee's investigation into the United Nations ''Oil-for-Food'' Programme.

SENATE RESOLUTION 200—HONORING THE LIFE OF NOBEL LAUREATE JACK ST. CLAIR KILBY, INVENTOR OF THE INTEGRATED CIRCUIT AND INNOVATIVE LEADER IN THE INFORMATION AGE

Mr. CORNYN submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 200

Whereas in July 1958, Mr. Kilby, as a young engineer, resolved a long-standing engineering problem, known as the ''tyranny of numbers'', which prevented engineers from simply and reliably interconnecting electronic components to form circuits by developing the first working integrated circuit;

Whereas on September 12, 1958, Mr. Kilby demonstrated the first working integrated circuit for his colleagues at Texas Instruments, Inc. in Dallas, Texas;

Whereas the resulting integrated circuit contributed to national defense by facilitating the development of the Minuteman Missile and other programs;

Whereas the integrated circuit was central to creating the modern computer and communications industries;

Whereas the creation of the integrated circuit has benefitted the people of Texas by spurring the economy of the State with strong semiconductor and communications sectors and has enabled the integrated circuit industry to enjoy phenomenal growth from $29,000,000,000 annually in 1961 to nearly $1,150,000,000,000 in 2005;

Whereas on October 10, 2000, 42 years after demonstrating the first integrated circuit, Mr. Kilby shared the 2000 Nobel Prize in Physics for his part in the invention of the integrated circuit;

Whereas the integrated circuit, known today as the microchip, was the first chip of its kind, drove the technological growth of the Information Age, permitted both the rapid evolution and the miniaturization of technological products, and provided a foundation for important advances in science and medicine that are saving and enriching lives around the world;

Whereas Mr. Kilby further advanced technological progress by inventing more than 60 additional patented items, including the hand-held calculator and the thermal printer;

Whereas Mr. Kilby retired from Texas Instruments, Inc. after 25 years of dedicated service but maintained his presence at the company as a source of inspiration to generations of young engineers until his death on June 20, 2005;

Whereas Mr. Kilby committed himself to education, serving as a Distinguished Professor of Electrical Engineering at Texas A&M University from 1978 to 1984, sharing with students the breadth of his knowledge and expertise;

Whereas Mr. Kilby is 1 of only 13 individuals to receive both the National Medal of Science and National Medal of Technology, the most prestigious awards of the Federal Government for technical achievement;

Whereas the National Academy of Engineering, an independent nonprofit institution that advises the Federal Government on

engineering and technology issues, awarded Mr. Kilby the 1989 Charles Stark Draper Prize, 1 of the preeminent awards for engineering achievement in the world;

Whereas the Inamori Foundation, a charitable institution in Japan dedicated to promoting international understanding by honoring individuals who have contributed to scientific progress, culture, and human betterment, bestowed upon Mr. Kilby the 1993 Kyoto Prize in Advanced Technology to recognize his contributions to humanity and society;

Whereas Mr. Kilby inspired the creation of the awards named after him, the Kilby International Awards, which honor unsung heroes and heroines who make significant contributions to society through science, technology, innovation, invention, and education;

Whereas Mr. Kilby was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame, established in 1973 by the Patent and Trademark Office of the Department of Commerce and the National Council of Intellectual Property Associations, alongside other great inventors in United States history;

Whereas Mr. Kilby, a member of the ''Greatest Generation'', served the United States in World War II as a member of the United States Army;

Whereas Mr. Kilby will be remembered not only as a great technological innovator, but also as a loving husband, dedicated father, and devoted grandfather; and

Whereas Mr. Kilby's invention of the integrated circuit revolutionized nearly all aspects of modern life, has made technology more affordable and more accessible to the world, and will continue to exert tremendous influence on the development of technology in the 21st century: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of Nobel Laureate Jack St. Clair Kilby;

(2) commends Mr. Kilby for his pioneering work in the fields of engineering and electronics, which laid the foundation for the technological advances of the 20th and 21st centuries; and

(3) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit 1 enrolled copy of this resolution to Mr. Kilby's family.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1228. Mr. FRIST (for Mr. CONRAD) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 26, honoring and memorializing the passengers and crew of United Airlines Flight 93.

SA 1229. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. MARTINEZ (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. BROWNBACK)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes

SA 1230. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. LEAHY) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3057, supra.

SA 1231. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill H.R 3057, supra.

SA 1232. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. LEAHY) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3057, supra.

SA 1233. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. LEAHY) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3057, supra.

SA 1234. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. LEAHY) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3057, supra.

SA 1235. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. LEAHY) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3057, supra.

SA 1236. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3057, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1237. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3057, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1238. Mr. ALLEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1239. Mr. HARKIN proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3057, supra.

SA 1240. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1241. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1242. Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mrs. BOXER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1243. Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. SANTORUM, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BUNNING, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1244. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1245. Ms. LANDRIEU proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3057, supra.

SA 1246. Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1247. Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1248. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself Mr. BROWNBACK, and Mr. KENNEDY)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3057, supra.

SA 1249. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. LEAHY) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3057, supra.

SA 1250. Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. COLEMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, supra.

SA 1251. Mr. BIDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1252. Mr. BIDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1253. Mr. FEINGOLD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1254. Mr. FEINGOLD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1255. Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1256. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1257. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3057, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1258. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3057, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1259. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1260. Mr. SANTORUM (for himself and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1261. Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Mr. CHAFEE, and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3057, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1262. Mr. SALAZAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1263. Mr. SALAZAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1264. Mr. OBAMA (for himself and Mr. HAGEL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1265. Mr. MARTINEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1266. Mr. MARTINEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1267. Mr. MARTINEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1268. Mr. BROWNBACK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1269. Mr. NELSON, of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1228. Mr. FRIST (for Mr. CONRAD) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 26, honoring and memorializing the passengers and crew of United Airlines Flight 93; as follows:

On page 3, line 2, strike ''and the minority leader of the Senate'' and insert ''the minority leader of the Senate, the Chairman and the Ranking Member of the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, and the Chairman and the Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives''.

SA 1229. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. MARTINEZ (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. BROWNBACK) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 326, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following new section:

UNITED STATES ADVISORY COMMISSION ON PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

SEC. 6113. Section 1334 of the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6553) is amended by striking ''October 1, 2005'' and inserting ''October 1, 2006''.

SA 1230. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. LEAHY) proposed an amendment to the

bill H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 309, line 24, after ''Fund'', insert the following: in chapter 2 of title II of P.L. 108–106

SA 1231. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 210, on line 23, after the words ''or its agents'' insert the following: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this section, the prohibition shall not include activities of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation in Libya

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SA 1232. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. LEAHY) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 295, line 23, strike ''local'' and insert in lieu thereof: foreign nongovernmental

On page 296, line 2, strike ''local'' and insert in lieu thereof: foreign nongovernmental

On page 311, line 9, strike ''local'' and insert in lieu thereof: foreign

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SA 1233. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. LEAHY) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 191, line 24, after ''Appropriations'' insert: and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives

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SA 1234. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. LEAHY) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 172, line 7, strike ''defenders'' and insert in lieu thereof: lawyers and journalists

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SA 1235. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. LEAHY) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 176, line 2, after the colon insert: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, not less than $5,000,000 should be made available for humanitarian, conflict mitigation, relief and recovery assistance for Chechnya, Ingushetia, and elsewhere in the North Caucasus:

SA 1236. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 326, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

ORPHANS, AND DISPLACED AND ABANDONED CHILDREN

SEC. 6113. (a) Congress—

(1) reaffirms its commitment to the founding principle of the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-Operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, that a child, for the full and harmonious development of the child's personality, should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love, and understanding;

(2) recognizes that each State should take, as a matter of priority, every appropriate measure to enable a child to remain in the care of the child's family of origin, but when not possible should strive to place the child in a permanent and loving home through adoption;

(3) affirms that intercountry adoption may offer the advantage of a permanent family to a child for whom a family cannot be found in the child's State of origin;

(4) affirms that long-term foster care or institutionalization are not permanent options and should therefore only be used when no other permanent options are available; and

(5) recognizes that programs that protect and support families can reduce the abandonment and exploitation of children.

(b) The funds appropriated under title III of this Act shall be made available in a manner consistent with the principles described in subsection (a).

SA 1237. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 156, line 14, strike ''activities:'' and insert the following: ''activities: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, not to exceed $1,000,000 shall be made available for security measures designed to protect against the abduction of children in Uganda by the Lords Resistance Army: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, not to exceed $1,000,000 shall be made available for programs to reintegrate war affected youth in Northern Uganda:''.

SA 1238. Mr. ALLEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

COMBATTING PIRACY OF UNITED STATES COPYRIGHTED MATERIALS

SEC. ____. (a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of State may carry out a program of activities to combat piracy in countries that are not members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), including activities as follows:

(1) The provision of equipment and training for law enforcement, including in the interpretation of intellectual property laws.

(2) The provision of training for judges and prosecutors, including in the interpretation of intellectual property laws.

(3) The provision of assistance in complying with obligations under applicable international treaties and agreements on copyright and intellectual property.

(b) DISCHARGE THROUGH BUREAU OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS.—The Secretary shall carry out the program authorized by subsection (a) through the Bureau of Economic Affairs of the Department.

(c) CONSULTATION WITH WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION.—In carrying out the program authorized by subsection (a), the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, consult with and provide assistance to the World Intellectual Property Organization in order to promote the integration of countries described in subsection (a) into the global intellectual property system.

(d) FUNDING.—Of the amount appropriated or otherwise made available by title I under the heading ''EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS'', $5,000,000 may be available in fiscal year 2006 for the program authorized by subsection (a).

SA 1239. Mr. HARKIN proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 326, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

ABUSIVE CHILD LABOR PRACTICES IN COCOA INDUSTRY

SEC. 6113. (a) Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The plight of hundreds of thousands of child slaves toiling in cocoa plantations in West Africa was reported in a series by Knight Ridder newspapers in June 2001. (global)

(2) The report found that some of these children are sold or tricked into slavery. Most of them are between the ages of 12 and 16 and some are as young as 9 years old.

(3) There are 1,500,000 farms in West Africa that produce approximately 72 percent of the total global supply of cocoa, with Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana producing about 62 percent and 22 percent, respectively, of the total cocoa production in Africa. Other key producers are Indonesia, Nigeria, Cameroon, and Brazil.

(4) United States consumers purchase over $13,000,000,000 in chocolate products annually.

(5) On September 19, 2001, representatives of the chocolate industry signed a voluntary Protocol for the Growing and Processing of Cocoa Beans and their Derivative Products in a Manner that Complies with ILO Convention 182 Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor.

(6) The Protocol outlines 6 steps the industry formally agreed to undertake to end abusive and forced child labor on cocoa farms by July 2005.

(7) A vital step of the Protocol was the development and implementation by the industry of a credible, transparent, and publicly accountable industry-wide certification system to ensure, by July 1, 2005, that cocoa beans and their derivative products have not been grown or processed by abusive child labor or slave labor.

(8) Since the Protocol was signed, some positive steps have been taken to address the worst forms of child labor and slave labor in cocoa growing, but the July 1, 2005, deadline for creation and implementation of the certification system was not fully met.

(b) It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the cocoa industry is to be commended, as the Protocol agreement is the first time that an industry has accepted moral, social, and financial responsibility for the production of raw materials, wherever they are produced;

(2) the Government of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire and the Government of the Republic of Ghana should be commended for the tangible steps they have taken to address the situation of child labor in the cocoa sector;

(3) even though the cocoa industry did not fully meet the July 1, 2005, deadline for creation and implementation of the labor certification system, it has agreed to redouble its efforts to achieve a certification system that will cover 50 percent of the cocoa growing regions of Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana by July 1, 2008;

(4) the cocoa industry should make every effort to meet this deadline in Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana and expand the certification process to other West African nations and any other country where abusive child labor and slave labor are used in the growing and processing of cocoa;

(5) an independent oversight body should be designated and supported to work with the chocolate industry, national governments, and nongovernmental organizations on the progress of the development and implementation of the certification system by July 1, 2008, through a series of public reports;

(6) the governments of West African nations that grow and manufacture cocoa should consider child labor and forced labor issues of top priorities;

(7) the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons of the Department of State should include information on the association between trafficking in persons and the cocoa industries of Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, and other cocoa producing regions in the annual report on trafficking in persons that is submitted to Congress; and

(8) the Department of State should assist the Government of Cote d'Ivoire and the Government of Ghana in preventing the trafficking of persons into the cocoa fields and other industries in West Africa.

SA 1240. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 141, line 15, strike ''$1,166,212,000'' and insert ''$1,156,212,000''.

On page 181, line 8, strike ''$2,020,000,000'' and insert ''$2,030,000,000''.

SA 1241. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 206, strike lines 6 through 10, and insert the following:

LIMITATION ON EXPENSES

SEC. 6004. None of the funds appropriated or made available pursuant to this Act may be used for entertainment expenses of the United States Agency for International Development.

SA 1242. Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mrs. BOXER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 326, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

SEC. 6113. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, none of the funds appropriated or made available pursuant to this Act may be used by the Export-Import Bank of the United States to approve an application for a long-term loan or a loan guarantee related to a nuclear project in the People's Republic of China.

SA 1243. Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. SANTORUM, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BUNNING, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 326, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

THE UNITED STATES-CHINA ECONOMIC AND SECURITY REVIEW COMMISSION.

SEC. 6113. (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The 2004 Report to Congress of the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission states that—

(A) China's State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) lack adequate disclosure standards, which creates the potential for United States investors to unwittingly contribute to enterprises that are involved in activities harmful to United States security interests;

(B) United States influence and vital long-term interests in Asia are being challenged by China's robust regional economic engagement and diplomacy;

(C) the assistance of China and North Korea to global ballistic missile proliferation is extensive and ongoing;

(D) China's transfers of technology and components for weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their delivery systems to countries of concern, including countries that support acts of international terrorism, has helped create a new tier of countries with the capability to produce WMD and ballistic missiles;

(E) the removal of the European Union arms embargo against China that is currently under consideration in the European Union would accelerate weapons modernization and dramatically enhance Chinese military capabilities;

(F) China's recent actions toward Taiwan call into question China's commitments to a peaceful resolution;

(G) China is developing a leading-edge military with the objective of intimidating Taiwan and deterring United States involvement in the Strait, and China's qualitative and quantitative military advancements have already resulted in a dramatic shift in the cross-Strait military balance toward China; and

(H) China's growing energy needs are driving China into bilateral arrangements that undermine multilateral efforts to stabilize oil supplies and prices, and in some cases may involve dangerous weapons transfers.

(2) On March 14, 2005, the National People's Congress approved a law that would authorize the use of force if Taiwan formally declares independence.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—

(1) PLAN.—The President is strongly urged to take immediate steps to establish a plan to implement the recommendations contained in the 2004 Report to Congress of the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission in order to correct the negative implications that a number of current trends in United States-China relations have for United States long-term economic and national security interests.

(2) CONTENTS.—Such a plan should contain the following:

(A) Actions to address China's policy of undervaluing its currency, including—

(i) encouraging China to provide for a substantial upward revaluation of the Chinese yuan against the United States dollar;

(ii) allowing the yuan to float against a trade-weighted basket of currencies; and

(iii) concurrently encouraging United States trading partners with similar interests to join in these efforts.

(B) Actions to make better use of the World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute settlement mechanism and applicable United States trade laws to redress China's unfair trade practices, including China's exchange rate manipulation, denial of trading and distribution rights, lack of intellectual property rights protection, objectionable labor standards, subsidization of exports, and forced technology transfers as a condition of doing business. The United States Trade Representative should consult with our trading partners regarding any trade dispute with China.

(C) Actions to encourage United States diplomatic efforts to identify and pursue initiatives to revitalize United States engagement with China's Asian neighbors. The initiatives should have a regional focus and complement bilateral efforts. The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum (APEC) offers a ready mechanism for pursuit of such initiatives.

(D) Actions by the administration to hold China accountable for proliferation of prohibited technologies and to secure China's agreement to renew efforts to curtail North Korea's commercial export of ballistic missiles.

(E) Actions to encourage the creation of a new United Nations framework for monitoring the proliferation of WMD and their delivery systems in conformance with member nations' obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Biological Weapons Convention, and the Chemical Weapons Convention. The new monitoring body should be delegated authority to apply sanctions to countries violating these treaties in a timely manner, or, alternatively, should be required to report all violations in a timely manner to the Security Council for discussion and sanctions.

(F) Actions by the administration to conduct a fresh assessment of the ''One China'' policy, given the changing realities in China and Taiwan. This should include a review of—

(i) the policy's successes, failures, and continued viability;

(ii) whether changes may be needed in the way the United States Government coordinates its defense assistance to Taiwan, including the need for an enhanced operating relationship between United States and Taiwan defense officials and the establishment of a United States-Taiwan hotline for dealing with crisis situations;

(iii) how United States policy can better support Taiwan's breaking out of the international economic isolation that China seeks to impose on it and whether this issue

should be higher on the agenda in United States-China relations; and

(iv) economic and trade policy measures that could help ameliorate Taiwan's marginalization in the Asian regional economy, including policy measures such as enhanced United States-Taiwan bilateral trade arrangements that would include protections for labor rights, the environment, and other important United States interests.

(G) Actions by the Secretaries of State and Energy to consult with the International Energy Agency with the objective of upgrading the current loose experience-sharing arrangement, whereby China engages in some limited exchanges with the organization, to a more structured arrangement whereby China would be obligated to develop a meaningful strategic oil reserve, and coordinate release of stocks in supply-disruption crises or speculator-driven price spikes.

