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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. CONAWAY).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 25, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL K. CONAWAY 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 Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) for 5 minutes.

MEDICAL LIABILITY CRISIS

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today again to remind my colleagues of the importance of passing a Medical Liability Reform bill on the floor of the House this week.

I would like to submit for the record and read a brief section of a news story from my district. These type of stories have become common in the media in my area over the past few years.

I quote, "One doctor who has been treating patients in Bethalto for more than 20 years is moving his practice to another state."

"The rate increases are forcing some doctors in Madison County to take their practices elsewhere. That is the case for Dr. Charles Sammis, who took over his father's practice 20 years ago.

"It would be so nice if I could stay here, but the way it is it is impossible." Dr. Sammis has been treating patients at his family practice in Godfrey for 20 years. Friday was his last day.

Dr. Sammis says the rising medical malpractice insurance rates in Madison County have forced him out. He is not alone. The whole Madison County area, I think there is maybe two or three left and everybody else has pretty much either retired or left.

Meantime, Dr. Sammis' departure has been especially hard on his patients. "You have all been nice to me and I appreciate it," he is quoted as saying. Dr. Sammis and his family are moving to Wisconsin where he plans to open another practice.

I would urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 5 this week. To stay competitive in the global marketplace and keep jobs in America, we need to ensure that our health care delivery system is fully intact.

BETHALTO DOCTOR CLOSES OFFICE DUE TO RISING MEDICAL MALPRACTICE RATES (By Erin O'Neill)

The debate continues over rising medical malpractice insurance costs and who's to blame. Some doctors in Madison County, Illinois say the jump in insurance premiums has forced them to close their offices.

One doctor, who has been treating patients in Bethalto for more than 20 years, is moving his practice to another state.

While medical malpractice is a problem all across the U.S., a recent report from the American Tort Reform Association suggested its especially common in the Metro East. Some say frivolous lawsuits are to blame, others say it is price gouging by the insurance companies.

The rate increases are forcing some doctors in Madison County to take their practices elsewhere. That's the case for Dr. Charles Sammis, who took over his father's practice 20 years ago.

"It would be so nice if I could stay here, but the way it is, it's impossible." Dr. Sammis has been treating patients at his family practice in Godfrey for 20 years. Friday was his last day.

Dr. Sammis says the rising medical malpractice insurance rates in Madison County have forced him out. He's not alone. "The whole Madison County area I think there's maybe two to three left and everybody else has pretty much either retired or left."

Dr. Sammis says frivolous lawsuits are to blame. Not so, says former Missouri Insurance Commissioner Jay Angoff, "The insurance companies are telling the doctors look over here its their fault when it's the insurance companies themselves."

Angoff says malpractice rates have more than doubled in the last five years, while the amount of money paid in claims actually dropped, so he says lawsuits aren't the problem. "So, there is no justification for premiums going up the way they are. And, if I were a doctor in Illinois I would call ISME up, that's a major malpractice insurer in Illinois, and say 'Why are my premiums going up when claim payments are going down?'"

But Dr. Sammis still believes needless litigation is behind the escalating costs and hopes tort reform is a solution. In May, Illinois lawmakers approved a plan to cap lawsuit awards in medical malpractice cases, but the bill remains on the Governors desk. "And we were hoping that our Governor would sign the bill and he's still waiting on it. And I know there's a lot of issues with that, but its getting very difficult to practice medicine here right now."

Meantime, Dr. Sammis' departure has been especially hard on his patients, "You've all been nice to me and I appreciate it."

Bob Vieregge has been going to Dr. Sammis for 20 years, "I told him the other day I said I lost my wife and I lost my priest and good friend and now I'm losing my doctor." Patient Mary Stanton says. "We just wish him all the best of everything where he's going."

Angoff says insurance companies in both Illinois and Missouri are notorious for very weak insurance regulation. He says insurance companies can raise rates at will and the insurance commissioner can't do anything about it. He says the solution is for local doctors to rally behind legislation that requires insurance companies to get the approval of the commissioner before raising rates.

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Meantime, Dr. Sammis and his family are moving to Wisconsin where he plans to open another practice.

CENTRAL AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I was just actually watching a speech by the President. It was sort of the Grimm's Fairy Tales version of why Members of this House should vote for CAFTA, why Members of this House should vote to extend a failing trade policy to another five nations in Central America as a template for an even larger expansion of failed U.S. NAFTA free trade policies throughout the western hemisphere.

He talked about their subsistence farmers and how, if only the tariffs on very expensive U.S. agricultural machinery were removed, that additional 10 or 15 percent on the cost, how the subsistence farmers who average less than \$1,000 a year will be buying \$100,000, \$500,000 pieces of farm equipment. They will just trot right down to the local bank, and I guess the bank will extend them a loan for a \$500,000 piece of equipment they will never be able to pay for, and they will not be able to afford fuel to put this.

Now, that is the same kind of falsehood we heard about NAFTA, that this was going to be a boon for U.S. workers and manufactured goods because all the people of Mexico would take all their pesos, put them together, and they could afford to buy almost as much stuff as the people of New Jersey. In the case of CAFTA it is an even smaller economy, less capability.

He talked about how the factory workers there are just waiting in line to buy American goods. Of course \$0.40 an hour, you are not going to be buying a lot of American goods or probably not any. But they are working for a lot less than American production workers.

So what is going to happen with CAFTA? The same thing that happened with NAFTA. You are going to see U.S. capital flood south into Central America so that they can produce things that were once made here, textiles and other things in the case of Central America and in all probability. In the case of NAFTA, it was automobiles, auto parts, it was a whole flood of things, washing machines, driers, other appliances. It all went to Mexico. They predicted that NAFTA, just like with CAFTA, they said, oh, CAFTA is going to be great for the American economy. It will put people to work, create jobs. They said the same thing about NAFTA. It was going to create a million jobs. Instead it lost a million jobs.

Now, what they do is really tricky when they talk about CAFTA. They talk about how they have studied it

and studied it, and they see an increase in exports to Central America.

What they do not say is the President's own trade commission sees a much bigger increase in imports from Central America. That means a net deficit. That means we are selling less there than we are buying back. It means we are going to lose more jobs. It is the same condition we are in with the rest of the world.

The United States of America is borrowing \$2 billion a day to finance the purchase of overseas goods, goods that were once made here by people who earned a decent living.

This is not a sustainable model. And to extend it to Central America is not going to begin to put America on a better path to bringing jobs home to the United States, bringing wages back up for our production workers, seeing that they continue to have benefits.

American workers should not be asked to compete with workers who earn less than a \$1 an hour in Central America. But that is what will happen if this is passed.

Time and time again, the experts, the administrations, including the Democratic administration, the Clinton administration, which was a total disaster on trade, as bad as Bush and maybe worse, they come to this Congress and they say if only, if only you will open up our borders, it will bring great wealth to the American people, prosperity and jobs. And what it has brought is the loss of 3 million manufacturing jobs, a deficit of \$2 billion a day in trade, and driven down wages in countless industries across this country where all the boss has to say is, you will not take a pay cut? Not far to the Mexican border. That is where your plant is going. And they have done that again and again and again. So we should not extend this disaster one more time. And when all the apologists stand up and talk about all the wealth it is going to create, all the jobs and all the exports, remember, they said exactly the same thing about the NAFTA. They said exactly the same thing about China MFN and the WTO, and they were wrong, and there is no reason why they are not going to be wrong again, because they know that what they are saying is not true. It is just the way they have got to sell the package here to benefit a few industries to the disadvantage of the rest of the people in this country.