(H) Actions by the administration to develop and publish a coordinated, comprehensive national policy and strategy designed to meet China's challenge to maintaining United States scientific and technological leadership and competitiveness in the same way the administration is presently required to develop and publish a national security strategy.

(I) Actions to revise the law governing the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), including expanding the definition of national security to include the potential impact on national economic security as a criterion to be reviewed, and transferring the chairmanship of CFIUS from the Secretary of the Treasury to a more appropriate executive branch agency.

(J) Actions by the President and the Secretaries of State and Defense to press strongly their European Union counterparts to maintain the EU arms embargo on China.

(K) Actions by the administration to restrict foreign defense contractors, who sell sensitive military use technology or weapons systems to China, from participating in United States defense-related cooperative research, development, and production programs. Actions by the administration may be targeted to cover only those technology areas involved in the transfer of military use technology or weapons systems to China. The administration should provide a comprehensive annual report to the appropriate committees of Congress on the nature and scope of foreign military sales to China, particularly sales by Russia and Israel.

(L) Any additional actions outlined in the 2004 Report to Congress of the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission that affect the economic or national security of the United States.

SA 1244. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 326, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

ECONOMIC AND ENERGY SECURITY

SEC. 6113. Section 721 of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. App. 2170) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively;

(B) by striking ''The President'' and inserting ''(1) IN GENERAL.—The President'';

(C) by inserting '', including national economic and energy security,'' after ''national security'';

(D) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(2) NOTICE AND WAIT REQUIREMENT.—

''(A) NOTIFICATION OF APPROVAL.—The President shall notify the appropriate congressional committees of each approval of any proposed merger, acquisition, or takeover that is investigated under paragraph (1).

''(B) JOINT RESOLUTION OBJECTING TO TRANSACTION.—

''(i) DELAY PENDING CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION.—A transaction described in subparagraph (A) may not be consummated until 10 legislative days after the President provides the notice required under such subparagraph. If a joint resolution objecting to the proposed transaction is introduced in either House of Congress by the chairman of one of the appropriate congressional committees during such period, the transaction may not be consummated until 30 legislative days after such resolution.

''(ii) DISAPPROVAL UPON PASSAGE OF RESOLUTION.—If a joint resolution introduced under clause (i) is agreed to by both Houses of Congress, the transaction may not be consummated.'';

(E) in paragraph (1)(B) (as so designated by this paragraph), by striking ''shall'';

(2) in subsection (d), by striking ''subsection (d)'' and inserting ''subsection (e)'';

(3) in subsection (e), by striking ''subsection (c)'' and inserting ''subsection (d)'';

(4) in subsection (f)(3), by inserting '', including national economic and energy security,'' after ''national security'';

(5) in subsection (g)—

(A) by striking ''REPORT TO THE CONGRESS'' in the heading and inserting ''REPORTS TO CONGRESS'';

(B) by striking ''The President'' and inserting the following: ''(1) REPORTS ON DETERMINATIONS.—The President'';

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(2) REPORTS ON CONSIDERED TRANSACTIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The President or the President's designee shall transmit to the appropriate congressional committees on a monthly basis a report containing a detailed summary and analysis of each transaction the consideration of which was completed by the Committee on Foreign Acquisitions Affecting National Security since the most recent report.

''(B) CONTENT.—Each report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include—

''(i) a description of all of the elements of each transaction; and

''(ii) a description of the standards and criteria used by the Committee to assess the impact of each transaction on national security.

''(C) FORM.—The reports submitted under subparagraph (A) shall be submitted in both classified and unclassified form, and company proprietary information shall be appropriately protected.''; and

(D) by striking ''of this Act'';

(6) in subsection (k)—

(A) by striking ''QUADRENNIAL'' in the heading and inserting ''ANNUAL''; and

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''upon the expiration of every 4 years'' and inserting ''annually'';

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(C) evaluates the cumulative effect on national security of foreign investment in the United States.''; and

(7) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

''(l) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'appropriate congressional committees' means—

''(1) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee on Armed Services, the Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

''(2) the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on Armed Services, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

''(m) DESIGNEE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the designee of the President for purposes of this section shall be known as the 'Committee on Foreign Acquisitions Affecting National Security', and such committee shall be chaired by the Secretary of Defense.''.

SA 1245. Ms. LANDRIEU proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 326, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

ORPHANS, AND DISPLACED AND ABANDONED CHILDREN

SEC. 6113. (a) Congress—

(1) reaffirms its commitment to the founding principle of the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-Operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, that a child, for the full and harmonious development of the child's personality, should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love, and understanding;

(2) recognizes that each State should take, as a matter of priority, every appropriate measure to enable a child to remain in the care of the child's family of origin, but when not possible should strive to place the child in a permanent and loving home through adoption;

(3) affirms that intercountry adoption may offer the advantage of a permanent family to a child for whom a family cannot be found in the child's State of origin;

(4) affirms that long-term foster care or institutionalization are not permanent options and should therefore only be used when no other permanent options are available; and

(5) recognizes that programs that protect and support families can reduce the abandonment and exploitation of children.

(b) The funds appropriated under title III of this Act shall be made available in a manner consistent with the principles described in subsection (a).

SA 1246. Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 326 between lines 10 and 11 insert the following:

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

SEC. 6113. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by the Export-Import Bank of the United States to approve or administer a loan or guarantee, or an application for a loan or guarantee, for a facility which would add value to a commodity and make that commodity competitive with a like commodity produced in the United States.

SA 1247. Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 326 between lines 10 and 11 insert the following:

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

SEC. 6113. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by the Export-Import Bank of the United States to extend credit or financial guarantees for the development, or for the increase in capacity, of an ethanol dehydration plant in Trinidad and Tobago.

SA 1248. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. BROWNBACK, and Mr. KENNEDY)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 189, line 14, strike the period at the end and insert '': *Provided further*, That funds appropriated under this heading should be made available to develop effective responses to protracted refugee situations, including the development of programs to assist long-term refugee populations within and outside traditional camp settings that support refugees living or working in local communities such as integration of refugees into local schools and services, resource conservation projects and other projects designed to diminish conflict between refugee hosting communities and refugees, and encouraging dialogue among refugee hosting communities, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and international and nongovernmental refugee assistance organizations to promote the rights to which refugees are entitled under the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees of July 28, 1951 and the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, done at New York January 31, 1967.''.

SA 1249. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. LEAHY) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 303, line 17, strike ''a commitment to a clear timetable for the return to democratic representative'' and insert in lieu thereof:

, through dialogue with Nepal's political parties, a commitment to a clear timetable for the return to multi-party, democratic

On page 303, line 21, strike ''Royal'' and everything thereafter through ''process'' on line 25 and insert in lieu thereof:

Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority is receiving adequate support to effectively implement its anti-corruption mandate and that no other anti-corruption body is functioning in violation of the 1990 Nepalese Constitution or international standards of due process

On page 304, line 6, strike ''ensuring'' and insert in lieu thereof: ''restoring''.

SA 1250. Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. COLEMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 326 between lines 10 and 11 insert the following:

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

SEC. 6113. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by the Export-Import Bank of the United States to approve or administer a loan or guarantee, or an application for a loan or guarantee, for the development, or for the increase in capacity, of an ethanol dehydration plant in Trinidad and Tobago.

SA 1251. Mr. BIDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 140, line 9, after ''Service,'' insert ''including assistance to United States citizens who are victims of crimes in foreign countries, including payment of emergency services (including medical and travel expenses), travel to and from judicial proceedings, the shipment of remains, and the repatriation of victims of domestic violence or child abuse,''

SA 1252. Mr. BIDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 326, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

SEC. 6113. PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE FOR INDIVIDUALS AFFECTED BY A HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY.

(a) Not less than $10,000,000 of the amount made available in title III under the heading ''Migration and Refugee Assistance'' and $5,000,000 of the amount made available in title III under the heading ''International Disaster and Famine Assistance'' should be made available to provide assistance for programs, projects, and activities—

(1) to promote the security, provide equal access to basic services, and safeguard the legal and human rights of civilians, especially women and children, who are affected by a humanitarian emergency, including programs to build the capacity of nongovernmental organizations to address the special protection needs of vulnerable populations, especially such women and children;

(2) to support local and international nongovernmental initiatives to prevent, detect, and report exploitation of children and sexual exploitation and abuse, including through the provision of training humanitarian protection monitors for refugees and internally displaced persons; and

(3) to conduct protection and security assessments for refugees and internally displaced persons in camps or in communities for the purpose of improving the design and security of camps for refugees and internally displaced persons, with special emphasis on the security of women and children.

(b) None of the funds made available for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs under the headings ''Migration and Refugee Assistance'', ''United States Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund'', ''International Disaster and Famine Assistance'', or ''Transition Initiatives'' may be obligated to an organization that fails to adopt a code of conduct that provides for the protection of beneficiaries of assistance under any such heading from sexual exploitation and abuse in humanitarian relief operations.

(c) The code of conduct referred to in subsection (b) shall, to the maximum extent practicable, be consistent with the following six core principles of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Force on Protection From Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Humanitarian Crises, as follows:

(1) Sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian workers constitute acts of gross misconduct and are therefore grounds for termination of employment.

(2) Sexual activity with children (persons under the age of 18) is prohibited regardless of the age of majority or age of consent locally. Mistaken belief regarding the age of a child is not a defense.

(3) Exchange of money, employment, goods, or services for sex, including sexual favors or other forms of humiliating, degrading or exploitative behavior, is prohibited. This includes exchange of assistance that is due to beneficiaries.

(4) Sexual relationships between humanitarian workers and beneficiaries are strongly discouraged since they are based on inherently unequal power dynamics. Such relationships undermine the credibility and integrity of humanitarian aid work.

(5) Where a humanitarian worker develops concerns or suspicions regarding sexual abuse or exploitation by a fellow worker, whether in the same agency or not, the worker must report such concerns via established agency reporting mechanisms.

(6) Humanitarian agencies are obliged to create and maintain an environment which prevents sexual exploitation and abuse and promotes the implementation of their code of conduct. Managers at all levels have particular responsibilities to support and develop systems which maintain this environment.

SA 1253. Mr. FEINGOLD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 326, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

REPORT ON ANTI-RETROVIRAL DRUG PROCUREMENT

SEC. 6113. (a) Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Coordinator of United States Government Activities to Combat HIV/AIDS Globally shall make available to the public a report setting forth the amount of United States funding provided under the authorities of the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7601 et seq.), or under an amendment made to that Act, to procure anti-retroviral drugs in a country described in section 1(f)(2)(B)(VII) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a(f)(2)(B)(VII)). The report shall include a detailed description of the anti-retroviral drugs procured, including—

(1) the amount expended for generic and for name brand anti-retroviral drugs;

(2) the price paid per unit of each such drug; and

(3) the vendor from which such drugs were purchased.

(b) Not later than January 31 of each year, the Coordinator of United States Government Activities to Combat HIV/AIDS Globally shall update the report required by subsection (a) and make such updates available to the public.

SA 1254. Mr. FEINGOLD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 326, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE ACTIVITIES IN ZIMBABWE

SEC. 6113. (a) Of the amounts made available for fiscal year 2006 to carry out chapters 1 and 10 of part II of the Foreign assistance Act of 1961 and chapter 4 of part II of such Act, not less than $6,000,000 shall be made available to support democracy and governance activities in Zimbabwe consistent with the provisions of the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act of 2001 (Public Law 107–99; 22 U.S.C. 2151 note).

(b) Assistance may be provided under this section for activities such as—

(1) capacity-building for civil society organizations in Zimbabwe to effectively provide information on the political process to citizens;

(2) defending the legal rights of minorities, women, and children in Zimbabwe;

(3) documenting the level of adherence by the Government of Zimbabwe to national and international civil and human rights standards;

(4) monitoring and reporting on the electoral process in Zimbabwe;

(5) training for political parties in Zimbabwe related to organizational capacity-building; and

(6) supporting free and independent media outlets in Zimbabwe.

SA 1255. Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 326, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

OVERSIGHT OF IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION

SEC. 6113. (a) Subsection (o) of section 3001 of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense and for the Reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan, 2004 (Public Law 108–106; 117 Stat. 1234; 5 U.S.C. App. 3 section 8G note), as amended by section 1203(j) of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (Public Law 108–375; 118 Stat. 2081), is amended by striking ''obligated'' and inserting ''expended''.

(b) Of the amount appropriated in chapter 2 of title II of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense and for the Reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan, 2004 (Public Law 108–106; 117 Stat. 1224) under the heading ''**OTHER BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE**'' and under the subheading ''**IRAQ RELIEF AND RECONSTRUCTION FUND**'', $50,000,000 of unobligated funds shall be made available to carry out section 3001 of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense and for the Reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan, 2004 (Public Law 108–106; 117 Stat. 1234), as amended by section 1203 of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (Public Law 108–375; 118 Stat. 2081).

SA 1256. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Oil and natural gas resources are strategic assets critical to national security and the Nation's economic prosperity.

(2) The National Security Strategy of the United States approved by President George W. Bush on September 17, 2002, concludes that the People's Republic of China remains strongly committed to national one-party rule by the Communist Party.

(3) On June 23, 2005, the China National Offshore Oil Corporation Limited (CNOOC), announced its intent to acquire Unocal Corporation, in the face of a competing bid for Unocal Corporation from Chevron Corporation.

(4) The People's Republic of China owns approximately 70 percent of CNOOC.

(5) A significant portion of the CNOOC acquisition is to be financed and heavily subsidized by banks owned by the People's Republic of China.

(6) Unocal Corporation is based in the United States, and has approximately 1,750,000,000 barrels of oil equivalent, with its core operating areas in Southeast Asia, Alaska, Canada, and the lower 48 States.

(7) A CNOOC acquisition of Unocal Corporation would result in the strategic assets of Unocal Corporation being preferentially allocated to China by the Chinese Government.

(8) A Chinese Government acquisition of Unocal Corporation would weaken the ability of the United States to influence the oil and gas supplies of the Nation through companies that must adhere to United States laws.

(9) As a de facto matter, the Chinese Government would not allow the United States Government or United States investors to acquire a controlling interest in a Chinese energy company.

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON SALE OF UNOCAL TO CNOOC.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the merger, acquisition, or takeover of Unocal Corporation by CNOOC is prohibited.

SA 1257. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 200, line 19, after the colon insert ''*Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, not less than $1,300,000,000 shall be available for assistance for Egypt:''.

SA 1258. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 326, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY

SEC. 6113. (a) Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, done at Washington, London, and Moscow July 1, 1968, and entered into force March 5, 1970 (in this section referred to as the ''Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty''), codifies one of the most important international security arrangements in the history of arms control, the arrangement by which states without nuclear weapons pledge not to acquire them, states with nuclear weapons commit to eventually eliminate them, and nonnuclear states are allowed to use for peaceful purposes nuclear technology under strict and verifiable control.

(2) The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty is one of the most widely supported multilateral agreements, with 188 countries adhering to the Treaty.

(3) The Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty has encouraged many countries to officially abandon nuclear weapons or nuclear weapons programs, including Argentina, Belarus, Brazil, Kazakhstan, Libya, South Africa, South Korea, Ukraine, and Taiwan.

(4) At the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference, the states-parties agreed to extend the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty indefinitely, to reaffirm the principles and objectives of the Treaty, to strengthen the Treaty review process, and to implement further specific and practical steps on non-proliferation and disarmament.

(5) At the 2000 NPT Review Conference, the states-parties agreed to further practical steps on non-proliferation and disarmament.

(6) President George W. Bush stated on March 7, 2005, that ''the NPT represents a key legal barrier to nuclear weapons proliferation and makes a critical contribution to international security,'' and that ''the United States is firmly committed to its obligations under the NPT''.

(7) The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is responsible for monitoring compliance with safeguard agreements pursuant to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and reporting safeguard violations to the United Nations Security Council.

(8) Presidents George W. Bush and Vladimir Putin stated on February 24, 2005, that ''[w]e bear a special responsibility for the security of nuclear weapons and fissile material in order to ensure that there is no possibility such weapons or materials would fall into terrorist hands''.

(9) Article IV of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty calls for the fullest possible exchange of equipment and materials for peaceful nuclear endeavors and allows states to acquire sensitive technologies to produce nuclear fuel for energy purposes but also recognizes that such fuel could be used to secretly produce fissile material for nuclear weapons programs or quickly produce such material if the state were to decide to withdraw from the Treaty.

(10) The Government of North Korea ejected international inspectors from that country in 2002, announced its withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 2003, has recently declared its possession of nuclear weapons, and is in possession of facilities capable of producing additional nuclear weapons-usable material.

(11) The Government of Iran has pursued an undeclared program to develop a uranium enrichment capacity, repeatedly failed to

fully comply with and provide full information to the IAEA regarding its nuclear activities, and stated that it will not permanently abandon its uranium enrichment program which it has temporarily suspended through an agreement with the European Union.

(12) The network of arms traffickers associated with A.Q. Khan has facilitated black-market nuclear transfers involving several countries, including Iran, Libya, and North Korea, and represents a new and dangerous form of proliferation.

(13) Governments should cooperate to control exports of and interdict illegal transfers of sensitive nuclear and missile-related technologies to prevent their proliferation.

(14) The United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change concluded that ''[a]lmost 60 States currently operate or are constructing nuclear power or research reactors, and at least 40 possess the industrial and scientific infrastructure which would enable them, if they chose, to build nuclear weapons at relatively short notice if the legal and normative constraints of the Treaty regime no longer apply,'' and warned that ''[w]e are approaching a point at which the erosion of the non-proliferation regime could become irreversible and result in a cascade of proliferation''.

(15) Stronger international support and cooperation to achieve universal compliance with tighter nuclear non-proliferation rules and standards constitute essential elements of nuclear non-proliferation efforts.

(16) Sustained leadership by the United States Government is essential to help implement existing legal and political commitments established by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and to realize a more robust and effective global nuclear non-proliferation system.

(17) The governments of the United States and other countries should pursue a comprehensive and balanced approach to strengthen the global nuclear non-proliferation system.

(b) Congress—

(1) reaffirms its support for the objectives of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and expresses its support for all appropriate measures to strengthen the Treaty and to attain its objectives; and

(2) calls on all parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty—

(A) to insist on strict compliance with the non-proliferation obligations of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and to undertake effective enforcement measures against states that are in violation of their Article I or Article II obligations under the Treaty;

(B) to agree to establish more effective controls on sensitive technologies that can be used to produce materials for nuclear weapons;

(C) to expand the ability of the International Atomic Energy Agency to inspect and monitor compliance with non-proliferation rules and standards to which all states should adhere through existing authority and the additional protocols signed by the states party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty;

(D) to demonstrate the international community's unified opposition to a nuclear weapons program in Iran by—

(i) supporting the efforts of the United States and the European Union to prevent the Government of Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapons capability; and

(ii) using all appropriate diplomatic and other means at their disposal to convince the Government of Iran to abandon its uranium enrichment program;

(E) to strongly support the ongoing United States diplomatic efforts in the context of the six-party talks that seek the verifiable and incontrovertible dismantlement of North Korea's nuclear weapons programs and to use all appropriate diplomatic and other means to achieve this result;

(F) to pursue diplomacy designed to address the underlying regional security problems in Northeast Asia, South Asia, and the Middle East, which would facilitate non-proliferation and disarmament efforts in those regions;

(G) to accelerate programs to safeguard and eliminate nuclear weapons-usable material to the highest standards to prevent access by terrorists and governments;

(H) to halt the use of highly enriched uranium in civilian reactors;

(I) to strengthen national and international export controls and relevant security measures as required by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540;

(J) to agree that no state may withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and escape responsibility for prior violations of the Treaty or retain access to controlled materials and equipment acquired for ''peaceful'' purposes;

(K) to accelerate implementation of disarmament obligations and commitments under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty for the purpose of reducing the world's stockpiles of nuclear weapons and weapons-grade fissile material; and

(L) to strengthen and expand support for the Proliferation Security Initiative.

SA 1259. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 326, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE RED CROSS

SEC. 6113. (a) ANNUAL REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of State shall, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Defense, submit to Congress the following:

(1) A report on the activities and management of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) meeting the requirements set forth in subsection (b).

(2) A report on the activities and management of the American Red Cross meeting the requirements set forth in subsection (c).

(b) ELEMENTS OF REPORTS ON ICRC.—(1) Each report under subsection (a)(1) shall include, for the one-year period ending on the date of such report, the following:

(A) A description of the contributions of the United States, and of any other country, to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

(B) A detailed description of the allocations of the funds available to the International Committee of the Red Cross to international relief activities and international humanitarian law activities as defined by the International Committee and by the Geneva Conventions.

(C) A description of how United States contributions to the International Committee of the Red Cross are allocated to the activities described in subparagraph (B).

(D) The nationality of each Assembly member, Assembly Council member, and Directorate member of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the annual salary of each.

(E) A description of any activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross to the determine the status of United States prisoners of war (POWs) or missing in action (MIAs) who remain unaccounted for.

(F) A description of the efforts of the International Committee of the Red Cross to assist United States prisoners of war.

(G) A description of any expression of concern by the Department of State, or any other department or agency of the Executive Branch, that the International Committee of the Red Cross, or any organization or employee of the International Committee, exceeded the mandate of the International Committee, violated established principles or practices of the International Committee, interpreted differently from the United States any international law or treaty to which the United States is a state-party, or engaged in advocacy work that exceeded the mandate of the International Committee under the Geneva Conventions.

(2) The first report under subsection (a)(1) shall include, in addition to the matters specified in paragraph (1) the following:

(A) The matters specified in subparagraphs (A) and (G) of paragraph (1) for the period beginning on January 1, 1990, and ending on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(B) The matters specified in subparagraph (E) of paragraph (1) for the period beginning on January 1, 1947, and ending on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(C) The matters specified in subparagraph (F) of paragraph (1) during each of the Korean conflict, the Vietnam era, and the Persian Gulf War.

(c) ELEMENTS OF REPORTS ON ARC.—Each report under subsection (a)(2) shall include, for the one-year period ending on the date of such report, the following:

(1) A description of the role, mission, and activities of the American Red Cross.

(2) A description of the contributions of the United States to the American Red Cross.

(3) A description of the relationship of the American Red Cross with the International Committee of the Red Cross.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term ''Geneva Conventions'' means—

(A) the Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field, done at Geneva August 12, 1949 (6 UST 3114);

(B) the Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded, Sick, and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea, done at Geneva August 12, 1949 (6 UST 3217);

(C) the Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, done at Geneva August 12, 1949 (6 UST 3316); and

(D) the Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, done at Geneva August 12, 1949 (6 UST 3516).

(2) The terms ''Korean conflict'', ''Vietnam era'', and ''Persian Gulf War'' have the meaning given such terms in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

SA 1260. Mr. SANTORUM (for himself and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 326, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

TRANSFER OF FUNDS

SEC. 6113. Of the funds appropriated in title III for Other Bilateral Economic Assistance under the heading ''ECONOMIC SUPPORT

FUND'', $100,000,000 shall be transferred to and merged with funds made available in title III for the United States Agency for International Development for a United States contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria under the heading ''CHILD SURVIVAL AND HEALTH PROGRAMS FUND. The funds made available for contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in this section shall not be available for obligation prior to September 30, 2006.''.

SA 1261. Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Mr. CHAFEE, and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 274, between lines 7 and 8, insert the following new subsection:

(e) USE OF FUNDS.—None of the funds made available for the UNFPA in this section may be used for any purpose except—

(1) to provide and distribute equipment, medicine, and supplies, including safe delivery kits and hygiene kits, to ensure safe childbirth and emergency obstetric care;

(2) to prevent and treat cases of obstetric fistula;

(3) to make available supplies of contraceptives for the prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS;

(4) to reestablish maternal health services in areas where medical infrastructure and such services have been destroyed by natural disasters;

(5) to eliminate the practice of female genital mutilation; or

(6) to promote the access of unaccompanied women and other vulnerable people to vital services, including access to water, sanitation facilities, food, and health care.

SA 1262. Mr. SALAZAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 183, line 15, strike the period at the end and insert '': *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, not less than $10,000,000 shall be made available for law enforcement programs to combat the prevalence of violent gangs in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.''.

SA 1263. Mr. SALAZAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 326, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

INTERNATIONAL POLICE TRAINING

SEC. 6113. (a) REQUIREMENTS FOR INSTRUCTORS.—Prior to carrying out any program of training for police or security forces through the Bureau that begins after the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall ensure that—

(1) such training is provided by instructors who have proven records of experience in training law enforcement or security personnel;

(2) the Bureau has established procedures to ensure that the individuals who receive such training—

(A) do not have a criminal background;

(B) are not connected to any criminal or terrorist organization;

(C) are not connected to drug traffickers; and

(D) meet the minimum age and experience standards set out in appropriate international agreements; and

(3) the Bureau has established procedures that—

(A) clearly establish the standards an individual who will receive such training must meet;

(B) clearly establish the training courses that will permit the individual to meet such standards; and

(C) provide for certification of an individual who meets such standards after receiving such training.

(b) ADVISORY BOARD.—The Secretary of State shall establish an advisory board of 10 experts to advise the Bureau on issues related to cost efficiency and professional efficacy of police and security training programs. The board shall have not less than 5 members who are experienced United States law enforcement personnel.

(c) BUREAU DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''Bureau'' means the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs of the Department of State.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than September 30, 2006, the Secretary of State shall submit to Congress a report on the training for international police or security forces conducted by the Bureau during fiscal year 2006. Such report shall include the attrition rates of the instructors of such training and indicators of job performance of such instructors.

SA 1264. Mr. OBAMA (for himself and Mr. HAGEL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 173, line 6 after ''Nepal:'' insert the following:

Provided further, That of funds appropriated under this heading, $13,000,000 should be made available for a United States contribution to the Special Court for Sierra Leone:

SA 1265. Mr. MARTINEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 326, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

COOPERATION WITH CUBA

SEC. 6113. (a) No funds may be made available under this title under the heading ''COOPERATION WITH CUBA ON COUNTER-NARCOTICS MATTERS''.

(b) Of the amount appropriated by title III under the heading ''INTERNATIONAL DISASTER AND FAMINE ASSISTANCE'' up to $5,000,000 may be used for humanitarian aid and disaster relief relating to hurricane damage for the people of Cuba: *Provided*, That such amounts shall be administered by the United States Interest Section in Cuba.

SA 1266. Mr. MARTINEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 307, strike line 15 and all that follows through page 308, line 10.

SA 1267. Mr. MARTINEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 326, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

COOPERATION WITH CUBA

SEC. 6113. Of the amount appropriated by title III under the heading ''INTERNATIONAL DISASTER AND FAMINE ASSISTANCE'' up to $5,000,000 may be made available for humanitarian aid and disaster relief relating to hurricane damage for the people of Cuba: *Provided*, That such amounts shall be administered by the United States Interest Section in Cuba.

SA 1268. Mr. BROWNBACK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 326, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

TRANSFER OF CERTAIN INTEREST FOR EGYPT

SEC. 6113. For fiscal year 2006, any interest earned from amounts in an interest bearing account for Egypt to which funds made available under title IV of this Act are disbursed shall be transferred to, and consolidated with, amounts made available under the heading ''ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUND'' for democracy and governance programs in Egypt.

SA 1269. Mr. NELSON of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 307, line 17, strike ''subsection (b)'' and insert ''subsections (b) and (c)''.

On page 308, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

(c) None of the funds appropriated by subsection (a) shall be available if Cuba is designated a state sponsor of terrorism.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND FORESTS

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the

hearing previously scheduled before the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on Wednesday, July 20, 2005, at 2:30 p.m. has been rescheduled for 2 p.m. the same day.

The hearing will be held in Room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

For further information, please contact Frank Gladics 202–224–2878, Dick Bouts 202–224–7545, or Amy Millet at 202–224–8276.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, July 18, 2005 at 2:30 p.m. to hold a hearing on Nominations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet on Monday, July 18, 2005, at 2 p.m. to consider the nominations of Richard L. Skinner to be Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Brian David Miller to be Inspector General of the General Services Administration and, immediately following the hearing, to consider the nomination of Edmund S. Hawley to be Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Jennifer Park, a professional staff member on the Committee on Appropriations, be given floor privileges for the duration of the consideration of the State, Foreign Operations appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Steven Neve and Hanna Garth of my staff be granted the privilege of the floor for the duration of today's session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to David Dorsey during consideration of the nomination of Lester Crawford to be FDA Commissioner.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S.J. RES. 18

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 11 a.m. in the morning on Tuesday, the Senate proceed to the consideration of S.J. Res. 18, the Burma import restrictions bill, the joint resolution be read a third time and placed back on the Senate calendar. I further ask consent that the Senate then proceed to the immediate consideration of H.J. Res. 52, the House-passed Burma resolution, and there then be 1 hour and 20 minutes for debate, with the following Senators in control of the time: myself, 20 minutes; Senator BAUCUS, 20 minutes; Senator FEINSTEIN, 20 minutes; Senator LAUTENBERG, 20 minutes. I further ask consent that following the use or yielding back of time, the joint resolution be read a third time and the Senate proceed to a vote on the resolution with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE TO ESCORT HIS EXCELLENCY, DR. MANMOHAN SINGH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the President of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join with a like committee on the part of the House of Representatives to escort his Excellency, Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Prime Minister of India, into the House Chamber for a joint meeting tomorrow.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENT OF LEGAL COUNSEL

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 199, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 199) to authorize the production of records by the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Governmental Affairs has received requests from various law enforcement and regulatory agencies, and other Government entities, both here and abroad, seeking access to records that the Subcommittee obtained during its investigation into the United Nations ''Oil-for-Food'' Programme.

This resolution would authorize the chairman and ranking minority member of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, acting jointly, to provide records, obtained by the subcommittee in the course of its investigation, in response to these requests.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and any statement relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 199) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 199

Whereas, the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs has been conducting an investigation into the United Nations ''Oil-for-Food'' Programme;

Whereas, the Subcommittee has received a number of requests from law enforcement officials, regulatory agencies, and other governmental entities for access to records of the Subcommittee's investigation;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence, under the control or in the possession of the Senate can, by administrative or judicial process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate;

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate is needed for the promotion of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, acting jointly, are authorized to provide to law enforcement officials, regulatory agencies, and other entities or individuals duly authorized by federal, state, or foreign governments, records of the Subcommittee's investigation into the United Nations ''Oil-for-Food'' Programme.

HONORING JACK ST. CLAIR KILBY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 200, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 200) honoring the life of Nobel Laureate Jack St. Clair Kilby, inventor of the integrated circuit and innovative leader in the Information Age.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I rise today to say a few words about one of the greatest inventors—one of the most important innovators—in American history.

One of America's greatest assets is the innovation and creativity of its inventors, scientists, and artists. Many of our most famous inventors have long been household names—well-known Americans such as Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Edison, Alexander Graham Bell, and the Wright Brothers. These, and many other inventors, captured the imagination of a public rooted in the Industrial Age, through ideas which produced the telephone, the

automobile, the airplane—all inventions we now consider indispensable items.

We now find ourselves in the initial stages of a new revolution—the Information Age. The rapid growth and development of information technology literally changes our lives by the second. This is an exciting time, and we have only just seen the beginning of this age.

However, the pioneers of today don't roll off the tongue like those from years past. While some high-profile corporate leaders such as Bill Gates, Michael Dell, and other technology entrepreneurs come to mind, there are many unsung heroes without whom we may never have known the modern computer, the cell phone, or high-definition TV.

One of these unsung heroes is Jack St. Clair Kilby, who passed away June 20, 2005, at 81 years of age. You see, a little less than 50 years ago, Mr. Kilby invented something called the integrated circuit. Today, we would refer to it as the microchip. The integrated circuit, or early microchip, spawned the Information Age and has made so much of the modern world as we know it today possible.

Prior to Kilby's breakthrough, engineers were grappling with how to build better electronic circuits. At the time, transistors had replaced vacuum tubes—a major advancement—but electronic devices were still composed of hundreds or thousands of discrete components which were connected to thousands of wires. The challenge was to find a cost-effective, reliable way of producing the components and connecting them.

Kilby approached the problem in a completely novel way, making all the components of a single material. The device consisted of a single transistor and a few other components combined on a slice of germanium smaller than a paper clip. For context, today an integrated circuit smaller than a penny can hold 125 million transistors.

From this first simple circuit has grown a worldwide integrated circuit market whose sales in 2004 totaled $179 billion. These components supported a 2004 worldwide electronic end-equipment market of $1.186 trillion. This technology has affected every known industry in the world in some form or fashion—healthcare, education, transportation, manufacturing, entertainment—and has made IT products more accessible and more affordable for the common man.

Jack Kilby enjoyed the admiration and respect of his colleagues and others throughout the industry. Texas Instruments Chairman Tom Engibous said of Kilby:

> In my opinion, there are only a handful of people whose works have truly transformed the world and the way we live in it—Henry Ford, Thomas Edison, the Wright Brothers and Jack Kilby. If there was ever a seminal invention that transformed not only our industry but our world, it was Jack's invention of the first integrated circuit.

Jack St. Clair Kilby was born November 8, 1923, in Jefferson City, MO, and moved as a young child to Great Bend, KS, where he was raised and which he considered his hometown. His interest in electronics, radio technology in particular, was inspired by an experience in high school when an ice storm knocked down most of the telephone and power lines in a wide area in rural Kansas. His father, who ran a small electric company, worked with amateur radio operators to locate the areas that had been hit and to coordinate the provision of electrical service.

Kilby served his country in the U.S. Army during World War II, where he was assigned to a radio repair shop at an outpost on a tea plantation in northeast India and later performed similar work in the field. He studied electrical engineering at the University of Illinois both before and after the war, earning a bachelor's degree in 1947. Like many of his generation, Mr. Kilby put his personal life on hold to serve his country.

After working obtaining a masters degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1950, Kilby joined Texas Instruments in Dallas in 1958 where he developed the first monolithic integrated circuit. He presented this invention to colleagues and tested it on September 12, 1958, and within 4 years, TI won the first major integrated circuit contract to design and build special circuits for the Minuteman missile project.

Kilby enjoyed a productive career at TI, where he held several management positions, including assistant vice president and director of engineering and technology for the Components Group. But more importantly, he created or helped to create some 60 patentable items, including the invention of the first hand-held calculator, which, in conjunction with his microchip design, initiated the early development of computers and was one of the first public introductions to digital electronics.

Kilby was widely recognized for his work. Most notably, he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 2000. In addition, he won the National Medal of Science and the National Medal of Technology. Finally, a prestigious international award, the Kilby International Awards, bears his name.

He passed away on June 20, 2005, at the age of 81 after a brief battle with cancer. His wife and sister preceded him in death. He is survived by two daughters, five granddaughters, and a son-in-law. Likewise, he leaves behind countless friends, colleagues, and admirers.

In addition to his enormous contribution to science and technology, Mr. Kilby was known as a gentle and humble man who was tirelessly dedicated to his family and passionate about finding practical solutions to real problems. He loved to work with young students and engineers. He served as distinguished professor of electrical engineering from 1978 to 1984 at Texas A&M University, where he was able to share his experience, insight, and passion for research with students. He took an active interest in and consistently was available to young engineers, even young high school and grade school students who asked to interview him about his work. Certainly he hoped to inspire these young people.