It is time for a trade policy that makes sense for all the people of America, not just a treasured few who own the stock and the factories of the multinational corporations that have been profiting from our failures.

ASSOCIATION HEALTH PLANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the issue of health care insurance in America, its rising costs and a solution that will help to reduce the cost for many Americans. Our Nation is in the midst of a health care crisis. This crisis affects Pennsylvania's health care professionals, their patients and the doctor-patient relationship. This crisis is especially acute in my district in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

Last week I held a small business committee forum in my district. The health care crisis and how it affects small businesses was the topic of the forum. The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO) was kind enough to come to the forum and to apply his many years of experience to the issue, and I thank the gentleman for his contribution and for his insights.

Pennsylvania's health care problems are among the worst in the Nation. Doctors in Pennsylvania are faced with some of the highest medical malpractice insurance rates in the country. Because they cannot afford to pay for malpractice insurance, many Pennsylvania physicians are practicing defensive medicine or simply shutting their doors, moving to other states or retiring. Young doctors establishing a new practice are reluctant to consider Pennsylvania because of malpractice insurance problems.

Over 50 percent of Pennsylvanians say their family has had difficulty in paying the cost of health care or obtaining health insurance coverage. Since 2001, the cost of health insurance has risen 59 percent, and employers who offer health care benefits are paying an average of 11 percent more for health insurance premiums than they did in 2004. This is the fourth year in a row of double digit increases with no end in sight.

From a national perspective, the statistics are staggering. The Labor Department has recently reported that 3.7 million new jobs were created since May of 2003, marking 25 consecutive months of positive job growth for the U.S. economy. Unfortunately, there are 41 million Americans who are without health care insurance. Nearly 60 percent of the 41 million uninsured Americans are employed by small businesses or are dependent on someone who is employed by a small business. As health care costs continue to increase, fewer employers and working families will be able to obtain coverage, and the number of uninsured will inevitably rise. For a Nation of the 21st Century, and in a country that boasts the world's largest and most productive economy, this is simply unacceptable.

The skyrocketing cost of health care is making employer-sponsored health coverage harder and harder for businesses, especially small businesses, to provide to their employees. This fact makes it nearly impossible for many hard working families to receive affordable care that they need and deserve.

I am proud to say the House Republicans have a plan to increase and improve America's access to affordable and high quality health care. Association Health Plans will help employers, especially small business owners, afford quality health care for their employees and their families, will improve the quality of life and provide much needed health security. AHPs address both health care access and cost by allowing small businesses to create associations that may jointly purchase health insurance for their workers at a lower cost.

Specifically, AHPs establish eligibility requirements so that all AHPs are required to offer fully-insured and/or self-insured benefits. AHPs encourage broad participation and coverage by prohibiting discrimination of any kind against certain "high-risk" individuals. AHPs will cover specific diseases, maternal and newborn hospitalization and mental health issues. AHPs will be exempt from costly and burdensome state health insurance regulations to enable greater and more effective coverage. AHPs will be financially strong and responsible by reserving enough funds for potential costs and other obligations.

AHPs have enjoyed the support of a wide coalition, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Federation of Independent Businesses, the American Farm Bureau, the Associated Builders and Contractors, the Latino Coalition, the National Black Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Women Business Owners and the National Restaurant Association.

These organizations have endorsed AHPs because AHPs will reduce health insurance costs for employers. For example, insurers selling directly to small employers typically incur administrative costs of 20 to 25 percent. By contrast, the Congressional Budget Office has estimated that small businesses that obtain insurance through AHPs will save an average of 13 percent. Other estimates have indicated cost savings could be as much as 25 percent. AHPs will significantly reduce the number of uninsured Americans. AHPs, according to a study by the Research Corporation, estimates that up to 8.5 million uninsured workers and dependents could gain coverage from AHP legislation. And this study confirms even a small cost savings can result in large increases in purchasing power for all of our small businesses. The CBO has concluded, Mr. Speaker, that Association Health Plan legislation would extend insurance coverage for up to two million uninsured American workers with no cost to the government.

I encourage my colleagues to support the Small Business Health Insurance Act, H.R. 525, when it comes to the floor this week.

CENTRAL AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, this week we will address one of the most important national security issues of the 109th Congress. It also is an extraordinarily important economic issue, when it comes to the challenge of growth in this country and throughout this hemisphere. I am talking of course about the Dominican Republic Central American Free Trade Agreement.

As I listened to my colleague from Oregon just a few minutes ago decry the problems of the North American Free Trade Agreement and the fact that there will be overpromising when it comes to the Central American Free Trade Agreement, I was struck by the fact that he really did not get the message that was provided by that great former senator, democratic presidential candidate from Massachusetts, Paul Tsongas, who said, the problem with my democratic party is that they love employees but they hate employees.

The fact of the matter is, if you look all the way across the board, we know that globalization is inevitable. And as Prime Minister Singh said in his address to us a week ago tomorrow, right here in a joint session of Congress, we cannot ignore what is taking place in any other part of the world because of the fact that the globe is shrinking.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am not going to overpromise and say passage of the Central American Free Trade Agreement is all of a sudden going to solve every ailment of society. But I do know this, 22 years ago, we, with a huge bipartisan vote passed the Caribbean Basin Initiative, which, instead of sending aid, provided an opening, an opportunity for the Caribbean nations to have access to the U.S. consumer market. That has helped us and it has helped them.

Right now, with the Central American Free Trade Agreement, all we are saying is let us have a reciprocal arrangement. 80 percent of the goods, including 99 percent of agricultural products from Central America come tariff free, tax free to U.S. consumer. That is a good thing. It has allowed us, Mr. Speaker, to allow the high standard of living that we have as Americans.

Now, what we are saying is, through this agreement, let us open up their markets so that the 44 million consumers in the Dominican Republic and the 5 Central American countries can have access to U.S. manufactured goods.

Now, one of the challenges that we face, of course, is our competition that is going on with the Pacific Rim. We, at the end of last week, saw finally moves toward re-evaluation of the yuan, the Chinese currency. And we

know that if we are going to compete, it is important for us to implement hemispheric wide trade here so that we can compete with Asia and, specifically, with China.

One of the things we also know, Mr. Speaker, is that if you buy a shirt from China it has a little more than 1 percent of U.S. content. If you buy a shirt from Central America that is manufactured in Central America, over 60 percent of it has U.S. content. So this agreement is going to enhance our ability, not only as a Nation, but as a hemisphere to be more competitive.