His contributions to science as well as his generosity and thoughtfulness were lessons for us all.

Mr. President, I introduce a senate resolution honoring the life of Nobel Laureate Jack St. Clair Kilby, inventor of the integrated circuit and long-time engineer for Texas Instruments, to commend his work and tremendous contribution to the electronics industry and to the transformation of the global economy to the Information Age. I ask that my colleagues join me in supporting this resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid on the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 200) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 200

Whereas in July 1958, Mr. Kilby, as a young engineer, resolved a long-standing engineering problem, known as the ''tyranny of numbers'', which prevented engineers from simply and reliably interconnecting electronic components to form circuits by developing the first working integrated circuit;

Whereas on September 12, 1958, Mr. Kilby demonstrated the first working integrated circuit for his colleagues at Texas Instruments, Inc. in Dallas, Texas;

Whereas the resulting integrated circuit contributed to national defense by facilitating the development of the Minuteman Missile and other programs;

Whereas the integrated circuit was central to creating the modern computer and communications industries;

Whereas the creation of the integrated circuit has benefitted the people of Texas by spurring the economy of the State with strong semiconductor and communications sectors and has enabled the integrated circuit industry to enjoy phenomenal growth from $29,000,000,000 annually in 1961 to nearly $1,150,000,000,000 in 2005;

Whereas on October 10, 2000, 42 years after demonstrating the first integrated circuit, Mr. Kilby shared the 2000 Nobel Prize in Physics for his part in the invention of the integrated circuit;

Whereas the integrated circuit, known today as the microchip, was the first chip of its kind, drove the technological growth of the Information Age, permitted both the rapid evolution and the miniaturization of technological products, and provided a foundation for important advances in science and medicine that are saving and enriching lives around the world;

Whereas Mr. Kilby further advanced technological progress by inventing more than 60 additional patented items, including the hand-held calculator and the thermal printer;

Whereas Mr. Kilby retired from Texas Instruments, Inc. after 25 years of dedicated

service but maintained his presence at the company as a source of inspiration to generations of young engineers until his death on June 20, 2005;

Whereas Mr. Kilby committed himself to education, serving as a Distinguished Professor of Electrical Engineering at Texas A&M University from 1978 to 1984, sharing with students the breadth of his knowledge and expertise;

Whereas Mr. Kilby is 1 of only 13 individuals to receive both the National Medal of Science and National Medal of Technology, the most prestigious awards of the Federal Government for technical achievement;

Whereas the National Academy of Engineering, an independent nonprofit institution that advises the Federal Government on engineering and technology issues, awarded Mr. Kilby the 1989 Charles Stark Draper Prize, 1 of the preeminent awards for engineering achievement in the world;

Whereas the Inamori Foundation, a charitable institution in Japan dedicated to promoting international understanding by honoring individuals who have contributed to scientific progress, culture, and human betterment, bestowed upon Mr. Kilby the 1993 Kyoto Prize in Advanced Technology to recognize his contributions to humanity and society;

Whereas Mr. Kilby inspired the creation of the awards named after him, the Kilby International Awards, which honor unsung heroes and heroines who make significant contributions to society through science, technology, innovation, invention, and education;

Whereas Mr. Kilby was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame, established in 1973 by the Patent and Trademark Office of the Department of Commerce and the National Council of Intellectual Property Associations, alongside other great inventors in United States history;

Whereas Mr. Kilby, a member of the ''Greatest Generation'', served the United States in World War II as a member of the United States Army;

Whereas Mr. Kilby will be remembered not only as a great technological innovator, but also as a loving husband, dedicated father, and devoted grandfather; and

Whereas Mr. Kilby's invention of the integrated circuit revolutionized nearly all aspects of modern life, has made technology more affordable and more accessible to the world, and will continue to exert tremendous influence on the development of technology in the 21st century: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of Nobel Laureate Jack St. Clair Kilby;

(2) commends Mr. Kilby for his pioneering work in the fields of engineering and electronics, which laid the foundation for the technological advances of the 20th and 21st centuries; and

(3) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit 1 enrolled copy of this resolution to Mr. Kilby's family.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2005

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, Members of the Senate, I ask unanimous consent when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 11 a.m. on Tuesday, July 19. I further ask that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and the Senate then proceed to consideration of the Burma trade resolution as under the previous order.

I further ask consent that the Senate stand in recess from 12:30 until 2:15 to accommodate the weekly party luncheons.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. McCONNELL. Tomorrow morning, the Senate should be aware that Senators should meet in the Chamber at 9:40 to proceed as a body to the joint meeting of Congress to hear from Prime Minister Singh of India. At 11 a.m. the Senate will convene to debate and vote on the Burma trade resolution. If all time is used, a vote on the Burma resolution will occur around 12:20.

At 2:15, after the respective party luncheons, we will resume consideration of the Foreign Operations appropriations bill. Let me interject as one of the managers of that bill we intend to finish that bill tomorrow. For any Members who have amendments, we would rather do them in the daylight than at night. We intend to have a busy afternoon.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 11:00 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:20 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, July 19, 2005, at 11 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate July 18, 2005:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

H. DALE HALL, OF NEW MEXICO, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, VICE STEVEN A. WILLIAMS, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

VINCENT J. VENTIMIGLIA, JR., OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, VICE JENNIFER YOUNG.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

BRUCE COLE, OF INDIANA, TO BE CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS. (REAPPOINTMENT)

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. DOUGLAS L. CARVER, 0000

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

VICE ADM. DAVID C. NICHOLS, JR., 0000

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate Monday, July 18, 2005:

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

LESTER M. CRAWFORD, OF MARYLAND, TO BE COMMISSIONER OF FOOD AND DRUGS, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

THE ABOVE NOMINATION WAS APPROVED SUBJECT TO THE NOMINEE'S COMMITMENT TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY BEFORE ANY DULY CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2864) to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes:

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the Water Resources Development Act of 2005. This legislation addresses critical flood control, environmental restoration, water supply, and navigation infrastructure concerns for the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the United States at large.

Our Nation's inter-coastal waterways and river systems include a robust network of Kentucky locks, dams, and hydropower reservoirs—winding through the hills of Appalachia and on out to the Mississippi River. The Cumberland, Kentucky, and the Levisa and Fork of the Big Sandy River all find their headwaters in Kentucky's Fifth Congressional District.

On the far eastern edge of my district, over 20 million tons of raw material predominantly Appalachian coal—is transported annually by barge along the Big Sandy River. These barge shipments make stops at receiving stations all along the Ohio River providing low-cost, domestically produced energy to power our factories, heat our homes, and keep our Nation competitive in the world market.

The bill before us, places a premium on keeping our navigation system open and operational. Over 50 percent of our locks and dams have aged beyond their life cycle and are crumbling. Action is long overdue. This bill includes important provisions for streamlining and expediting Corps of Engineers project delivery and permits as well as modernizing our waterway transportation system for the 21st Century.

WRDA 2005 also includes important flood reduction and environmental restoration provisions for my district, ensuring thousands of additional homes and businesses are protected from the scourge of flash floods and high waters that have caused death and destruction in Eastern Kentucky.

By working together, the Corps of Engineers and Kentucky PRIDE have made great strides in cleaning up straight pipes, connecting sewer lines, and fixing broken septic systems in our Appalachian communities. WRDA 2005 continues this successful program.

Finally, I want to thank Chairman YOUNG and Subcommittee Chairman DUNCAN for their continued work on behalf of our inland waterways and commend them on a fine bill that will ensure our infrastructure keeps up with our growing economy.

THANKING MARGARET (PEGGY) HYLAND FOR HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of her retirement on August 1, 2005, we rise to thank Ms. Peggy Hyland for 32 years of distinguished service to the United States House of Representatives. Peggy has served this great institution as a valuable employee at House Information Resources, in the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Peggy began her tenure with the United States House of Representatives in 1972 as a secretary working in the Systems Support group. Peggy's potential and drive was recognized early in her career resulting in her steady progression in positions of increasing responsibility. Peggy's assignments included programmer of the Customer Information Control System in 1978, project leader of the mainframe online systems in 1985, assistant manager of the Operations group in 1995 and her current assignment in 1999 as the Deputy Director for the Information Management Directorate. Peggy has been a key member of many important information technology projects in the House. Examples include, in the early 1990s, leading the first House efforts toward establishing a single House-wide e-mail system, leading the initial installation of Microsoft Outlook software for the House and leading Y2K remediation efforts. During the October 2001 anthrax incident, as House Members and staff were forced off-site, Peggy was a key contributor to the efforts to ensure information systems remained available and accessible.

Peggy's leadership while serving the United States House of Representatives has been significant. Her standard of excellence, passionate dedication to customer service, organizational skills, professionalism and ability to get the job done earned Peggy the Distinguished Service Award, the Chief Administrative Officer's highest honor, in October 2002. Peggy is admired by the people she led and appreciated by those she served.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Peggy for many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the United States House of Representatives. We wish Peggy many wonderful years in fulfilling her retirement dreams.

WELCOMING THE VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER MANMOHAN SINGH AND HIS ADDRESS TO THE JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who will be addressing a joint session of Congress on July 19. I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Singh at a dinner in April 2002 at the U.S. Embassy. He holds a doctorate in economics from Oxford University and has taught there as well as the Delhi School of Economics, India.

In 1991, he was appointed finance minister under then Prime Minister Narasimha Rao. At that instance, India was on the brink of economic collapse with an unsustainable fiscal deficit of 8.5 percent. Singh piloted a series of economic reforms that quickly reduced this deficit by slashing red tape, cutting bureaucracy, and simplifying the tax system. He ushered in a new era of globalization in the country, crafting an environment more conducive to business investments, entrepreneurship, and international trade. In 2004, he was elected prime minister. Today, India's increasing global clout can be attributed in part to his economic prowess.

Fashioning more substantial relations with India has consistently proved to be more important in recent years. India's burgeoning population and sizable middle class makes the Indian market particularly attractive to U.S. investments. With an average 8 percent growth rate and $13.1 billion dollars in exports to the U.S., trade with India will be increasingly significant in the global economy. President Bush remarked in 2004 that bilateral relations with India have never been so close. To highlight a few recent developments, the U.S. has increased defense cooperation, created an Open Skies air travel agreement which allows for more U.S. investment in Indian commercial air travel, and recently formed a Senate Indian Caucus by Senators CLINTON and CORNYN.

I have had the privilege of being the former co-chair of the House India Caucus and visiting India three times, where I led a delegation of 13 of my colleagues. In my district which consists of Queens and parts of the Bronx, we boast over 55,000 constituents of South Asian descent, the second largest of any community in the Nation. I represent 74th Street in Queens, Little India as the signs on the street call it, and on behalf of Mr. Shiv Dass, Mr. Nitin Voora, Mr. Mohinder Verma, Mr. Subash Kapadia, Ms. Sandy Bhatia, Mr. Narula Gurdip Singh, Mr. Sohan Singh, and the rest of my Indian American constituents from Queens, NY I give the Prime Minister a wholehearted welcome and look forward to his remarks.

HONORING TOM MORDUE

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the vision and innovation of Mr. Tom Mordue. His efforts as a physical education teacher and principal have greatly impacted and improved the lives of students for over three decades. Tom's sense of humor, combined with his ability to see the big picture, has made his pioneering efforts to integrate diverse groups of students to form a student body soaring to success.

Tom's love of athletics began early. He wrestled all four years of high school and another four years at the University of Illinois, Chicago. In college, Tom established his leadership capacity as captain of the wrestling team. He also demonstrated his ability to successfully weave academics with athletics. At the University of Illinois, Tom participated in two NCAA tournaments and was named an Outstanding College Athlete of America in 1970.

After graduation, Tom went on to the University of Arizona to complete his Masters in Education. There, Tom began his career as a wrestling coach as a Graduate Assistant in the Physical Education program. In his first year, he coached two National place winners.

Tom's superior performance in college and graduate school landed him jobs as a social studies teacher, PE teacher, wrestling, football, and track coach. In each of these positions, Tom sought to make a difference in the lives of students. Rather than remain a passive teacher at the sidelines, Tom actively demonstrated sports skills in class to involve every student.

Mr. Mordue's contributions, however, extend much farther than the gym and classroom. At Northeast Junior High, Tom initiated an adaptive physical education program called Positive PE. In this very successful program, Tom teamed regular students with special education, developmentally and physically disabled students to provide a constructive arena for students to interact and understand one another. Tom was also heavily involved in the Jerry Lewis Telethon and would even personally drive students to the marathons. As a result of his contributions to the disabled community, Tom was named Teacher of the Year by the Association of Retarded Citizens in 1981.

Tom's record of success brought him to the position of assistant principal at Northeast and Westlake Junior High Schools, and later principal and district attendance officer at Eastlake Campus and Vantage Point Campus. In his eleven years at Vantage Point Campus High Plains High School, Tom was a Colorado Association of School Executives' Wright Way Award nominee as well as Colorado Association of School Resource Officers Administrator of the Year.

Despite his various roles in the Colorado education system, one aspect has remained constant in Tom's career: to integrate and involve students and staff in activities that bring the community together. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in expressing our gratitude to Mr. Mordue for his work in the Colorado education system and among the unique student community at Vantage Point campus.

THE VALUE OF YOUTHBUILD

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year I heard from dismayed leaders of the organization known as YouthBuild, who had learned that funding for this extremely valuable program had been left out of the appropriations bills brought to the House. Because I know of the value of this program, I had several conversations with both Democratic and Republican leaders of the Committee, and I am very gratified that after these discussions and consultations, funding for this program was added to the Treasury, Transportation HUD Bill on the floor of the House, with bipartisan—indeed unanimous—support.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when it has become fashionable to denigrate "government" in general, we too often lose sight of the very valuable services performed by particular government programs. Thoughtless critics of "government" have in my judgment created a mathematical impossibility—a whole that is smaller than the sum of its parts. That is, if we take into account the value of various government programs, we get a result that greatly exceeds in the contribution it makes to our quality of life the view of government's value that we too often hear expressed.

Recently, in the Brockton Enterprise, Courtney Randon wrote an excellent article that illustrates how valuable the YouthBuild program is, and how it has helped achieve a number of goals—giving job skills to young people, and advancing the concept of homeownership for people who would have economic difficulty otherwise in owning a home. The story of Maribel Arce and YouthBuild is an inspiring one, and demonstrates just why it was so important that the House acted as it did to restore funding for this program. I ask that the article be printed here.

[From the Brockton Enterprise, Jul. 1, 2005]

IT'S GREAT BECAUSE IT'S MY HOUSE

(By Courtney Randon)

BROCKTON. Maribel Arce was filled with a mix of emotions as she became a first-time homeowner on Thursday.

"I'm so excited. I still don't believe it," Arce said. "But I'm nervous. It's the first time I'm talking to a big crowd."

That crowd, which included directors, students and sponsors of the Old Colony YMCA's YouthBuild, a program in which students build homes for low-income families who qualify, had gathered to watch Arce accept the keys to her new home.

YouthBuild built the house on Laureston Street, where Arce, her three teenage daughters and her mother will live.

Arce and her family earned the right to purchase the house by graduating from the Brockton Housing Authority's Self Sufficiency program, where she learned money management and savings skills.

"Self Sufficiency is an excellent opportunity," Arce said. "They offer things I wouldn't know if I didn't go."

Maribel, a single mother of her daughters, age 13, 16 and 18, learned that she qualified to purchase the house, valued at about $260,000, in March for $182,500, but she also learned she was not the only candidate.

Two other families were also eligible, and all three were entered into a drawing last month.

"I was a little scared because I knew it wasn't 100 percent or even 50 percent that I'd get the house," Arce said.

When she won, Arce said, "At first I didn't believe it. I didn't believe it when they said my name."

For the next month, until the house was completed, Arce would stop by and visit the house to see the progress.

"Every day I came, three times a day," she said.

Now, she is looking forward to throwing her first party in her new home.

"It's great because it's my house, I don't have to share it with anybody," she said.

Her 16-year-old daughter, also named Maribel, is excited that she gets to decorate her new room the way she wants.

"I want it in all angels. 1 couldn't paint at the apartment," she said.

The Arces are moving from their three-bedroom apartment on Park Street, where they lived for 10 years.

"We have a big yard now," Arce said. "Our dog will have space outside now."

The younger Maribel Arce said of her mother, "I'm proud of her. I'm so happy we have our own house."

Through the five-year Self Sufficiency program, Arce, who works as an instructor aide at Training Resources of America in Brockton, earned enough money for a down payment on the house and qualified for a bank mortgage.

Cynthia McDonagh, who runs the Self Sufficiency program, said Arce became an exemplary student in the program and McDonagh wants Arce to come back and talk with future classes.

"If they need me, I can talk to them," Arce said. "I think people should take advantage of it. There are so many benefits. "

Arce and her family were presented with keys at the ceremony by a graduating student of YouthBuild.

Arce said she was grateful to all the people involved in YouthBuild and all the students that built the house.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF WINFRED "WIN" WYATT ADAMS FOR HIS OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sadness regarding the recent passing of Winfred Wyatt "Win" Adams. Mr. Adams, a devoted public servant, passed away Saturday, June 25, 2005, after a brief illness at age 88.

Born February 1, 1917, in Warren, Arkansas, Mr. Adams served more than twenty year of active duty in the U.S. Armed Services. After enlisting in the Army in 1939, Mr. Adams was deployed overseas to fight in the European Theater of Operations. During his 21 month tour, Mr. Adams served in Rome, Arno, Northern and Southern France, Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Adams spent his last years of active duty in Air Force Intelligence. From 1949 until 1953, Mr. Adams was assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Cairo. In July

of 1952, when Egypt's King Farouk was forced to abdicate by General Abdul Nasser's military coup, Mr. Adams was responsible for helping the King safely flee into exile. After 10 years in the Reserves, Mr. Adams retired from military service as a Chief Warrant Officer.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Adams then held several positions under Governor Ronald Reagan, including Cabinet Secretary, where he facilitated the day-to-day interface of the Governor's office with the various departments of state government. In 1970, Mr. Adams was appointed to the State Water Resources Control Board where he was designated as the Board's Chairman from 1972 until 1976. His nine year tenure was marked by the merging of the State Water Rights Board and the State Water Quality Control Board. It was also a period when the State Board and its subsidiary Regional Water Quality Control Boards accepted delegation of expansive new duties under the 1972 federal Clean Water Act.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Winfred Adams' dedication to public service for nearly four decades makes him an outstanding example of his generation and its abiding commitment to our Nation. It is appropriate that we honor his life and his contributions today.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM BLOCK SR.

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, Summer 2005 brings the passing of an American leader, William Block Sr. A publisher, owner of television stations and an advertising distributor, patron of the arts, philanthropist and community leader, William Block's imprimatur indeed lives large.

Born in New York City on September 20, 1915, a Yale graduate, Class of 1936, and army veteran, William Block Sr settled in Pittsburgh after World War II to run the family's newspaper there. His brother managed the family's Toledo newspaper. Though he was in charge of the Pittsburgh paper, in fact William Block got his start in Toledo, in 1937 at the family's Toledo Blade newspaper. He learned the business through ''apprenticeship'' by working in a variety of departments, but the war interrupted his pursuit of reporting.

While in Pittsburgh, William Block was an active and engaged publisher, involved in many community groups. A 1983 survey by the Pittsburgh Press listed him as the 14th most influential citizen of Pittsburgh. He received honorary doctoral degrees from Allegheny College, Point Park College, and Washington & Jefferson College. Recognized by the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh and the Health and Welfare Association of Allegheny County, in 1996 William Block was awarded the Ralph D. Casey/Minnesota Award of the Inland Press Association honoring his sixty years in the newspaper business.

William Block promoted and supported fine arts and the symphony. His involvement was deep and commitment pure. He enjoyed music and fine art and was passionate about sharing his enjoyment with the community at large. Kind, civic-minded and concerned with civil rights, noting that ''equality of all people is basic to American ideals,'' William Block credited his father for instilling a sympathy for people who were disadvantage and an interest in addressing injustice.

William Block Sr. leaves to this life his loving wife of 61 years, Maxine; his sons William, Jr and Donald; daughters Karen and Barbara; eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren; as well as many extended family and friends. Our sympathy to them all.

An exceptional man of warmth, wit, and insight I was privileged to meet, the life of William Block is best summed up in the words of his son, William Jr., in the preface to his father's memoirs: ''The William Block portrayed here is a man who loves his family, a man of broad understanding and diverse interests, chairman of a growing and successful communications corporation, a man dedicated for over half a century to the highest ideals of journalism, a civic-minded and charitable person, and a thoroughly decent human being.'' Our entire citizenry remains grateful and knows we have been fortunate indeed that his values and talents were applied to build our community, and humanity, forward.

HONORING THE TOWN OF BETHEL, CONNECTICUT ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Town of Bethel, Connecticut on marking its 150th Anniversary, on July 16, 2005.

The town of Bethel grew out of an active, well-organized parish in the eastern section of Danbury, Connecticut, officially incorporating into a township in 1855. The word Bethel, which means ''House of God'', got its name from the General Assembly of the Colony of Connecticut when the parish of Bethel was organized in 1759. The name remained when the parish became a township 150 years ago.

The history of Bethel is almost synonymous with the great showman P.T. Barnum—and, there's no denying that Barnum's presence can still be felt. Although it no longer stands, the Barnum bronze fountain, purchased by P. T. himself in Berlin, Germany for $7,500 stood in the town center surrounded by hat factories. But the fountain froze often, leading to its own demise. It was finally taken down in 1923. The Doughboy statue replaced the fountain in 1928.

At one time Bethel was mainly a farming community, but beginning in the late 1700s, industrious entrepreneurs and hardworking citizens helped establish a very solid industrial base. Although the town's economy has transformed with time, the hardworking example of those generations is strong today in different businesses.

Despite being overshadowed by the hatting industry in Danbury—from which it tried to break away from in 1759 and was officially incorporated in 1855—Bethel's economy once thrived on hatting. There were more than a dozen hat factories including the largest, the Edwin Short Hat Factory. The Opera House at 184–188 Greenwood Ave., now known as the Opera House cafe and restaurant, once housed a first-floor hat factory in the late 1800s. Hatting remained the town's main enterprise until the late 1960s.

Today the Bethel Educational Park located between Judd Avenue and Plumtrees Road neatly packs in all the town's schools and playing fields. But throughout the town's history, tiny one-room schoolhouses and brick school buildings popped up here and there throughout town. Center School, an elementary school just off Greenwood Avenue in the center of town, opened in 1895 and is now used as town offices. Its twin structure, the Grassy Plain School on Grassy Plain Street is now used as a childcare center. The Plumtrees Schoolhouse, a little red one-room building, still stands on Plumtrees Road at Taylor Road. It was built in 1867 and attended by children in grades one through seven. In the late 1960s, it was no longer used as a school and today is a well-baby clinic.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the generations of hardworking people who have lived and worked in Bethel throughout its history. I rise today to honor Bethel, Connecticut, upon achieving its 150th Anniversary. I applaud the generations of Bethel citizens who have helped this town grow since its founding in 1759, and I commend today's Bethel residents for everything they do to make sure that this great town will continue strongly into the future.

HONORING JERRY REESE FOR 36 YEARS OF DEDICATION TO THE FOREST SERVICE

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the distinguished career of Jerry Reese, who recently retired after 36 years of service in Idaho's national forests.

Mr. Reese is a native son of Idaho, having grown up in Idaho Falls before receiving degrees in forestry and range management from the University of Idaho. For the past 11 years, Mr. Reese served as supervisor of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest, which swelled during his tenure to include over three million acres across Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and Utah.

I am pleased that Mr. Reese made it his mission to ensure that his staff remained efficient, courteous, and dedicated while the size and responsibilities of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest grew larger. Under Mr. Reese's supervision, administrative realignments reduced duplication that would have naturally occurred when the Caribou and Targhee National Forests merged. His administrative shuffling allowed the real business of managing the forests to go forth.

Throughout his career, Mr. Reese tempered contentious debate surrounding proposed road closures in and around grizzly habitats. He soothed public frustrations about the relocation of Caribou-Targhee's headquarters from St. Anthony to Idaho Falls. All-terrain vehicles grew in popularity on Mr. Reese's watch, and he learned how to balance public access with conservation. Through the easy decisions and the difficult ones, Mr. Reese kept in mind the long-term interests of the forests he oversaw and the people who use them.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my gratitude to Mr. Reese for his leadership in managing Idaho's forests. To Mr. Reese, I wish you the best in whatever you choose to do in retirement, whether it is volunteer service, fly fishing or just spending time with your family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, on July 14, 2005 I voted incorrectly on rollcall vote No. 377. I meant to vote "aye" on the Flake/Blumenauer amendment that would require a thorough evaluation of the commodity traffic along the Mississippi and Illinois rivers before allowing the Corps of Engineers to proceed with construction of new locks and dams.

Mr. Speaker before we proceed with such massive new construction along these two rivers, costing billions of dollars and potentially damaging the natural environment along these rivers, the Corps of Engineers must show that this project is actually warranted. So far they have failed to do so.

THANKING MICHAEL B. BOWMAN FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement in June 2005, we rise to thank Mr. Michael B. Bowman for 30 years of distinguished service to the House of Representatives.

Mr. Bowman began serving the House of Representatives in 1975 as a trainer for the Member Information Network on the mainframe computer at House Information Systems before he became the project leader for the first help desk "hotline" in 1977. During his career at the House, Mr. Bowman served as the Postmaster for the first House electronic mail system from 1980 to 1983, and following the Anthrax event in Congress in 2001, he was appointed to the Digital Mail team that developed the statement of work for conversion of postal mail to digital images.

As the Y2K project leader, Mike was responsible for preparing the House computer workstations for our transition into the year 2000. He successfully met the challenges for ensuring each of the 12,000 desktop and laptop computers in the Member, Committee, Leadership and House support offices in Washington, DC and over 950 District offices across our country were prepared to cross the bridge into the 21st century.

Serving as the Customer Relations Manager, Mike is responsible for ensuring all Members and House staff are satisfied with the information technology solutions and support services they receive from House support staff and vendors.

Mike's contributions while serving the House of Representatives have been significant. His passionate customer service, organizational knowledge and project management skills earned him the reputation among his colleagues and customers as a person with a calm demeanor and great respect for this institution.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend our appreciation to Mike for his many years of dedication and outstanding service to the House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING DR. KRISHNA REDDY

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Dr. Krishna M. Reddy and the 9th annual Gala Banquet, hosted by the Indian American Friendship Council happening on Tuesday, July 19th. I can think of no more auspicious day then the same day as Prime Minister Manmohan Singh visits the U.S. Congress.

Since I was co-chair of the House India Caucus, I have worked quite closely with Dr. Reddy and IAFC. The Indian American Friendship Council boasts a strong reputation for its eminent role in informing U.S. policy makers about several aspects of surrounding U.S.-Indian relations. It is accordingly a privilege to join them in this celebration.

From dining in Little India on 74th Street in Queens, New York, to my ties to the Friendship Council, I have made it a point to pursue an agenda in my tenure as Congressman that markedly addresses issues relating to Indian Americans and the Indian subcontinent. My district, consisting of Queens and the Bronx in the state of New York, boasts 55,000 people of South Asian descent, the second most of any community in the nation. The links I have to this community have served to enhance my resolve to improve relations between the U.S. and India.

As founder and current president of the Friendship Council, Dr. Krishna Reddy has been instrumental in promoting a strong agenda the Friendship Council. The Council helped rebuild the state of Gujarat following a disastrous earthquake in 2001, supported the global war on terror, and continues to assist the U.S. in the post-9/11 world. I commend the Friendship Council for their resolve in not only strengthening bilateral relations but also protecting the interests of the Indian-American community, advocating for global democracy, and educating fellow Members of Congress.

President Bush stated recently that relations between our two nations have never been so close as they are today. Organizations such as the Indian American Friendship Council have greatly contributed to this status. From the groundbreaking Next Steps in Strategic Partnership to the recent India-U.S. Defense Agreement to the opening of Indian economy to U.S. investments, our two nations share many common interests in today's global arena and have proven to be valuable allies to each other. I hope that we all can, continue to work together to further improve affairs of both India and the Indian-American community.

I would like to conclude by again congratulate Dr. Reddy and the members of the Friendship Council for organizing the 9th Annual Gala Banquet. I look forward to our continued cooperation.

HONORING PAUL MARTIN ON THE OCCASION OF HIS NOMINATION FOR ESPN'S 2005 ESPY AWARD

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker I rise today to honor Paul Martin, a world-class athlete whose story is one of admirable perseverance and inspiring optimism. This year, Paul was honored with a nomination for ESPN's 2005 ESPY award for best male athlete with a disability.

Athletics has always been important to Paul. During his difficult childhood and his time spent in foster care, Paul sought refuge in sports, enjoying the attention that he was unable to find elsewhere. But it was not until many years later that Paul came to realize the vital role that athletics would play in his life.

On December 12, 1992, at the age of 25, Paul Martin survived a car accident in which he lost the lower portion of his left leg. What, to some, might have been an insurmountable challenge, Paul credits with changing his life, as he says, "for the better." Following the accident, Paul considered himself lucky to be alive and made the choice to pursue his happiness even in the face of adversity.

Within two years, he began competing again, winning the gold in the 1500 event in the National Amputee Track and Field Championships. Buoyed by his success, Paul continued to participate in a wide variety of athletic competitions, amassing an extensive list of athletic accomplishments, including the 1997 U.S. Olympic Committee's Disabled Athlete of the Year award and a new national record at the 2004 Ironman USA competition at Lake Placid. Over the years, Paul has participated in national and international hockey, skiing, cycling, and track and field events.

Most recently Paul Martin set a new world record at the 2005 Ironman USA at Coeur D'Alene and also brought home silver and bronze medals from the 2004 Paralympic Games in Athens. These accomplishments, as well as his many prior years of athletic competition, have earned him a nomination for this year's ESPY awards.

Currently, Paul is continuing his athletic training for a number of events in the upcoming year. When he is not competing, Paul speaks to a variety of audiences, sharing his optimistic outlook with others.

Paul's impressive record is a tribute to his status as a truly outstanding athlete, but it is also a tribute to his dedication, athleticism, and love of life. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Paul Martin.

IN RECOGNITION OF SCOTTIE L. BRIGHT

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, Staff Sergeant Scottie L. Bright, 36, originally

of Montgomery, Alabama, died on July 5, 2005, in Iraq. Staff Sergeant Bright was assigned to the Army's Third Squadron, Third Armored Cavalry Regiment at Fort Carson, Colorado, and according to initial reports died in action from an improvised explosive device. His survivors include his wife Carolyn, his daughter Shay, his son Scottie, Jr., and his mother Blanche Bright.

Scottie Bright was a proud soldier and eager to serve his country, Mr. Speaker. He was a cheerful man who loved his family, and was known as a loyal and dedicated father and husband. Like every other soldier, he dutifully left behind his family and loved ones to serve our country overseas.

Words cannot express the sense of sadness we have for his family, and for the gratitude our country feels for his service. Staff Sergeant Bright died serving not just the United States, but the entire cause of liberty, on a noble mission to help spread the cause of freedom in Iraq and liberate an oppressed people from tyrannical rule. He was a true American.

We will forever hold him closely in our hearts, and remember his sacrifice and that of his family as a remembrance of his bravery and willingness to serve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the House's remembrance on this mournful day.

HONORING CONSTANT O. MAFFEY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Constant O. Maffey, of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, who is a recent recipient of the Air Force Distinguished Flying Cross.

The Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded to any officer or enlisted person of the Armed Forces of the United States who shall have distinguished himself in actual combat in support of operations by ''heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight''. Constant Maffey proved himself more than worthy of this award during World War II in the European Theater.

As a Flight Engineer and Waist Gunner with the Fifteenth Air Force, 465th Bomb Group, 783rd Bomb Squadron in Pantanela, Italy, Technical Sergeant Maffey was ''just doing his job'' that day in February 1945 when his bravery and quick thinking would come to the rescue of his fellow airmen.

In Lintz, Austria, on February 25, 1945, Technical Sergeant Maffey was aboard a B–24 Heavy Bomber when during take-off the aircraft failed to attain the necessary 70 mph to become airborne. While the pilot of the aircraft instructed the co-pilot to give emergency power to the turbo, Maffey realized that even this would not be enough to propel the plane into the sky. Working quickly, Maffey adjusted each turbo individually to the absolute maximum setting—a procedure not recommended in-flight, but only for maximum power testing on the ground. The aircraft sped over a ditch, passed the end of the runway, tore through a farmer's fence and eventually became airborne. The Air Force recognizes that ''with Maffey's technical knowledge of the B–24, quick thinking under stress, and independent actions prevented a crash with a full load of fuel, eight 500–pound bombs, and saved the lives of all 10 crew members. The outstanding heroism and selfless devotion to duty displayed by Technical Sergeant Maffey reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army Air Corps.''

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt in my mind that Mr. Maffey is deserving of this award. Like so many from ''The Greatest Generation'' he views his actions as just ''doing his job.'' His selfless dedication to the mission at hand serves as an example even 60 years later to Americans young and old the values of courage, honor, and sacrifice. His humility and grace towards his honor is a lesson for each of us in the qualities of true leadership.

I offer my heartfelt and grateful congratulations to Mr. Maffey, who after so many years has finally been recognized and honored by his country which he so valiantly served.

COMMENDING THE STATE OF KUWAIT FOR GRANTING WOMEN CERTAIN IMPORTANT POLITICAL RIGHTS

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the Crowley Resolution (H. Res. 343). This resolution recognizes an important first step taken by the State of Kuwait toward giving Kuwaiti women the right to fully participate in politics. On May 16, 2005, the Kuwait parliament amended Article 1 of the Election Law 35 of 1962, providing female citizens of Kuwait the right to vote and run for office in the 2007 elections. This is the first time in the four decades women have had the right to vote in Kuwait.

This first step is in no small measure attributable to the many years of campaigning and legal challenges to the discriminatory electoral law of 1962. In past years, women's rights activists have been turned away by officials from voter registration centers. In June 2000, a number of women filed a complaint against the Minister of the Interior, al-Shikh Mohammad Khaled al-Sabah challenging Kuwaiti election law on the grounds that the law denied women the right to vote. The challenge was heard by the Kuwait Constitutional Court but rejected. A similar challenge was rejected in 2001. Most of these attempts to win the vote for women were blocked by Islamic conservatives.

However, the human rights defenders in Kuwait persisted. According to the BBC News, with this most recent vote, both men and women rallied calling for the parliament to amend the discriminatory law. The BBC reported that while some of the women protestors were covered completely in full-length veils, many were dressed in the pale blue color that symbolizes the struggle of women in Kuwait. The protestors were allowed to watch the historic nine hour parliamentary debate.

In the 1991 Gulf War, the United States sent its young men and women to defend Kuwait when Saddam Hussein invaded. The war was widely declared to be about protecting the freedom of the Kuwaiti people. Yet fully one-half of those people, the women of Kuwait, were not able to participate in the political process of representative government either as voters or elected representatives. This lack of ability to participate in the political process of a country is not freedom as we in America understand it.