We put together a wide range of agreements over the last several years, bilateral agreements with Jordan, Singapore, Australia, Chile, Morocco. They have all been great bilateral agreements. But right now, Mr. Speaker, we have the opportunity to put together a very important multilateral agreement with six countries. That also will lay the groundwork for the very important effort that we have that will begin in the coming days to proceed with the Doha round with the WTO in Geneva. Why? Because the goal as was set forth back in 1947 when the general agreement on tariffs and trade was established was to eliminate tariffs. And we all know, Mr. Speaker, that a tariff is a tax. And so cutting taxes enhances the standard of living and the quality of life for people. This is a win-win for the United States of America, for the Central American countries, and for our region as a whole.

I hope very much that our colleagues join in a strong bipartisan way, doing exactly what we did in 1983 when we passed the Caribbean basin initiative. Let us send this to the President so that it can be signed and so that we can have this win-win all the way around.

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 49 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 (Mr. KOLBE) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Loving God, bless all those who work for the U.S. House of Representatives.

May all House Members and all who serve as their staff be instruments of consultation and wisdom to accomplish the legislative work of the American people.

Renew this Nation in its trust of Your divine providence and in the honest trust of human relationships.

Without trust there can be no open society.

Trust allows us to seek knowledge, experience, and personal wisdom from others.

Trust builds strong partnerships in business and in government.

Trust helps us take down walls, remove barriers, and eliminate friction.

Lord, make us a people who are trustworthy and skilled in building trust.

For this Chamber proclaims what America prays: "In God we trust" now 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 his approval thereof.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SHIMKUS 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.

CENTRAL AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the benefits of the Central American Free Trade Agreement to agricultural interests in my home State of Illinois.

As the number two soybean and soy products exporter, Illinois already sends approximately \$50 million worth of soy products per year to CAFTA countries. The immediate duty-free access for some products and reductions in tariffs on others are expected to significantly improve opportunities for Illinois soybeans and their products.

Illinois corn farmers are the Nation's number two exporter of feed grains. U.S. corn exports to CAFTA countries will benefit from reduced tariffs and duty-free access for corn products. In total, CAFTA countries are already Illinois' 22nd largest export market, accounting for more than \$211 million in exports in 2004. After the first year of CAFTA implementation, Illinois is expected to realize \$79 million in increased output across all industries in the State and \$24 million in increased employees earnings and nearly 700 new jobs created.

This historic agreement will eliminate tariffs and trade barriers and expand regional opportunities for the workers, manufacturers, consumers, farmers, and service providers of all the countries.

LANCE ARMSTRONG

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it has been said that a quitter never wins and a winner never quits.

Seven-time winner of the Tour De France, Lance Armstrong, embodies these words. Raised in Plano, Texas, Lance Armstrong has become a household name synonymous with sacrifice, victory, and courage.

Most agree Lance's biggest victory was defeating cancer. Lance has spread his message that "you too can help fight the disease and beat it."

Many now wear his yellow Livestrong bracelets, with countless dollars pouring into cancer research to help find a cure. He truly is a hero of hope.

I thank Lance Armstrong for all he has done for the American spirit and the cancer community. His tenacity, courage, and strength are an inspiration. I congratulate him on his seventh Tour De France victory. God bless him. I salute him.

SUPPORTING EGYPT

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

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, today the President and countless others will be sending their condolences to the people of Egypt. For the second time in less than a week, they have suffered a loss at the hands of terrorists, this time in Sharm el-Sheik, the site of the historic peace conference between Israel and the Palestinians that have led to the quiet period and the hope for a Palestinian state and for two peoples living side by side once and for all in peace.

It is amazing to me that Iraq's first Arab ambassador came from Egypt, and yet this body seems to be always in doubt about whether or not Egypt is our ally, whether or not military support is necessary for this largest Arab nation anywhere in the world. I believe today after the assassination of their ambassador in Iraq, after the attacks in Sharm el-Sheik, after so many times Egypt has been there for us and paid a price, we should reflect on this special relationship and be glad that this Arab nation is there for us in our time of need.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-CENTRAL AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

(Mrs. BIGGERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the DR-CAFTA accord, not just because it is good for America but because it is good for the businesses and workers in my district in suburban Chicago.

Recently, I received a letter from one of the largest employers in my district. He wrote to say that today the tariff he pays on one of the products he manufactures and sends to Guatemala is 5 percent. If it enters the Dominican Republic, he pays 8 percent. And if it goes to Costa Rica, the tax is 14 percent.

In his letter he pointed out that all that will change on the day that DR-CAFTA goes into effect. Most tariffs on U.S. manufactured goods, including the product he wrote about, will be completely eliminated. For his company, shareholders, and workers, it means profits, greater competitiveness, and jobs.

About 80 percent of the goods made in DR-CAFTA countries already enter the U.S. duty free. Let us level the playing field and do something positive for our manufacturers and workers. Let us pass DR-CAFTA now.

CAFTA AND ITS NEGATIVE IMPACT ON LATINOS

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

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in opposition to CAFTA because it is a bad policy for families that I represent in my district, particularly Latino families not only in the United States but in Central America.

CAFTA will outsource valuable American jobs. In fact, in the last 10 years when we approved NAFTA, we lost 1,000 jobs in my district alone.

CAFTA will destroy the jobs of subsistence for farmers and others who depend on the environment in Central America.

As the only member of Central American descent, I think I do have the right to say that poverty there is still something that is very real for many of the people that live in Central America and particularly they will be most affected, whether it is their health care, access to medicines, whether it is farming jobs there. All that is at stake for people in Central America.

I am afraid to say that if we take away those opportunities, those individuals might want to come here to this country. And I know that there is a movement here in this country to say close the borders, but at the same time we are sending signals that we are going to be helping the very wealthy in these countries and not those who need it very much.

So I would oppose CAFTA and ask my colleagues to do so as well.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. On July 24, 1998, at 3:40 p.m., Officer Jacob J. Chestnut and Detective John M. Gibson of the United States Capitol Police were killed in the line of duty defending the Capitol against an intruder armed with a gun.

Later today the Chair will recognize the anniversary of this tragedy by observing a moment of silence in their memory.

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.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS
WITH RESPECT TO COMMEMORATION
OF WOMEN SUFFRAGISTS

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 59) expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the establishment of an appropriate day for the commemoration of the women suffragists who fought for and won the right of women to vote in the United States, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.J. RES. 59

Whereas one of the first public appeals for women's suffrage came in 1848 when Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton called a women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York, on July 19, 1848;

Whereas Sojourner Truth gave her famous speech titled "Ain't I a Woman?" at the 1851 Women's Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio;

Whereas in 1869, suffragists formed two national organizations to work for the right to vote: the National Woman Suffrage Association and the American Woman Suffrage Association;

Whereas these two organizations united in 1890 to form the National American Woman Suffrage Association;

Whereas in 1872, Susan B. Anthony and a group of women voted in the presidential election in Rochester, New York;

Whereas she was arrested and fined for voting illegally;

Whereas at her trial, which attracted nationwide attention, she made a speech that ended with the slogan "Resistance to Tyranny Is Obedience to God";

Whereas on January 25, 1887, the United States Senate voted on women's suffrage for the first time;

Whereas during the early 1900s, a new generation of leaders joined the women's suffrage movement, including Carrie Chapman Catt, Maud Wood Park, Lucy Burns, Alice Paul, and Harriot E. Blatch;

Whereas women's suffrage leaders devoted most of their efforts to marches, picketing, and other active forms of protest;

Whereas Alice Paul and others chained themselves to the White House fence;

Whereas the suffragists were often arrested and sent to jail, where many of them went on hunger strikes;

Whereas almost 5,000 people paraded for women's suffrage up Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, DC; and

Whereas on August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution granted women in the United States the right to vote: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it is the sense of Congress that women suffragists should be revered and celebrated for working to ensure the right of women to vote in the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA).

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

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Committee on Government Reform, I rise in support of House Joint Resolution 59. This legislation, introduced by the distinguished gentlewoman from Las Vegas, Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY) recognizes women's suffrage as a great milestone in our Nation's history.

The resolution specifically intends to commemorate the struggle waged by suffragists such as Sojourner Truth, Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony as a culmination in women's earning the right to vote. Many people reviled social reformers like these women leaders in the mid-19th Century. Today, however, they rightfully celebrate the fight to end this injustice.

I appreciate the gentlewoman from Nevada's work in further recognizing the legacy of the American civil rights movement.

From the women's rights meeting called by Mott and Stanton in Seneca Falls, New York in 1848 until the ratification of the 19th amendment in 1920, the determination of these women was as strong and has endured as any in our history. To earn the right to vote, these women chained themselves to the White House gates. They went on hunger strikes. They participated in marches and often were arrested and jailed for their disobedient action.

Despite the difficult obstacles and resistance they faced, suffragists remained committed to giving women the equal voice in American politics. Their victory was finally secured when Secretary of State Colby certified the ratification of the 19th amendment to the United States Constitution on August 26, 1920. The joint resolution under consideration marks the 19th amendment's upcoming 85th anniversary on August 26.

The 19th amendment reads: "The rights of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." This single, timeless sentence ensured that our democracy would never again restrict women from voting for their leaders.

Mr. Speaker, the story of the women suffragists included many excruciating chapters, but its tumultuous activities and its conclusion is a credit to democracy and the ability to adapt and improve.

For all these reasons, I strongly urge my colleagues to support the adoption of this measure.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleague in consideration of H.J. Res 59, expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the establishment of an appropriate day for the commemoration of the women suffragists who fought for and won the right of women to vote in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, the women's rights movement began in the mid-1800s when women such as Sarah Grimke, Angelina Grimke, Lucy Stone, Abby Kelly, Lucretia Mott, and Sojourner Truth found it necessary to speak out for women's rights because they were not allowed to participate equally with men in anti-slavery and temperance reform movements.

The right to vote was not their original focus. A convention held in Seneca Falls, New York in 1848 changed that. It was at that historic event that the women's suffrage movement formally began.

□ 1415

The movement culminated with the passage of the 19th amendment to the Constitution in 1920.

Suffragists employed a variety of arguments to press their case. Some argued from the basis of natural law, arguing equality for all. Some argued on the grounds that women were compelled to pay taxes on the property they owned and, therefore, should not be subject to the injustice of taxation without representation.

Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Lucretia Mott were among the most well-known suffragettes who pushed for a constitutional amendment. These women emerged as the leaders of the movement and helped to secure the right to vote for all women in America.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my colleagues, and specifically the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY), for bringing this bill to the Floor today. We should never forget how our country has emerged to being a representative democracy, knowing full well that we have not totally achieved everything that we want to achieve, but we are continuing to try and form a more perfect Union.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this bill.

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

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers at this time, and I urge adoption of House Joint Resolution 59.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor all the women, particularly the African-American women who participated in the suffrage movement, in the 19th and 20th centuries.

The historic women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, NY, in 1848 first brought the issue of women's suffrage to the forefront of the women's rights movement. This conference ignited passion for women nationwide to pursue a right they have previously been denied for far too long.

A second convention held in Akron, OH, in 1851, not far from my district in Cleveland, was equally historic for the powerful speech given by Sojourner Truth, entitled "Ain't I a woman?" Her rousing oratory and trying personal experiences provided a unique perspective to both women's rights as well as the institution of slavery.

Another historic female figure, Harriet Tubman, spoke of her desire for women's rights while she was a slave runaway. Ms. Tubman, as many other African-American women, correctly recognized the hypocrisy in the patronage of women even after the abolition of slavery. The shackles of subservience still weighed down on African-American women at that time.

Although the 19th amendment, which extended voting rights to include women, was not passed until 1920 the indispensable contributions from African-American women helped usher in the long overdue law. With the passage of this amendment came a big step toward the gradual deterioration of a system of patronage that has made the battle for gender equality an uphill climb.

It gives me great pride to rise with the my fellow congressional colleagues to honor the women who fought tirelessly for this amendment.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.J. Res. 59 introduced by my friend and colleague, Congresswoman SHELLEY BERKLEY, and I commend her for introducing this bill.

The battle for suffrage began in earnest in 1848, when Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton organized a convention in Seneca Falls, NY, to advance women's rights. Their struggle continued for 72 years, until August 18, 1920, when ratification of the 19th amendment to the United States Constitution finally gave women the right to vote.

Like other civil rights campaigns, the fight for suffrage required strong and principled individuals who risked health, wealth, and societal denigration. Susan B. Anthony and her fellow activists were fearless in their efforts to win the right to vote in the 19th century. Their courage inspired a new generation of suffragists, including Carrie Chapment Catt, Maud Wood Park, Lucy Burns, and Alice Paul, and Harriott E. Blatch, who would not allow themselves to be silenced despite harassment and arrest. Their efforts resonated nationwide, and in 1920 they achieved their goal: political equality for women.

We must not forget their struggle or undervalue their achievement. The 19th amendment makes for a more equitable society and for a more truly representative government. In fact, the number of women serving in national, State and local elected office has steadily increased. The 109th Congress has 83 female Members, including House Democratic Leader NANCY PELOSI. Leader PELOSI is a role model

for all those aspiring to public service, and I am hopeful and confident that in my lifetime there will be full parity between men and women in this legislative institution.

Commemorating these brave suffragists reminds us of the hard fight for gender equality and the ongoing struggle today. Women continue to face discrimination in the workplace, where women make less money and are promoted less frequently. In government, women, despite great gains, are underrepresented in every branch and at every level.

By passing this resolution, the House not only honors the women who won passage of the 19th amendment, but it also sends a clear message that we are committed to eliminating the inequalities that women face today. I urge my colleagues to support H.J. Res. 59.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KOLBE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 59, 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. ISSA. 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.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 181) supporting the goals and ideals of National Life Insurance Awareness Month, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 181

Whereas life insurance is an essential part of a sound financial plan;

Whereas life insurance provides financial security for families in the event of a premature death by helping surviving family members to meet immediate and longer-term financial obligations and objectives;

Whereas nearly 50,000,000 Americans say they lack the life insurance coverage needed to ensure a secure financial future for their loved ones;

Whereas recent studies have found that when a premature death occurs, insufficient life insurance coverage on the part of the insured results in three-fourths of surviving family members having to take measures such as working additional jobs or longer hours, borrowing money, withdrawing money from savings and investment accounts, and, in too many cases, moving to smaller, less expensive housing;

Whereas individuals, families, and businesses can benefit greatly from professional insurance and financial planning advice, including the assessment of their life insurance needs; and

Whereas the Life and Health Insurance Foundation for Education (LIFE), the Na-

tional Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA), and a coalition representing hundreds of leading life insurance companies and organizations have designated September 2005 as "Life Insurance Awareness Month", the goal of which is to make consumers more aware of their life insurance needs, seek professional advice, and take the actions necessary to achieve the financial security of their loved ones: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Life Insurance Awareness Month; and

(2) calls on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, other entities, and the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA).