International human rights organization, special committees of the United Nations, the State Department of this country, and the Congress of the United States have long recognized, as does the Crowley Resolution, that the rights of women are of paramount importance in international human rights. In 1994, Kuwait acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and in 1996 it acceded to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). In its concluding remarks on Kuwait's implementation of the UN Women's Convention, the CEDAW committee expressed its concern at Kuwait's failure to ensure that women had, on equal terms with men, the right to vote in all elections and public referenda and to be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies. It noted that the lack of political rights of women also has a negative impact on women's enjoyment of other rights protected under the Convention.

CEDAW called on Kuwait to reform its electoral law with adoption of legislation to amend the discriminatory 1962 legislation in order to bring Kuwait Law into compliance with its CEDAW and the ICCPR. With its vote on May 16, 2005, the State of Kuwait has taken action in support of its pledge to CEDAW and the ICCPR. Changing a law to end discrimination is much more important than just signing the agreement to do so.

The status of women in the Gulf States has been an issue of deep concern to me. Women in many Gulf States are treated as second class citizens. In Saudi Arabia for example, women do not have the right to vote, drive or leave their homes without a male relative. Many women in Gulf States are not able to chose their husbands and have few domestic rights. Domestic violence against young wives, some as young as 12, is a serious problem in some Gulf States. When women cannot vote and have no representation, these important issues concerning them are not addressed. As has been pointed out in many reports, if women have the vote and the right to run for office, they will be at the heart of the political decision-making process. Women in politics can consider important measures to protect women from violence, and from the threat of AIDS. In States where there is no representation for women, violence against women is one of the most pervasive of human rights abuses. When there are issues concerning women, the voices of women must be heard. I am heartened by the parliamentary vote taken in the State of Kuwait on May 16, 2005. There is more to be done; Kuwait must take the lead in the Gulf and do more.

I commend the State of Kuwait for acceding to CEDAW. I recommend that Kuwait take the measures CEDAW sets out in its General Recommendation No. 23 on women in political life and ensure ''that women understand their right to vote and how to exercise it'' and ''that barriers to equality are overcome, including those resulting from illiteracy, language, poverty and impediments to women's freedom of movement.'' Kuwait must work as it did to promote this change in its voting law, to change

the cultural perception of women and their place in Kuwaiti women in society.

It is my hope that the Crowley Resolution will give the State of Kuwait the recognition of having accepted a basic principle of democracy, that the women of Kuwait have the same right to vote as the men of Kuwait.

THE EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION EDUCATION ACT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to introduce the Emergency Contraception Education Act. By improving education among the public and health professionals about emergency contraception (EC), my bill will help protect women's reproductive health, reduce unwanted pregnancies, and prevent abortions.

Each year in the US., there are 3 million women who must contend with the reality of an unintended pregnancy. Half of these end in abortion. Experts estimate that widespread use of EC could prevent as many as 50% of these unintended pregnancies, which would dramatically reduce the number of abortions in this country. The Alan Guttmacher Institute has documented its effectiveness—estimating that increased use of EC accounted for up to 43 percent of the total decline in abortion rates between 1994 and 2000.

Emergency contraception is a concentrated form of the daily birth control pills taken by nearly 12 million women in the U.S. It does not cause abortion, but instead stops the release of an egg from the ovary. EC is a safe and effective means of preventing pregnancy—it has low-toxicity and no potential for overdose or addiction; it is not harmful to an existing pregnancy; and because there are no important drug interactions, there is no need for medical screening allowing for self-identification of the need. Furthermore, EC will not harm an established pregnancy. If taken within 72 hours after unprotected sex or contraceptive failure, EC can reduce the risk of pregnancy by as much as 89 percent. But because of the narrow window of effectiveness, timely access to EC is critical.

In light of its safety and efficacy, the American Medical Association and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists have supported more widespread availability of EC. Yet, many patients and health care providers remain uniformed about this important contraception option. Only 1 in 10 women of reproductive age in the US. are aware of EC. In 2003, the Kaiser Foundation conducted a survey to examine teens and adults' knowledge and opinions of EC in California. What they found was very disconcerting—nearly 40 percent did not know that EC was available in the U.S., and half of adult women who had heard of EC, mistakenly thought that it was the ''abortion pill,'' also known as RU–486. Only 7 percent of adults who have heard of EC learned about it from their health care professional. Even women who had a gynecologic exam in the last year were no more likely to have learned about EC from their doctor.

Unfortunately, lack of knowledge and the failure to provide patients with information on EC is a familiar trend throughout this country. Only one in five ob/gyns in the U.S. routinely discuss emergency contraception with their patients. Less than 18 percent of hospitals provide emergency contraception at a woman's request without restrictions. And, tragically nearly 50 percent of hospitals do not provide EC to a woman who has been sexually assaulted, even though it is often the only contraceptive option for the 300,000 women who are raped each year.

Healthy People 2010, published by the Office of the Surgeon General, establishes a 10 year national public health goal of increasing the proportion of health care providers who provide emergency contraception to their patients. My bill will move us much closer toward achieving this goal. The Emergency Contraception Education Act will initiate a large-scale education campaign to better inform women and health care providers about emergency contraception. Specifically, this bill will direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop and disseminate information on EC to health care providers, including recommendations on the use of EC in appropriate cases, and how to obtain copies of information developed by HHS for distribution to patients. The Secretary will also be required to develop and disseminate information on EC to the American public.

EC could help drastically reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies and abortions in the United States. However, barriers to information and access hinder this preventative contraceptive method from reaching its full potential. We can and we must do more to protect women's reproductive health by increasing knowledge of emergency contraception and expanding access to this critical preventative solution.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to cosponsor my bill today.

CONGRATULATING UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS LONGHORNS BASEBALL TEAM

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. McCAUL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this year no team in college baseball could play the game better than the University of Texas Longhorns. The men of the UT baseball team have again won the College World Series. The University of Texas Tower is surely glowing burnt orange in honor of their great accomplishment.

With the win, the Longhorns claimed their sixth national title and their second College World Series trophy in the last four seasons.

The thirty young men on this championship team won the best-of-three series by sweeping the Florida Gators by a 2–0 margin. In fact, the Horns did not lose a game during the semi-final or final rounds of the College World Series.

In their win, we witnessed an aggressive Longhorn offense which put together a four-run sixth inning in the final game to lead Texas to a 6–2 victory over the Gators. I should also mention that the Longhorns scored 24 runs in 5 games—amazing.

UT's offense was equipped with an equal amount of outstanding defense as Longhorn pitchers made it nearly impossible for the Florida Gators to put a bat on the ball, and Longhorn infielders and outfielders presented an insurmountable obstacle for the Gators' hitters and base runners.

Mr. Speaker, the University of Texas Men's Baseball Team has made its home city of Austin, my hometown, and the entire Lone Star State proud. Tonight, the entire team and their coach Augie Garrido deserve our congratulations and recognition.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE HON. ROBERT B. DOYLE, JR.

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, the City of Mobile, Alabama, and indeed the entire First Congressional District recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

Mayor Robert B. Doyle, Jr., was a devoted family man and dedicated public servant throughout his entire life. A native of Mobile, he was a graduate of Murphy High School and the University of Alabama. In 1968, he began his first term on the Mobile Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners, and one year later was elected as the Place 2 representative on the Mobile City Commission. At that time, the office of mayor was held on a rotating basis by members of the city commission, and as a result Mayor Doyle held that office several times during his three terms in office.

During his time in local office, Mayor Doyle was an extremely effective and responsive member of the city commission who took a tremendous amount of pride in his job, his employees, and his community. His three terms in office were marked by several crises and strikes which directly affected the operation of city government, but through each situation he maintained a strong level of integrity and concern for the well-being of Mobile. He was a strong and consistent supporter of the city's public safety force, and believed strongly that the best interests of the city would be served by a strong program of downtown redevelopment for both business and residential interests.

In addition to his public responsibilities, Mayor Doyle also found time to become actively involved in many local and statewide organizations. He served as the president of the Alabama League of Municipalities in 1979. In Mobile, he and his late wife, Ramona, were very involved in activities at Providence Hospital, and he also was a member of both the Comic Cowboys Mardi Gras organization and the Reception Committee of the Mobile Carnival Association. His work also garnered a great deal of praise and recognition from his colleagues and peers, and in 2004 he was elected as a member of the Murphy High School Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated public servant and friend to many in Mobile. Bob Doyle will be deeply missed by his family—his children, Robert B. Doyle, III, Britt Doyle, Lynette Doyle Betty, and Dr. Ramona L. Doyle; his sister, Caroline Shedd; nine grandchildren; and one great-grandchild—as well as the countless

friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

SHORT SEA SHIPPING TAX EXEMPTION ACT OF 2005

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I, along with Congressman CHRISTOPHER SHAYS of Connecticut, introduce the Short Sea Shipping Tax Exemption Act of 2005. The purpose of this legislation is to encourage cargo shipment along America's coastlines and major waterways in a new and innovative fashion.

With our rail lines and highways at full capacity and a growing economy and population, America must find new ways to help cargo be transported. The end result being the creation of a blue water highway that has robust cargo traffic in and out of America's ports.

Currently vessels are subject to the Harbor Maintenance Tax each and every time when servicing a port. This tax precludes many vessels from going to many American ports in a sequential fashion. This legislation would eliminate that tax and thus remove a barrier to Short Sea Shipping. Without this tax in place a cargo vessel could travel from Port Canaveral in Florida, to Baltimore and then onto New York without having to pay the tax. The tax would remain for the larger, ocean-going cargo ships.

For Short Sea Shipping/Blue Water Highway to become a reality, it will take more than the removal of the Harbor Maintenance Tax for the unique vessels needed for Short Sea Shipping, but this a good first step.

IN HONOR OF THE YOUNG AMERICA FOUNDATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, recently, ROTC programs and military recruiters have been under attack on college campuses across the nation. Some of our nation's leading institutions of higher learning have banned military recruiters from their campuses altogether. Not only does this weaken our military at a time of war, but it also denies students the right to serve their country while attending college.

During a time of war, it is imperative for America to have a military that can aggressively and effectively combat terrorism. As the father of two ROTC cadets at Francis Marion University and Clemson University, and as an ROTC graduate of Washington and Lee University who has served 31 years in the Army Reserve and South Carolina Army National Guard, I understand the importance of an educated and qualified volunteer force. Young leaders, such as my sons, Alan and Julian, should have the opportunity to both serve their country and advance their education through programs like ROTC. By banning military recruiting and ROTC programs from colleges, access to America's talented future leaders is being denied.

Recently The Washington Times published an article that discusses ROTC and some of Young America's Foundation's activities in support of ROTC and ROTC students. The article also tells the story of Lauren Daugherty, a student at Emory University, which does not offer ROTC. Miss Daugherty commutes four times weekly to a ROTC program at Georgia Tech, receives no credit for her classes, and is harassed by students when she wears her uniform on campus.

Young America's Foundation, a nonprofit group that is also preserving and protecting Ronald Reagan's Ranch, supports our young men and women in ROTC. For years, Young America's Foundation has sponsored speakers and other programs defending ROTC. From making attacks on ROTC programs and students known to Congress to providing speakers on college campuses who defend ROTC and ROTC students, Young America's Foundation is a welcome ally in making ROTC available to college students.

A second article, from the Young America's Foundation publication Libertas, describes several efforts to restore student rights to participate in ROTC on campuses across the nation. At Columbia University concerned students received 65% support from a referendum circulated to reinstate the school's ROTC program. The university's senate then formed an "ROTC Task Force" made up of students and faculty to discuss the issue. Students at Yale soon followed and started a "Bring Back ROTC" campaign. Their goal is to collect more than two thousand signatures on a petition that would force discussions between the group and the administration. The Young America's Foundation works directly with student-based grass roots operations like these every year. In the past they have given organizational support for campaigns to protect ROTC, and have arranged speakers to address students on campuses about the importance of ROTC.

The courageous efforts of students who stand up against anti-military faculties and administrations represent minority rights on campuses. It is detrimental to our national security to let anti-military institutions of higher learning weaken our armed forces. I commend the efforts of the Young America's Foundation, and other student led groups who fight for a strong national defense and freedom of association.

I ask that these two articles regarding the Young America's Foundation and their support for military recruiting and ROTC be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. "Youth Group backs ROTC on campus" The Washington Times. Thursday, April 14, 2005. Price, Joyce Howard. "Students Willing to Defend Our Country Ridiculed on Many Campuses" Libertas, Vol. 26, No. 2, Spring 2005. Rasmussen, Scott.

(From the Washington Times, Apr. 14, 2005)

YOUTH GROUP BACKS ROTC ON CAMPUS

(By Joyce Howard Price)

A nonprofit conservative youth outreach group that owns Ronald Reagan's former California ranch is fighting what it sees as liberal efforts to abolish ROTC programs on college campuses nationwide, including one in its own backyard.

"ROTC programs on college campuses are under attack by professors and leftists, so Young America's Foundation is stepping forward to honor these young men and women, who sacrifice so much to protect the freedoms we enjoy," the group stated.

YAF especially is concerned about the future of a Reserve Officer Training Corps program in its own neighborhood at the University of California at Santa Barbara, which it sees as being threatened.

Because of its concerns, YAF honored 45 cadets from that program and their instructors at a barbecue at the Reagan Ranch April 9.

"ROTC programs have been an issue since the Vietnam War, and some colleges and universities have not had them for 30 years," said Andrew Coffin, spokesman for the Reagan Ranch.

At that time, students opposed to the Vietnam War argued the presence of ROTC suggested institutional support for the conflict.

"Now because of the Iraq war, ROTC has become an issue against, and efforts are under way on some campuses by anti-military professors and students" to eliminate these programs, Mr. Coffin added.

YAF also is worried about the situation at UCSB where an effort has begun to end a military presence on campus.

"It is not fair to say the university is considering closing down the [military science] program, but it has been asked to consider closing it down" by a few critics, said UCSB spokesman Paul Desruisseaux.

He added that the university's chancellor, Henry T. Yang, has "not weighed in" with an official position.

Recent articles in the Princetonian, Princeton's student newspaper, indicate that a small group of students there have started a referendum drive to end its ROTC program because of discrimination concerns.

But a group striving to retain ROTC also has formed.

Among those in attendance at YAF's April 9 barbecue was Lauren Daugherty, a student at Emory University, which does not offer ROTC. Miss Daugherty said she had to commute four times weekly to an ROTC program at Georgia Tech.

When she wore her camouflage uniform on Emory's campus, Miss Daugherty told The Washington Times that she was "called a 'baby killer' and spat at."

Mr. Coffin said Miss Daugherty "received no credit whatsoever for her ROTC participation, but added that she "ultimately triumphed" because today she is a Marine Corps Officer candidate.

In the hope of invigorating ROTC, Congress passed legislation, signed by President Bush, that prohibits schools from receiving federal funds if they fail to permit ROTC units or military recruiters on their campuses.

STUDENTS WILLING TO DEFEND OUR COUNTRY RIDICULED ON MANY CAMPUSES

(By Scott Rasmussen, Sarah T. Hermann, Intern Scholar)

The anti-military and anti-Vietnam agenda is returning to America's campuses. Once again, refusing students the right to participate in the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) program is at the top of that agenda.

Not far from the Reagan Ranch, seventeen faculty members at the University of California-Santa Barbara (UCSB) voted in support of a proposal to bar its students from seeking careers in the military. The resolution, presented on January 20 of this year by Professor Emeritus Thomas J. Scheff, claims the federal government's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy is grounds for banning military recruiters because it violates the First Amendment. The proposal also calls for a review of the school's ROTC program.

This is not a new phenomenon. Administrators and professors across the country use the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy as a rationale to attack ROTC. Never

mind that by banning ROTC units from campuses these protestors are themselves practicing a form of discrimination. This is a tactic that happens too often. Principles of equality, free speech, and freedom of expression seem to apply only to colleges and universities when they are ideologically expedient.

ROTC units are banned currently from several universities including Brown, Harvard, Stanford, and Yale. Students who attend these universities and wish to participate in ROTC programs must travel, often at their own expense, to neighboring campuses. ROTC cadets frequently are the subjects of ridicule on their own campuses. Despite the recent setbacks at UCSB, headway is being made in the struggle to ensure the rights of students are protected.

Columbia University in New York City banned ROTC in 1969 in an effort to appease liberals. The end of the Vietnam War brought an end to the protesting, however the ban remains in place. That ban is now coming under intense fire thanks to efforts by Advocates for Columbia ROTC, an on-campus student group. Sponsored by the powerful Students United for America, another student organization, the Advocates for Columbia ROTC is making a significant push to bring back ROTC. In a student referendum two years ago, 65% wanted their rights to participate in ROTC restored. In the fall of 2004, students authored a proposal to reinstitute ROTC at Columbia and presented it to the university's senate. The senate then created an ''ROTC Task Force'' made up of faculty and students to discuss the proposal. On February 15 the task force held a ''town hall'' meeting to gather information for a report to be presented to the university's trustees who will make the final decision concerning ROTC's fate at Columbia. After six months of deliberation, the task force split 5–5 on whether or not to restore ROTC to Columbia immediately.

Columbia's student-led movement may restore student rights to participate in ROTC. Articles, editorials, and letters voicing support for ROTC's return fill the student newspaper. A Columbia professor who opposed students' rights to participate in ROTC in 1969 is now calling for Columbia to cooperate with military recruiting efforts.

The potential reform at Columbia is a threat to leftists at other Ivy League schools that bar students from participating in ROTC and meeting with military recruiters on campus.

Students at Yale took notice and started their own ''Bring Back ROTC'' campaign. Yale students hope to garner two thousand signatures on a petition that would encourage increased discussions between the administration and those who want to see ROTC return.