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT), the author of this bill.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 181, which supports the goals and ideals of National Life Insurance Awareness Month, September of 2005.

I want to thank my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KANJORSKI), the Ranking Member of the Committee on Financial Services Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Insurance, and Government Sponsored Enterprises, and a member of the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus, for introducing this resolution with me for a second year, and for his support on this issue.

I also want to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS) for expeditiously moving this resolution through the Committee on Government Reform. In addition, I would like to thank Senator CHAMBLISS for working with us on this side of the Capitol to craft identical resolutions with both bipartisan and bicameral support.

Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 181 calls on the Nation to observe the month of September as Life Insurance Awareness Month. A number of associations, including the Life and Health Insurance Foundation for Education, the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors, the American Council of Life Insurers, and a coalition representing hundreds of leading life insurance companies and organizations have designated September 2005 as Life Insurance Awareness Month.

Our collective goal for the month is to make consumers more aware of their life insurance needs, seek professional advice, and take the actions necessary to achieve financial security for their families.

Life insurance is too often thought of only when it is too late. Over half of adult Americans do not have a life insurance policy, and among those who do have life insurance, the amount is often too small to safeguard the financial futures of their loved ones. Life insurance can provide financial security for every American family that incurs the untimely death of a loved one.

This September, during Life Insurance Awareness Month, I will join my colleagues and many life insurance organizations and advocates to encourage Americans to seek out information about the benefits of life insurance so that if the premature death of a loved one does occur, they will be spared the economic hardships that often accompany tragedy.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the goals and ideals of National Life Insurance Awareness Month, September 2005.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 181, which expresses the sense of Congress regarding the importance of life insurance.

Life insurance provides financial security for families in the event of a premature death by helping surviving family members to meet immediate and long-term financial obligations and objectives.

Fifty million Americans say they lack the life insurance coverage needed to ensure a secure financial future for their loved ones. Yet the need for life insurance is well documented.

Recent studies have found that when a premature death occurs, insufficient life insurance coverage on the part of the deceased often results in the surviving family members being placed under an insurmountable burden, forcing family members to take on extra jobs, work longer hours, borrow money, and spend less time with their families. This takes place at a time when spending time with loved ones is important to healing and recovering from the tragedy of losing a family member.

By designating a month each year as Life Insurance Awareness Month, we are establishing just how important it is to families to learn and educate themselves about life insurance. As a society, we must take steps to make sure that our children are provided for and are safe.

By supporting Life Insurance Awareness Month, we are signaling to the American people that this is an important issue that they should consider in their financial planning.

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

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

I urge all of my colleagues to support the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 181 that emphasizes the significance of life insurance. I support this resolution. Today as many as 50 million Americans currently lack life in-

urance coverage. This reality puts countless families at risk of losing their assets in the event of a wage-earner's unexpected death.

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my thoughts about House Concurrent Resolution 181, which I helped to introduce with my colleague, the gentlelady from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT). House Concurrent Resolution 181 would designate September as National Life Insurance Awareness Month.

Life insurance is a financial planning tool that all families should explore. It can provide security in the event of an untimely death. In families where a premature death occurs, surviving family members are often required to work additional jobs or longer hours, borrow money, withdraw money from savings and investment accounts, and, in too many cases, move to smaller, less expensive housing.

By designating September as National Life Insurance Awareness Month, we will hopefully highlight the importance of this financial instrument for the nearly 50 million Americans who presently lack the life insurance coverage needed to meet the long-term financial needs of their families.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution to promote financial literacy.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 181, 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. ISSA. 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.

HONORING FORMER PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 59TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 329) honoring former President William Jefferson Clinton on the occasion of his 59th birthday.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 329

Whereas former President William Jefferson Clinton was born in Hope, Arkansas, on August 19, 1946;

Whereas William Jefferson Clinton attended Georgetown University as an undergraduate and received a Rhodes Scholarship in 1968;

Whereas William Jefferson Clinton received a law degree from Yale University in 1973;

Whereas William Jefferson Clinton established a record of public service as Attorney General of Arkansas, Governor of Arkansas, and Chairman of the National Governors Association;

Whereas William Jefferson Clinton campaigned for and won the Democratic nomination for President in 1992;

Whereas William Jefferson Clinton was elected the 42d President of the United States in 1992 and was reelected for a second term in 1996;

Whereas during William Jefferson Clinton's time in office the United States experienced 8 years of economic expansion, job growth, and the transformation of a budget deficit into a budget surplus;

Whereas William Jefferson Clinton rallied the members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to put an end to ethnic cleansing in the Balkans and to depose the murderous regime of Slobodan Milosevic, actions which eventually led to the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords;

Whereas William Jefferson Clinton played a major role in the Good Friday Peace Accords which finally brought peace to war-torn Northern Ireland;

Whereas William Jefferson Clinton and former President George H. W. Bush were appointed to lead the United States effort to provide private aid to the victims of the devastating tsunami that struck southeast Asia on December 26, 2004; and

Whereas, in the words of President George W. Bush, William Jefferson Clinton "showed a deep and far-ranging knowledge of public policy, a great compassion for people in need, and the forward-looking spirit the Americans like in a President": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives honors former President William Jefferson Clinton on the occasion of his 59th birthday on August 19, 2005, and extends best wishes to him and his family.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA).

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

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the distinguished author of House Resolution 329, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY), and the entire House of Representatives, I wish President William Jefferson Clinton a happy 59th birthday.

House Resolution 329 would honor President Clinton on the occasion of his 59th birthday on August 19th. It would furthermore commend President Clinton's continued commitment to public service and world leadership. Since the House will be out of session in August, I would like to thank the House leadership for scheduling this resolution for early consideration today and support the resolution's adoption.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as someone who grew up, went to school, and still have strong family ties in the State of Arkansas, it is with great pride that I stand to celebrate and honor the life of a man who epitomizes the American dream: President William Jefferson Clinton.

Born in the tiny town of Hope, Arkansas, on August 19, 1946, President Clinton demonstrated from an early age the determination and vision that would ultimately take him to the White House and enable him to lead our country to a period of economic prosperity that has been unrivaled in American history.

As a man who always fought for those who could not always fight for themselves, Bill Clinton spurned private practice after graduating from Yale Law School and began a career in public service. He began his political career after being elected attorney general of Arkansas in 1976. He went on to serve as Governor and by the time Governor Clinton left Arkansas for the White House, the State of Arkansas had been transformed from a State that faced large deficits and polarizing issues into a shining example of what government can do for its citizens when those in government put aside partisan differences in the interest of what is right.