Some student groups are going on the offensive to ensure their rights to participate in ROTC are protected. For example, students at Cornell are circulating a petition applauding the administration's support for ROTC, saying that a ban ''would be an embarrassment to Cornell and a detriment to our armed forces.'' In the midst of a heated debate about military recruiters, students at Princeton formed a coalition to voice support for the ROTC program and its cadets.

These developments are encouraging. The students at Columbia and Yale are discovering that they have voices, and if they organize themselves and show strong support, the administration might finally listen.

But what is happening at UCSB is a step backward and demonstrates what may be a growing undercurrent of anti-militarism by faculties. How can we continue to subvert the efforts of those who literally live and die to preserve our freedoms, liberties, and our very way of life? The men and women who participate in ROTC programs are critical leaders in that war. One ROTC commander described ROTC units as ''islands of conservative values in a sea of liberal secondary education. We are training tomorrow's leaders today.'' Such values and training should be accessible to students no matter what school they choose to attend.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I was not present to vote on the following suspension bills on July 11, 2005, due to family obligations: H. Con. Res. 168 and H. Res. 333.

I respectfully request that the RECORD reflect that I would have voted "aye" on agreeing to H. Con. Res. 168 and "aye" on agreeing to H. Res. 333.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 11, 2005, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall numbers 363 and 364. The votes I missed included a motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 168, condemning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the abductions and continued captivity of citizens of the Republic of Korea and Japan as acts of terrorism and gross violations of human rights, and a motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 333, Supporting the goals and ideals of a National Weekend of Prayer and Reflection for Darfur, Sudan.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 363 and 364.

COMMENDING THE STATE OF KUWAIT FOR GRANTING WOMEN CERTAIN IMPORTANT POLITICAL RIGHTS

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in commending the State of Kuwait for recently granting women important political rights, among them the right of suffrage. Under this new law, passed by the Kuwaiti Parliament on May 17, 2005, Kuwaiti women not only have the right to vote in municipal elections scheduled for later this year and future elections, but they also are now permitted to run for public office.

A few years ago, I had the honor of traveling to Qatar to meet with men and women there. During that journey, it became crystal clear to me that women's suffrage is a universal human right; one that must be fought for by those of us fortunate enough to possess it. The women of Qatar won the right of suffrage in 1999, and since then have become more involved in their government as their voice is heard for the first time.

Additionally, just last month, I had the pleasure of meeting with a delegation of Kuwaiti women involved in various aspects of Kuwaiti life. I met with Mrs. Lulwa Al-Mullah, Secretary General of Women Social and Cultural Society; Ms. Amal Al-Khaled, Marketing and Public Affairs Director of Kuwait News Agency; Dr. Nada Suliman Al-Mutawa, professor at Arab Open University; Dr. Nibal K. Bourisly, Assistant Professor of Mass Communications at Kuwait University; and Mrs. Aroob Youseff Al-Refa'e, Director of Cultural and Scientific Resources at the National Council for Culture, Art, and Literature. These progressive female leaders work in the areas of university education; human rights, business, public affairs, and communications. They have been active in their society for some time, and now with the right to vote, their contributions will know no bounds.

I join my colleagues in saluting the granting of suffrage to the women of Kuwait. It is imperative that we Members of Congress, as representatives of the most free nation in the world, work to advocate the protection of this right of Kuwaiti women, and I stand by my colleagues in this endeavor.

STATEMENT DEFENDING THE HONOR OF OUR TROOPS

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, the protection we have enjoyed here at home since we took the fight to the enemy has been purchased with the sacrifices of our men and women in uniform. The very least we can do in return is to show them honor and respect when they come home.

According to the Greensboro Herald-Journal, middle school teacher Michael Lund of Anita White Carson Middle School in Greensboro, Georgia had that intention when he invited his old college roommate, Marine Sergeant Zach Richardson to speak to his middle school students about his experiences in Iraq.

The children in Mr. Lund's class had been pen pals with Sergeant Richardson and several of his fellow Marines in Iraq, so everyone was excited about finally getting to meet in person.

Imagine the surprise when he and Mr. Lund were intercepted outside the classroom by School Principal Ulrica Corbett. She demanded Mr. Lund escort Sgt. Richardson off school grounds immediately. Principal Corbett later told the media that Mr. Lund did not have approval for a guest speaker to come on campus.

Mr. Lund produced documentation to prove that he had indeed filed the necessary paperwork well in advance, and that Principal Corbett refused to act on it.

Regardless of the reason, this treatment of one of our heroes returning from Iraq is unacceptable and inexcusable.

Under no circumstances should Sergeant Richardson have been denied the opportunity

to speak to the students with whom he had been corresponding.

But just as damaging as the disrespect shown to Sergeant Richardson was the impact of this disrespect on the 6th grade students who were waiting to welcome this veteran.

They witnessed their Principal kick a Marine just back from the front off school property, giving our children a real-life lesson in disrespecting our military.

We have a lesson to teach at Anna White Carson Middle School—and across this country. That lesson should be that disrespect for America's service men and women by public officials will simply not be tolerated by the people of this country.

But before we scream too loudly about the speck in the eye of Greene County public schools, we need to take a look at the log in the eye of this Congress.

Senator DICK DURBIN of Illinois stood on the floor of our Senate and compared our military prisons to those of Nazi Germany.

Members of this Congress have whined about whether a book was mistreated at Guantanamo, while the comrades of those Guantanamo prisoners cut the heads off innocent, unarmed, civilian prisoners in their custody.

Any reasonable person can see that comments such as these plant seeds of disdain against America, here and abroad.

Are these comments and actions against our military forces now actually encouraging new attacks by our enemies in London and Baghdad?

Mr. Speaker, we cannot win this war if we continue to allow a handful of public officials to undermine our efforts with irresponsible comments and actions without paying a price—here and all across our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately today, July 18, 2005, I was delayed at O'Hare Airport due to severe thunderstorms in between Chicago and Washington, DC. I was stuck on the runway for hours and unfortunately I was unable to arrive in Washington before the votes occurred on H. Res. 328 (Rollcall No. 380), H. Con. Res. 175 (Rollcall No. 381), and H. Res. 364 (Rollcall No. 382). Had I been here to cast my votes, I would have voted ''aye'' on these three bills and wish the RECORD to reflect as such.

H. Res. 328 recognizes the 25th anniversary of the workers' strikes in Poland in 1980, starting a chain of events that helped destroy the communist rule of Poland and the Soviet Union. The courage and strength of those workers showed the world that democracy can, will and must be allowed to flourish. The freedoms these workers strived for and vision that helped create the Solidarity Trade Union are freedoms that are fundamental to every human being and I rise today to honor these workers and the courage that they showed. May their example show other oppressed citizens throughout the world that there. is hope and freedom.

H. Con. Res. 175 expresses the sense that Congress recognizes and honors African descendants in the Americas for their contributions to the economic, social, and cultural fabric of the countries in the Americas, particularly in Latin American and Caribbean societies. It recognizes that as a result of their skin color and ancestry, African descendants in the Americas have wrongfully experienced economic, social, and political injustices. For far too long these injustices have continued and this bill is a great show of Congress that we will no longer stand for it and we must continue to promote ways to destroy barriers and racial injustices that divide our citizens and the citizens of Latin America and the Caribbean. I rise in strong support of this resolution.

H. Res. 364 commends the continuing improvement in relations between the United States and the Republic of India. With Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in Washington this week to meet with the President and address us in a joint session of Congress, I can think of nothing better than to recognize the relations our two countries have recently been fostering. I would like to take this time to welcome Prime Minister Singh and look forward to working with him to see that our relations with him and his country continue to progress.

Mr. Speaker, thank you again for allowing me to express my support for these three bills as I was unfortunately delayed on my way to Washington.

MAKING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR VETERANS MEDICAL SERVICES

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 30, 2005

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my unwavering support for H.R. 3130, the fiscal year 2005 emergency supplemental for the Veterans Health Administration. We promised to provide medical care to our veterans long ago, and we can not fail them.

Every time I meet with veterans in my district, they ask me why it has become so hard to get quality care at our local Veterans Administration medical center. I know as well as they do that right now, there are more than 50,000 veterans waiting months for appointments at Veterans Administration medical centers around the country, and this problem is only getting worse as more injured soldiers return from Iraq and Afghanistan. Unfortunately, the President's budget for this year provided only $106 million more than last year for veterans health care, well below the amount needed to maintain services without a major change in policy. Now, we are faced with a system in crisis, and we must act immediately to repair it.

On June 24th, the Bush Administration admitted that the Department of Veterans Affairs budget for healthcare would need an additional $1 billion this year in order to continue operating without loss of services. In response, the President requested an additional $975 million for veterans' health care, which Chairman BUYER and Ranking Member EVANS pledged to provide as quickly as possible. This bill, H.R. 3130, will provide that additional $975 million and prevent a lapse in services. I firmly believe all of my colleagues will join me in supporting this bill, as we must keep the promise we made to our veterans. I hope that this legislation will be sent to the President for his signature as soon as possible.

Even as I am proud to express my strong support of this bill, I remain concerned with the state of veterans' health care in our country. I am pleased that we will pass today a vital emergency supplemental for that system, but I am also extremely troubled that the Veterans Health Administration had this budget shortfall in the first place. The state of veterans health care funding is extremely disappointing, especially given the fact that this entire problem could have been prevented. Instead, it occurred because the Republican leadership has repeatedly denied efforts by Democrats to fund VA healthcare at an appropriate level, claiming that the budget for fiscal year 2005 was more than adequate to serve the rapidly increasing veterans population.

Over the past two years, Democrats in the House have repeatedly stood with America's veterans in the fight to increase funding for veterans' health care. Meanwhile, Republicans have chosen other priorities. Consequently, we do not know when these vital funds will reach this system which is already in crisis. We sought to add $1.2 billion for veterans' health care on the $82 billion Iraqi supplemental, which was denied. We tried to provide a $2.5 billion increase over the President's budget for veterans' health care and Republicans voted no. As recently as June 24th, House Republicans voted to block consideration of amendments offered by Democrats to add the needed funds for VA health care. This obstruction is outrageous, unacceptable, and has led to the shortfall we face today.

Mr. Speaker, I call on the House Republican Leadership to stop their attempts at budget gimmickry and deliver the necessary $1.5 billion to the VA immediately. Our veterans chose to answer the call of duty to their Nation without hesitation, dedicating themselves to the preservation of freedom, liberty and the security of others no matter the risk. On the battlefield, the military pledges to leave no soldier behind. As a Nation, it must be our pledge that we leave no veteran behind. We must honor their service to our grateful Nation and provide our veterans with the benefits they deserve.

IN HONOR OF THE VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL JERSEY HOSPICE PROGRAM

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the men and women of the Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey Hospice Program, who are celebrating their 25th Anniversary this year.

Founded in 1980, the VNACJ Hospice Program has provided compassionate, quality care to those who are reaching the closing chapter of their lives. The many doctors, nurses, social workers, pastoral counselors, and volunteers at the VNACJ work together as teams. These teams collaborate with the patient's own physician to decide proper courses

of treatment so that the quality of life for the patient can be improved. Their efforts have been clearly recognized by the community through the approximately $3 million in donations that have been made to VNACJ.

In addition to the nearly 1,200 patients annually in their care, the VNACJ hospice staff provided counseling services to community members after the September 11, 2001 attacks. In May of 2005, these highly dedicated men and women were recognized by the ExcellRx Institute and its Hospice Pharmacia division for their expertise in pain management.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to praise the hard work and efforts of this organization. They represent a true spirit of selflessness and kindness. Therefore, I rise today to honor and recognize this group of individuals who, for twenty-five years, have served the central New Jersey community with pride and dignity.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to note for the record that I was unable to be present for rollcall number 360, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a Chinese state-owned energy company exercising control of critical United States energy infrastructure and energy production capacity could threaten to impair the national security of the United States. If I had I been present, I would have voted ''yes.''

Over the last decade, the Chinese government has enacted several unfair trade practices, including the artificial devaluation of the Yuen in order to maintain a massive trade surplus. They have used this extra revenue to modernize their military capabilities, and with today's concerns of an impending energy crisis, we cannot allow a U.S. energy company to become a subsidiary of the Chinese government. We must remain vigilant in our efforts.

I would also like to note that that I was unable to be present for rollcall number 361, expressing the grave disapproval of the House of Representatives regarding the majority opinion of the Supreme Court in the case of Kelo et al. v. City of New London et al. that nullifies the protections afforded private property owners in the Takings Clause of the Fifth Amendment. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes.''

As an original cosponsor of this common sense resolution, I am strongly opposed to the Supreme Court's ruling in this case. This Supreme Court decision overrules more than two centuries of legal precedent and tradition through the nullification of the important public use provision of Fifth Amendment's Taking Clause. With this decision, state and local governments can now use eminent domain to take away the real property of any individual for any reason—including for the benefit of another private individual or corporation.

I consider both these issues to be of the utmost importance to myself, the United States Congress and the American people.

IN HONOR AND IN MEMORY OF CORPORAL CHRISTOPHER WINCHESTER OF FLOMATON, ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a young man from the First Congressional District of Alabama who recently made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of freedom abroad.

Corporal Christopher Winchester, a native of Flomaton, Alabama, was a 2002 graduate of Flomaton High School and attended Reid State Technical College. He first joined the United States Marine Corps in February, 2003, and since March, 2005, had been on duty on Iraq as a member of Regimental Combat Team 2, of the 2nd Marine Division. It was there that on July 14, 2005, he and one of his comrades were killed by an exploding roadside bomb while on patrol near the Iraqi-Jordanian border.

Christopher set a standard of excellence and displayed the qualities of discipline, devotion, and dedication to country that are hallmarks of men and women throughout the long and distinguished history of the American military. He had initially joined the Marine Corps as a result of his desire to both better himself personally and secure a better future. However, as a result of his deployment to Iraq and his interaction with the citizens of that newly-freed nation, he grew to realize his importance as one of thousands of young Americans who are working to protect the lives and liberty of millions of men, women, and children who for the first time could enjoy a life free of torture chambers, torment, and terror.

Mr. Speaker, as you can imagine, Flomaton and the neighboring community of Brewton are truly mourning the loss of this fine young man. I feel certain his many friends in Escambia County, as well as his colleagues in the Marine Corps, while mourning his loss, are also taking this opportunity to remember his many accomplishments during his brief 24 years, and to recall the fine gift they each received simply from knowing him and having him as an integral part of their lives.

I urge my colleagues to take a moment and pay tribute to Corporal Christopher Winchester and his selfless devotion to not only our country and the freedoms we enjoy, but to a people who are but now in the infancy of a new life—a new freedom—in their own land.

We should also remember his parents, Gail and Greg Williams and Al Winchester; his brother and sister; his grandparents, Leo and Janell Winchester, Wandy Darby, and Arnie and Pat Williams; and his five nieces and nephews. Our prayer is that God will give them all the strength and courage that only He can provide to sustain them during the difficult days ahead.

It was Joseph Campbell who said, ''A hero is someone who has given his or her, life to something bigger than oneself.'' Make no mistake, young Christopher Winchester was not only a dedicated Marine who made the ultimate sacrifice serving in the uniform of his country, but he was also a true American hero.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, July 19, 2005 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 20

Time to be announced

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Richard L. Skinner, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, and Edmund S. Hawley, of California, to be Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of Homeland Security, and Brian David Miller, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, General Services Administration.

Room to be announced

9:30 a.m.

Environment and Public Works

Business meeting to consider H.R. 1428, to authorize appropriations for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, S. 1339, to reauthorize the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Act of 1994, S. 1250, to reauthorize the Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000, S. 1340, to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to extend the date after which surplus funds in the wildlife restoration fund become available for apportionment, S. 1265, to make grants and loans available to States and other organizations to strengthen the economy, public health, and environment of the United States by reducing emissions from diesel engines, S. 158, to establish the Long Island Sound Stewardship Initiative, S. 1400, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act to improve water and wastewater infrastructure in the United States, S. 1410, to reauthorize the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, the Lacey Act Technical Correction Act, the Alaska Native Villages Reauthorization Act, the nominations of Marcus C. Peacock, of Minnesota, to be Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and Granta Y. Nakayama, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and other pending calendar business.

SD–406

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider proposed Better Healthcare through Information Technology Act, proposed Medical Device User Fee Stabilization Act of 2005, and pending nominations.

SD–430

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine issues and implications relating to reporters' shield legislation.

SD–226

10 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine biosecurity preparedness and efforts to address agroterrorism threats.

SR–328A

Budget

To hold hearings to examine the Federal role and budget implications relating to health information technology.

SD–628

Finance

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robert M. Kimmitt, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, Randal Quarles, of Utah, to be Under Secretary of the Treasury for Domestic Finance, Sandra L. Pack, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Management, and Kevin I. Fromer, of Virginia, to be Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury for Legislative Affairs.

SD–215

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Global Climate Change and Impacts Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the climate policy of the United States, focusing on the climate-related science and technology budget request for fiscal year 2006.

SR–253

10:15 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine economic progress in Iraq.

SD–419

2 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 703, to provide for the conveyance of certain Bureau of Land Management land in the State of Nevada to the Las Vegas Motor Speedway, S. 997, to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain land in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Forest, Montana, to Jefferson County, Montana, for use as a cemetery, S. 1131, to authorize the exchange of certain Federal land within the State of Idaho, S. 1170, to establish the Fort Stanton-Snowy River National Cave Conservation Area, S. 1238, to amend the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 to provide for the conduct of projects that protect forests, and H.R. 1101, to revoke a Public Land Order with respect to certain lands erroneously included in the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge, California.

SD–366

2:30 p.m.

Intelligence

To hold a closed briefing regarding intelligence matters.

SH–219

Aging

To hold hearings to examine solutions to saving money in Medicaid.

SD–106

JULY 21

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S. 1003, to amend the Act of December 22, 1974, relating to Navajo-Hopi land settlement.

SR–485

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 1088, to establish streamlined procedures for collateral review of mixed petitions, amendments, and defaulted claims, S. 751, to require Federal agencies, and persons engaged in interstate commerce, in possession of data containing personal information, to disclose any unauthorized acquisition of such information, S. 1326, to require agencies and persons in possession of computerized data containing sensitive personal information, to disclose security breaches where such breach poses a significant risk of identity theft, S. 155, to increase and enhance law enforcement resources committed to investigation and prosecution of violent gangs, to deter and punish violent gang crime, to protect law-abiding citizens and communities from violent criminals, to revise and enhance criminal penalties for violent crimes, to reform and facilitate prosecution of juvenile gang members who commit violent crimes, to expand and improve gang prevention programs, S. 103, to respond to the illegal production, distribution, and use of methamphetamine in the United States, S. 1086, to improve the national program to register and monitor individuals who commit crimes against children or sex offenses, S. 956, to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide assured punishment for violent crimes against children, S. 1389, to reauthorize and improve the USA PATRIOT Act, and a bill entitled the Personal Data Privacy and Security Act.

SD–226

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the semiannual monetary policy report to the Congress.

SD–538

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Bioterrorism and Public Health Preparedness Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 3, to strengthen and protect America in the war on terror, and S. 975, to provide incentives to increase research by private sector entities to develop medical countermeasures to prevent, detect, identify, contain, and treat illnesses, including those associated with biological, chemical, nuclear, or radiological weapons attack or an infectious disease outbreak.

SD–430

Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider pending nominations; to be followed by a hearing to examine the current state of climate change scientific research and the economics of strategies to manage climate change, focusing on the relationship between energy consumption and climate change, new developments in climate change research and the potential effects on the U.S. economy of climate change and strategies to control greenhouse gas emissions.

SH–216

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine United Nations reform.

SD–419

10:30 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
Business meeting to markup an original bill regarding the reauthorization of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.
SR–328A

2 p.m.
Appropriations
Business meeting to consider H.R. 3058, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, H.R. 2863, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, H.R. 2528, making appropriations for military quality of life functions of the Department of Defense, military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and proposed legislation making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006.
SD–106

2:30 p.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine U.S. financial involvement relative to the United Nations' Capital Master Plan to renovate the U.N. headquarters in New York City.
SD–562

Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Alan W. Eastham, Jr., of Arkansas, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Malawi, Katherine Hubay Peterson, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Botswana, and Michael Retzer, of Mississippi, to be Ambassador to the United Republic of Tanzania.
SD–419

Finance
Long-term Growth and Debt Reduction Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the Federal Tax Code's depreciation system focusing on how to amend the current depreciation system to provide simplification and updated guidance for areas such as emerging industries and technologies, and the role that depreciation should play in providing fiscal stimulus or encouraging economic growth for particular industries of the U.S. economy at large.
SD–215

Intelligence
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of John S. Redd, of Georgia, to be Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, Office of the Director of National Intelligence.
SH–216

JULY 22

10 a.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Karen P. Hughes, of Texas, to be Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy, with the rank of Ambassador, Josette Sheeran Shiner, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of State for Economic, Business, and Agricultural Affairs, Kristen Silverberg, of Texas, to be Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs, and Jendayi Elizabeth Frazer, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs.
SD–419

JULY 25

12 noon
Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Timothy Elliott Flanigan, of Virginia, to be Deputy Attorney General, Department of Justice.
SD–226

JULY 26

10 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
Forestry, Conservation, and Rural Revitalization Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine how farm bill programs can better support species conservation.
SR–328A

Indian Affairs
To hold oversight hearings to examine legislation to resolve Cobell v. Norton.
Room to be announced

2:30 p.m.
Judiciary
Intellectual Property Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine certain issues relative to patents.
SD–226

JULY 27

9:30 a.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold oversight hearings to examine lands eligible for gaming pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.
SH–216

10 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
Forestry, Conservation, and Rural Revitalization Subcommittee
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Conservation Reserve Program.
SR–328A

JULY 28

9:30 a.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold oversight hearings to examine the implementation of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (P.L. 101–601).
SR–485

Veterans' Affairs
Business meeting to consider pending VA legislation.
SR–418

SEPTEMBER 20

10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the American Legion.
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Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S8393–S8438

Measures Introduced: Six bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1415–1420, and S. Res. 198–200. **Page S8419**

Measures Reported:

S. 501, to provide a site for the National Women's History Museum in the District of Columbia. (S. Rept. No. 109–104) **Page S8419**

Measures Passed:

United Airlines Flight 93 Memorial: Committee on Rules and Administration was discharged from further consideration of S. Con. Res. 26, honoring and memorializing the passengers and crew of United Airlines Flight 93, and the resolution was then agreed to, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S8394–95**

Frist (for Conrad) Amendment No. 1228, to make a technical correction. **Page S8394**

Records Production: Senate agreed to S. Res. 199, to authorize the production of records by the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. **Page S8436**

Honoring Jack St. Clair Kilby: Senate agreed to S. Res. 200, honoring the life of Nobel Laureate Jack St. Clair Kilby, inventor of the integrated circuit and innovative leader in the Information Age. **Pages S8436–38**

Foreign Operations Appropriations: Senate resumed consideration of H.R. 3057, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S8393–94, S8395–S8403, S8408–09**

Adopted:

McConnell (for Martinez) Amendment No. 1229, to extend the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy until October 1, 2006. **Page S8395**

McConnell (for Leahy) Amendment No. 1230, of a technical nature relating to Iraq. **Page S8395**

McConnell Amendment No. 1231, to provide an exception for activities of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation in Libya. **Page S8395**

McConnell (for Leahy) Amendment No. 1232, of a technical nature relating to foreign nongovernmental organizations. **Page S8395**

McConnell (for Leahy) Amendment No. 1233, of a technical nature relating to a reporting requirement. **Page S8395**

McConnell (for Leahy) Amendment No. 1234, of a clarifying nature relating to assistance for Pakistan. **Page S8395**

McConnell (for Leahy) Amendment No. 1235, to provide certain assistance to the North Caucasus. **Page S8395**

Harkin Modified Amendment No. 1239, to express the sense of the Senate regarding abusive child labor practices in the growing and processing of cocoa. **Pages S8395–S8400, S8401–02**

McConnell (for Lieberman) Amendment No. 1248, to encourage assistance for programs to address protracted refugee situations. **Pages S8401–02**

McConnell (for Leahy) Amendment No. 1249, of a technical nature relating to Nepal. **Pages S8401–02**

Pending:

Landrieu Amendment No. 1245, to express the sense of Congress regarding the use of funds for orphans, and displaced and abandoned children. **Pages S8400–01**

Grassley Amendment No. 1250, to prohibit the use of funds to approve or administer a loan or guarantee for certain ethanol dehydration plants. **Pages S8408–09**

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

Senator Dorgan submitted a notice to suspend paragraph 4 of Rule XVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate for the purpose of proposing Amendment No. 1256 to the bill. **Page S8416**

Department of Homeland Security—Agreements: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding the July 14, 2005 passage of H.R. 2360, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending, September 30, 2006, Reid (for Byrd/

Stabenow) Amendment No. 1224, to make certain funding revisions with respect to firefighter assistance grants, preparedness and recovery, interoperable communications grants, disaster relief, and the counterterrorism fund, which was previously agreed to on July 14, 2005, be modified. **Pages S8412–13**

A unanimous-consent request was granted permitting Senator Shelby to change his yea vote to a nay vote on Vote No. 187 changing the outcome of the vote to 32 yeas to 65 nays relative to Frist Amendment No. 1223 rejected on July 14, 2005. **Page S8413**

Burma Import Restrictions—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Senate at 11 a.m., on Tuesday, July 19, 2005, begin consideration of S.J. Res. 18, approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003; that the joint resolution be read a third time and returned to the Senate calendar; that the Senate then begin consideration of H.J. Res. 52 (House companion measure); that there be 80 minutes for debate; and that following the use, or yielding back of time, Senate vote on final passage of the joint resolution. **Page S8436**

Escort Committee—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the President of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join with a like committee on the part of the House of Representatives to escort His Excellency, Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India, into the House Chamber for the joint meeting on Tuesday, July 19, 2005. **Page S8436**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 78 yeas 16 nays (Vote No. EX. 190), Lester M. Crawford, of Maryland, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services. **Pages S8403–08, S8438**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

H. Dale Hall, of New Mexico, to be Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Vincent J. Ventimiglia, Jr., of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Bruce Cole, of Indiana, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Humanities for a term of four years.

1 Army nomination in the rank of general.

1 Navy nomination in the rank of admiral. **Page S8438**

Messages From the House: **Page S8417**

Measures Placed on Calendar: **Page S8417**

Executive Communications: **Pages S8417–19**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S8419–20**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S8420–28**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S8428–35**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Pages S8435–36**

Authority for Committees to Meet: **Page S8436**

Privilege of the Floor: **Page S8436**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—190) **Page S8408**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 2:30 p.m., and adjourned at 7:20 p.m. until 11 a.m., on Tuesday, July 19, 2005. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S8438.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

ENGINE COOLANT AND ANTIFREEZE BITTERING AGENT ACT

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs, Product Safety, and Insurance concluded a hearing to examine S. 1110, to amend the Federal Hazardous Substances Act to require engine coolant and antifreeze to contain a bittering agent in order to render the coolant or antifreeze unpalatable, after receiving testimony from Jacqueline Elder, Assistant Executive Director, Hazard and Reduction, Consumer Product Safety Commission; New Mexico State Representative Kathy A. McCoy, Cedar Crest; Jeffrey Bye, Prestone, Honeywell International, Inc., Danbury, Connecticut; and Sara Amundson, Doris Day Animal League, Washington, D.C.

IRAQ

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine certain efforts to secure Iraq, focusing on the current counterinsurgency strategy in Iraq, protecting Iraq's borders and preventing foreign infiltration, the training schedule of Iraqi forces and supporting more training in other countries, and the force structure of the United States' presence in Iraq, after receiving testimony from Kenneth M. Pollack, The Brookings Institution Saban Center for Middle East Policy, and Anthony H. Cordesman, Center for Strategic and International Studies, both of Washington, D.C.; and General Barry R. McCaffrey, USA (Ret.), BR McCaffrey Associates, LLC, Arlington, Virginia.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Gillian Arlette Milovanovic, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Macedonia, and James Cain, of North Carolina, to be Ambassador to Denmark, who was introduced by Senator Burr, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Richard L. Skinner, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security, who was introduced by Senator Warner, and Brian David Miller, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, General Services Administration, who was introduced by Senators Warner and Allen, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

NOMINATION

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Edmund S. Hawley, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 10 public bills, H.R. 3318–3327; 1 private bill, H.R. 3328; and 2 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 210 and H. Res. 364, were introduced. **Pages H5262–63**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H5963–64**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

The National Drug Control Strategy for 2005 and the National Drug Control Budget for Fiscal Year 2006 (H. Rept. 109–172);

H.R. 3070, To authorize the human space flight, aeronautics, and science programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 109–173);

H.R. 3199, as amended. To extend and modify authorities needed to combat terrorism, and for other purposes. (H. Rept. 109–174, Parts I and II);

H. Res. 365, Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2601) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for the fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes (Rept. 109–175). **Page H5962**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Price of Georgia to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H5917**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:37 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H5918**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:10 p.m. and reconvened at 3 p.m. **Page H5919**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Recognizing the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the Veterans Administration: H. Res. 361, recognizing the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the Veterans Administration on July 21, 1930; **Pages H5919–23**

Recognizing the 25th anniversary of the workers' strikes in Poland in 1980: H. Res. 328, amended, recognizing the 25th anniversary of the workers' strikes in Poland in 1980 that led to the establishment of the Solidarity Trade Union, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 385 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 380; **Pages H5925–27, H5931–32**

Acknowledging African descendants of the transatlantic slave trade in all of the Americas: H. Con. Res. 175, amended, acknowledging African descendants of the transatlantic slave trade in all of the Americas with an emphasis on descendants in Latin America and the Caribbean, recognizing the injustices suffered by these African descendants, and recommending that the United States and the international community work to improve the situation of Afro-descendant communities in Latin America and the Caribbean, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 382 yeas to 6 nays and 2 voting "present", Roll No. 381; and **Pages H5927–30, H5932–33**

Commending the continuing improvement in relations between the United States and the Republic of India: H. Res. 364, commending the continuing improvement in relations between the United States and the Republic of India, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 388 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 382. **Pages H5930–31, H5933**

Recess: The House recessed at 4:25 p.m. and reconvened at 6:32 p.m. **Page H5931**

Suspension—Proceedings Postponed: The House completed debate on the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further consideration will continue tomorrow, July 19th:

Calling for free and fair parliamentary elections in the Republic of Azerbaijan: H. Res 326, amended, calling for free and fair parliamentary elections in the Republic of Azerbaijan. **Pages H5923–25**

Quorum Calls—Votes: 3 yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H5932, H5932–33, and H5933. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12:30 p.m., and adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

Committee Meetings

FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2006 AND 2007

Committee on Rules: Granted, by voice vote, a structured rule providing one hour of general debate on H.R. 2601, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and of other purposes, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on International Relations. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provide that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on International Relations now printed in the bill modified by the amendment printed in Part A of the Rules Committee report shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment and shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on International Relations. Notwithstanding clause 11 of rule XVIII, no amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules.

The rule provides that amendments shall be considered only in the order specified in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment except as specified in the report, shall be considered as read, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. The rule waives all points of order against amendments printed in the report. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from Representatives Hyde, Smith of New Jersey, Burton, Mack, Foley, Kennedy of Minnesota, Lantos, Markey, Spratt and McGovern.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2005

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs and Related Agencies, business meeting to mark up H.R. 2528, making appropriations for military quality of life functions of the Department of Defense, military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, 2 p.m., SD–138.

Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, the Judiciary, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, business meeting to consider H.R. 3058, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, 3 p.m., SD–116.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine modifications to the organizational structure and operations of the Department of Homeland Security as part of an effort to make it more efficient and effective, 11:15 a.m., SR–253.

Subcommittee on Aviation, to hold hearings to examine the Federal Aviation Administration's Age 60 Rule, 3:30 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold an oversight hearing to examine the effects of the U.S. nuclear testing program on the Marshall Islands, 2:30 p.m., SD–366.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine advancing Iraqi political development, 2:30 p.m., SH–216.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security, to hold hearings to examine efforts to protect national information infrastructures that continue to face challenges relating to cyberspace, focusing on challenges in protecting U.S. critical infrastructures from cybersecurity threats, 2 p.m., SD–562.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, 11 a.m., SD–226.

Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts, to hold hearings to examine a review of Federal consent decrees, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Benjamin A. Powell, of Florida, to be General Counsel of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, 2:30 p.m., SDG–50.

House

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Military Personnel, hearing on the Current Status of Military Recruiting and Retention, 11 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Projection Forces, hearing on Department of the Navy FY06 Plans and Programs for the DD(X) Next-Generation Multi-Mission Surface Combatant Ship, 3:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, hearing entitled ''Legislation to Reauthorize the National Institutes of Health,'' 2 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, and the Committee on Resources, joint hearing entitled ''Improving Land Title Grant Procedures for Native Americans,'' 11 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Government Reform, Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats and International Relations, hearing entitled ''Occupational and Environmental Health Surveillance of Deployed Forces: Tracking Toxic Casualties,'' 10:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Economic Security, Infrastructure Protection, and Cybersecurity, to continue hearings entitled ''Leveraging Technology to Improve Aviation Security, Part II,'' 2 p.m., 2261 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on the Constitution, oversight hearing on Can Congress Create A Race-Based Government?: The Constitutionality of H.R. 309, Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2005, and S. 147, Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2005, 2 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Constitution, hearing on H. Res. 97, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that judicial determinations regarding the meaning of the Constitution of the United States should not be based on judgments, laws, or pronouncements of foreign institutions unless such foreign judgments, laws, or pronouncements inform an understanding of the original meaning of the Constitution of the United States, and the Appropriate Role of Foreign Judgements in the Interpretation of American Law, 4 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Resources, oversight hearing entitled ''The Status of the Eastern Oyster (Crassostrea virginica) and the Petition to List the Eastern Oyster as Endangered or Threatened under the Endangered Species Act,'' 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Water and Power, oversight hearing entitled ''Maintaining and Upgrading the Bureau of Reclamation's Facilities to Improve Power Generation, Enhance Water Supply and Keep our Homeland Secure,'' 11 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Rules, to consider H.R. 3070, National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2005, 4 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Joint Meetings

Conference: meeting of conferees on H.R. 6, to ensure jobs for our future with secure, affordable, and reliable energy, 11 a.m., 2123 RHOB.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

11 a.m., Tuesday, July 19

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will consider S.J. Res. 18, Burma Import Restrictions Act, which will be read a third time, returned to the Senate calendar, and the Senate then begin consideration of H.J. Res. 52 (House companion measure), with 80 minutes for debate, followed by a vote on the resolution. Also, at 2:15 p.m., Senate will continue consideration of H.R. 3057, Foreign Operations Appropriations.

(At 9:40 a.m., Senators will meet in the Senate Chamber to proceed to the House of Representatives for a Joint Meeting of Congress, to begin at 10 a.m., to receive an address from His Excellency, Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India.)

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Tuesday, July 19

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Joint Meeting to receive Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India. Begin consideration of H.R. 2601, Foreign Relations Authorization Act for FY 2006 and 2007 (subject to a rule).

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