As America's 42nd President, Bill Clinton faced an even more daunting task than the one he faced as Governor. In 1992, the American people were fed up with government. The economy was in bad shape, unemployment was at a record high, and it was a time when many American parents struggled with basic financial decisions, such as what holiday presents they could afford to buy their children. By the time President Clinton left office 8 years later, he had led our country out of this darkness and into one of the brightest eras in American history, a time that was marked by the lowest unemployment rate in modern times, the lowest inflation rate in 30 years, the highest homeownership rate in United States history, and dropping crime rates in many American cities. Contrary to the unjustified stereotype thrown at Democrats, President Clinton proposed the first balanced budget in decades. He balanced the budget, and then went on to produce a surplus.

Since leaving office, President Clinton has continued his lifelong odyssey of working for those in need. Working from his office in Harlem, President Clinton has remained engaged in many social issues. In July, President Clinton addressed the United Nations Economic and Social Council in an effort to sustain the momentum on the recovery efforts in regions devastated by last December's tsunami. In 2003, he brokered an historic agreement with four generic drug companies in order to provide low-cost AIDS drugs in developing countries.

The world is a better place today because of the 59 years President Clinton has given us so far, and we look forward to many more.

Mr. Speaker, oftentimes in a country where we put great emphasis on personal wealth, as one having the ability to emerge and rise to high public office, I have searched and searched, and nowhere did I find in Bill Clinton's his-

tory any great personal wealth before he got involved in doing public service. Noplace did I find any great family pedigree. He was simply a person who used himself as effectively as he could to become one of the most influential persons in the history of our country. I wish him a happy birthday.

Mr. Speaker, I will include for the RECORD the statement of the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, on August 19th, William Jefferson Clinton, our 43rd president, will celebrate his 59th birthday—today, we honor him. We honor him not just for being one of 43 Americans to have led history's greatest Nation from its highest office, we honor him for the legacy the current President Bush described as, "a deep and far-ranging knowledge of public policy, a great compassion for people in need, and the forward-looking spirit Americans like in a President."

Since his last birthday, President Clinton characteristically responded to one of the most devastating natural disasters in modern history with the compassion for people in need that President Bush talked about. In the aftermath of the tsunami in Southeast Asia, President Clinton showed the diplomacy and humanity he has always displayed in a career filled with good works. Together with former President Bush, President Clinton helped generate billions of dollars in donations for the tsunami-torn nations. As a representative of our generous and caring Nation, he showed the world America's compassion. And he and former President Bush rolled up their sleeves and lent helping hands to the recovery efforts when they traveled to southeast Asia.

In two terms in the White House, President Clinton stewarded our Nation's longest-ever economic expansion, largest-ever budget surplus, and the growth of 22 million jobs. He helped broker the Good Friday Accords for Northern Ireland, engaged in Middle East peace talks, and brought an end to ethnic cleansing in the Balkans. And he encouraged Americans to care for their fellow man and woman, creating AmeriCorps, which engages more than 50,000 Americans each year in community service.

We in Congress are thankful that President Clinton's health has improved since his recent heart surgeries, and we pray that he continues to be healthy and strong.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman DAVIS and the House leadership for bringing this resolution to the floor in time for President Clinton's birthday.

Mr. Speaker, from his birth in a town called Hope in the State of Arkansas, to his education at Georgetown University, Oxford and Yale Law School, to his service in Arkansas as attorney general, Governor and chairman of the National Governors Association, to his two terms as President of the United States to now, as a private citizen still showing the world humanity and compassion, we honor President Clinton.

President Clinton, happy birthday.

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

□ 1430

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

Mr. Speaker, approximately a year ago, we honored former President Wil-

liam Jefferson Clinton in a very similar way on his 58th birthday. Then we were doing it, to a great extent, because of his quadruple bypass. It seemed appropriate to honor this immediate former President in a time of personal and family concern.

This year, though, we honor President Clinton for what he has done since that time, coming out of the hospital, coming to the aid of people around the world, but particularly in Asia after the December 26 earthquake and tsunami. President Clinton and President Bush, former President Bush, have shown the value of former Presidents.

President Clinton's leadership in this very elite former Presidents' club is a tribute to what can be done by people who stay engaged and involved. And so although it is likely that most people know that I probably did not vote for President Clinton in either of his elections, I certainly would be happy to vote today to honor the President on his 59th birthday because of what he has done since leaving the White House.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KOLBE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 329.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER WEEK

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 289) supporting the goals and ideals of National Health Center Week in order to raise awareness of health services provided by community, migrant, public housing, and homeless health centers, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 289

Whereas community, migrant, public housing, and homeless health centers are non-profit, community owned and operated health providers and are vital to the Nation's communities;

Whereas there are more than 1,000 such health centers serving more than 15,000,000 people in over 3,600 communities;

Whereas such health centers are found in urban and rural communities in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands;

Whereas such health centers have provided cost-effective, high-quality health care to the Nation's poor and medically underserved (including the working poor, the uninsured, and many high-risk and vulnerable populations), acting as a vital safety net in the Nation's health delivery system;

Whereas these health centers provide care to 1 of every 7 uninsured individuals, 1 of every 9 Medicaid beneficiaries, 1 of every 7

people of color, and 1 of every 9 rural Americans, all of whom would otherwise lack access to health care;

Whereas these health centers are engaged with other innovative programs in primary and preventive care to reach out to over 621,000 homeless persons and more than 709,000 farm workers;

Whereas these health centers make health care responsive and cost-effective by integrating the delivery of primary care with aggressive outreach, patient education, transportation, translation, and enabling support services;

Whereas these health centers increase the use of preventive health services such as immunizations, Pap smears, mammograms, and glaucoma screenings;

Whereas in communities served by these health centers, infant mortality rates have been reduced over the past 4 years even as infant mortality rates across the country have risen;

Whereas these health centers are built by community initiative, and run by the patients they serve;

Whereas Federal grants provide seed money empowering communities to find partners and resources to recruit doctors and needed health professionals;

Whereas Federal grants on average contribute 25 percent of such a health center's budget, with the remainder provided by State and local governments, Medicare, Medicaid, private contributions, private insurance, and patient fees;

Whereas there are more than 100 health centers that receive no Federal grant funding, yet continue to serve their communities regardless of their patients' ability to pay;

Whereas health centers tailor their services to fit the special needs and priorities of their communities, working together with schools, businesses, churches, community organizations, foundations, and State and local governments;

Whereas health centers contribute to the health and well-being of their communities by keeping children healthy and in school and helping adults remain productive and on the job;

Whereas health centers encourage citizen participation and provide jobs for nearly 100,000 community residents; and

Whereas National Health Center Week raises awareness of the health services provided by health centers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Health Center Week; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA).

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

Mr. Speaker, I will be brief, because, in fact, the minority member, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) who is managing this, is the author of this bill.

This bill, House Resolution 289, honors our Nation's community health centers and their invaluable contributions to thousands of Americans, perhaps millions of Americans, in need. Health centers provide primary and

preventative medical, dental, and pharmaceutical services; and their work acts as a vital safety net in the health care delivery system.

Mr. Speaker, I urge that we give this resolution immediate consideration.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as one who began much of what I would call my public career working in community health centers, I worked at the Martin Luther King Community Health Center, and I worked at the Miles Square Community Health Center, I was around during the days when we decided to organize a National Association of Community Health Centers and ultimately had the pleasure of serving as its president.

And so, Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the proud sponsor of this resolution to establish a national community health center week.

I would like to thank the cochairs of the Community Health Care Center Caucus, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BONILLA), and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. CAPUANO), for their constant voice to better community health centers.

I would also like to thank the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BRADLEY) for joining the cochairs of the caucus as a main sponsor of this legislation.

As we continue to discuss health care, and as we continue hopefully to move towards enactment of a national health plan that covers everyone without regard to their ability to pay, we can take great pride in some of our accomplishments in health care. One of the most important and effective accomplishments since the enactment of Medicare and Medicaid has been the development of community health centers.

The community health center network is available throughout the Nation to help those in need, such as those who get displaced by job status or other economic conditions. Community health centers have become the safety net within the health care delivery system, serving more than 15 million people in over 3,600 communities.

They care for one out of every seven uninsured individuals, one out of every nine Medicaid beneficiaries, one out of every seven people of color, and one out of every nine rural Americans. In addition they reach out to over 621,000 homeless persons and more than 709,000 migrant and seasonal farm workers.

Community health centers are established in almost every corner of our Nation, representing every aspect of any congressional district, whether it is assisting the working poor in the inner city, or in the rural farmland, migrant workers or even those who have insurance but do not have access to any other health facilities.

One of the most amazing and important aspects of community health cen-

ters is the involvement of the community. Each center tailors its services to best meet the needs and priorities of the communities in which they reside. Citizens in these communities become active participants in their communities' health care decision-making.

Health centers even provide approximately 100,000 jobs to the residents in communities of these areas. These health centers provide high-quality, cost-effective health care as they continue to meet escalating health needs and assist in reducing health disparities.

With the weakened economy and soaring number of uninsured Americans, our Nation's health centers will continue to feel the brunt of increasing numbers of patients.

By establishing a week to raise awareness of community health centers, we will also be highlighting each year the great accomplishments these nonprofit community-owned and -operated health centers offer to many communities throughout the Nation.

With recent numbers indicating that the Nation's uninsured population is even higher than once thought, possibly as high as 60 million, if our Nation will not realize the need for universal health care, we need at least to realize the importance of funding our community health centers.

The United States spends nearly \$100 billion per year to provide uninsured residents with health services, often-times for preventable diseases that physicians could treat more efficiently with early diagnosis.

Community health centers are one of the keys to such earlier diagnosis and crucial to lowering the overall cost of health care on the uninsured throughout the country.

Therefore, I am pleased with the significant increase in the fiscal year 2006 budget that our community health centers will receive so that they can continue to serve their patients and expand their services.

Mr. Speaker, community health centers are indeed the safety net which is committed to serving all individuals with the mission that everyone deserves quality health care services regardless of where they reside, whether or not they can pay, or whether or not they have insurance.

They are vital to ensuring that even the poor and disadvantaged in this country have the greatest opportunity to be healthy. These centers are indeed a hallmark of our Nation's health care delivery system.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that I can stand and be a part of promoting the awareness or their existence and the accomplishments which they have achieved.

I urge my colleagues to stand beside me in supporting this resolution, and I want to thank especially the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman DAVIS) the ranking member; the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN); and the Speaker, the gentleman from

Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), for helping to make sure that this resolution got to the floor before August, because that is the time that we celebrate the initiation and institution of these centers throughout the country.

I also want to commend Tom Van Coverden, who is the president, and Mr. Hawkins, two individuals that I worked with when I used to work in the community health centers. They have both stayed all of that time. Tom is now the president and Dan Hawkins is the vice president. And I commend them for their longevity and great service.

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

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I just want to take a moment to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for offering this important legislation and speaking so eloquently on it.

The gentleman's passion for these important centers is evident in the words he said here today.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 289 designating the week of August 7 as "National Health Center Week". Community Health Centers provide primary health services to low income, working poor, Medicaid and Medicare enrollees and uninsured individuals.

Community Health Care Centers provide a larger range of services including primary care, cancer screenings, pre-natal care and emergency medical services in medically underserved communities without regard to the patient's ability to pay for the services. This past year almost 35% of all Illinois health center patients were uninsured. Throughout the state of Illinois over 40 percent of those seeking services at community health centers are Medicaid eligible and health care centers are often the only medical support offered to homeless individuals.

The first district in Illinois, which I have the honor and privilege to represent, has ten facilities as part of a statewide network of 250 primary health care delivery sites that will serve 850,000 patients this year. My Illinois colleague, Representative DANNY DAVIS, who introduced this resolution, credits the health centers for contributing to the health and well being of minority communities by keeping children healthy and providing preventive health care so that parents and adults can remain employed.

These centers have significantly increased the availability of preventive health care for minorities, migrant and homeless individuals and families. I am glad to join my colleague in support of this resolution to recognize the efforts of the community based organizations in providing these important services.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H.R. 289, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

A DAY OF COMMEMORATION OF THE GREAT UPHEAVAL

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 294) supporting the goals of "A Day of Commemoration of the Great Upheaval", and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 294

Whereas on March 3, 1699, France established the French colony of Louisiana, and this event was commemorated in 1999 as FrancoFête 99 and the Congrès Mondial Acadien-Louisiane 1999;

Whereas on December 9, 2003, a royal proclamation was signed in Canada in which Queen Elizabeth II acknowledged for the first time the wrongs committed in the name of the English Crown during the Acadian deportation of 1755;

Whereas this royal proclamation sets July 28th of every year, beginning in 2005, as "A Day of Commemoration of the Great Upheaval";

Whereas the 10,000 men, women, and children exiled from Nova Scotia two and a half centuries ago are the ancestors of many of south Louisiana's French-Acadian or Cajun people;

Whereas in 1803, President Thomas Jefferson purchased the Louisiana territory from France, and the French Napoleonic Civil Code was adopted as the basis of Louisiana's civil law system which continues to the present;

Whereas in 1968, the Louisiana Legislature created the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL) and mandated that the agency promote French for economic, educational, and touristic purposes;

Whereas since its creation, CODOFIL has recruited teachers from the international community to come to Louisiana to teach French in Louisiana schools;

Whereas there are 30 French immersion schools in Louisiana, and Louisiana leads the Nation in bilingual education;

Whereas Louisiana is officially bilingual pursuant to section 51 of title 1, Louisiana Revised Statutes, which states "Any act or contract made or executed in the French language is as legal and binding upon the parties as if it had been made or executed in the English language";

Whereas in 2004, the Louisiana Legislature declared Acadian Heritage Week to be the third week in September and urged schools in Louisiana to teach children about their Acadian history, culture, and heritage; and

Whereas in 2005, the world will memorialize the 250th anniversary of the Acadian deportation and observe a day of remembrance of the suffering of the Acadian people as a result of their deportation by the British Crown (as memorialized in Queen Elizabeth II's Royal Proclamation dated December 9, 2003): Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals of Acadian Heritage Week; and

(2) supports the goals of "A Day of Commemoration of the Great Upheaval", as established by Queen Elizabeth II's Royal Proclamation, signed on December 9, 2003, in which the sufferings of the Acadian people were acknowledged.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA).

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 294, which was introduced by the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY).

This legislation tells the story of the Great Upheaval, which is an event that, while perhaps little known to many Americans, helped shape the culture and history of the State of Louisiana.

The Great Upheaval refers to the expulsion of the Acadian population of Nova Scotia by the British in the mid-18th century, which is the origins of these original French settlers of the land that is now the eastern Canadian province of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

The Treaty of Utrecht, signed by the British and French at the conclusion of the War of the Spanish Succession in 1713, ended a series of land trades between the world's powers by finally awarding to the British the region inhabited by the Acadians.

Consequently, by 1730, all Acadians were compelled to swear an oath that gave their allegiance to the British, but the oath further forced them to agree to bear arms against the French or Indians.

However, in 1794 when the French and Indian War broke out, the majority of Acadians refused and disregarded this commitment to fight the French. Consequently, the British deported these Acadians, more than 10,000 strong, who would not commit their loyalty to the British Crown.

The King of France encouraged the displaced French citizens to ultimately settle in Louisiana. These thousands of Acadians exiled from Nova Scotia 2½ centuries ago are the ancestors of many of today's French Acadian, or Cajun, citizens in Louisiana.

Largely due to the Great Upheaval, French influence is still very strong in south Louisiana. The third week of September is officially Acadian Heritage Week in Louisiana. In addition, in December 2003, Queen Elizabeth signed a royal proclamation that acknowledged the mistreatment of the Acadians and designated July 28 of every year a day to commemorate the Great Upheaval.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Great Upheaval, also known as the Great Expulsion, was the eviction of the Acadian population from Nova Scotia between 1755 and 1763.

In 1755, colonial authorities began a process of uprooting and deporting 10,000 men, women, and children who had settled on British land. British Lieutenant Governor Charles Lawrence and Massachusetts Governor William Shirley began by seizing colonists' firearms to prevent them from using force to resist.

Then they took a large number of men hostage in order to guarantee the docility of their families at the time of deportation. Approximately three-quarters of the total Acadian population was deported. Some were sent to England, others to France, and still others to the area that was to become Louisiana.

During the campaign against the Acadians, property was plundered, communities were torched, lands were seized, and thousands of Acadian lives were claimed.

□ 1445

Over several generations after the Great Upheaval, the presence of Acadians in Louisiana grew, and their descendants helped to form the nucleus of Louisiana's Cajun life and culture.

On December 9, 2003, Queen Elizabeth II issued a proclamation that acknowledged the suffering experienced by the Acadian people during the Great Upheaval and designated July 28 as "A Day of Commemoration of the Great Upheaval."

H. Res. 294 supports the goals of the proclamation. It also points out how our country has grown and developed and how many of the prejudices that at one time people held have begun, in a serious way, to have diminished. Anybody who has ever visited Louisiana or knows anything about Louisiana knows that the Acadian population is an integral part of the life, the culture, and of the development in the State of Louisiana. So I am proud to support this resolution. I urge its passage.

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

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY), the author of the bill.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) for yielding me time, and I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for his eloquent comments today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 294, supporting the goals of "A Day of Commemoration of the Great Upheaval." This resolution recognizes the importance of the Acadian people to Louisiana and is intended to celebrate their contributions to my State of Louisiana and this country.

During the Acadian deportation of 1755, approximately 14,000 men, women and children were expelled from Nova Scotia. Some returned to France, but most wound up scattered throughout the American colonies. Many sailed through to the French colony of Louisiana, where, over the centuries, they have established their own unique French-Acadian or Cajun culture. It is now estimated that there are over 450,000 Acadian descendants in Louisiana alone.

Cajun means many things to many people. While not all Cajuns have Acadian ancestry, a shared heritage, the legacy of the expulsion, and the main-

tenance of a language and culture distinct from other Americans define the Cajuns as a distinct ethnic group.

Cajun French is a unique dialect of the French language. It is still spoken throughout the Acadiana region of Louisiana, although the number of people who speak Cajun has declined dramatically over the past 50 years. For many years it was considered a distortion of the French language; however, recently it was discovered that a number of Cajuns served as French interpreters for American forces in France during World War II, and their importance has been recognized.

It is difficult to summarize Cajun cuisine and music. I guess you could say we like them both hot and spicy. Gumbo, jambalaya, and etouffee can be found in restaurants throughout the country. Cajun music and its cousin zydeco influenced country music and early rock and roll. Their mark on American music can still be heard on popular radio today.

Cajuns have had an impact on virtually every aspect of American life. Just some examples I will give you, national recording artist Wayne Toups, who has traveled internationally; Super Bowl quarterback of the NFL's Carolina Panthers, Jake Delhomme; painter and creator of the world-famous "Blue Dog," George Rodrigue; Grammy Award-winning artist Michael Doucet of the band Beausoleil; the 13th Commandant of the United States Marine Corps John Archer LeJeune; Cy Young Award winner and New York Yankee Ron Guidry; and last but not least, 12-term Congressman and former chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, our colleague Billy Tauzin. We all remember Billy. He was famous for his keen wit, but also his great jokes, his great Boudreau and Thibodeau jokes.

So from music to sports, from the military to the United States Congress, Cajuns have left their mark on American culture.

In an effort to preserve the Cajun language and culture, the Louisiana State Legislature created the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana, or CODOFIL, in 1968. This organization is committed to the development, utilization and preservation of the French language as found in Louisiana for the cultural benefit of the State. It is to this end that Mr. Warren Perrin, a constituent of mine, has committed years of toil and time to make this day of commemoration a reality. The people of Acadiana and all of Louisiana are grateful to Mr. Perrin for his efforts to preserve and expand the Cajun heritage in Louisiana.

On December 9, 2003, Queen Elizabeth II set July 28 by royal proclamation as a Day of Commemoration of the Great Upheaval to recognize the struggles of these Cajuns who left Nova Scotia. In 2004, the Louisiana Legislature declared Acadian Heritage Week to be the third week in September and urged schools to teach children about their

Acadian heritage, history and culture. And the story of the Acadian people should be commemorated and celebrated because of their impact upon American history and society.

This resolution would serve that end by supporting the goals of Acadian Heritage Week and "A Day of Commemoration of the Great Upheaval." I urge colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass this resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KOLBE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 294.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PAUL KASTEN POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2977) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 306 2nd Avenue in Brockway, Montana, as the "Paul Kasten Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2977

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PAUL KASTEN POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 306 2nd Avenue in Brockway, Montana, shall be known and designated as the "Paul Kasten Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Paul Kasten Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA).

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2977, introduced by the distinguished gentleman and colleague and classmate of mine, the gentleman from Montana (Mr. REHBERG), would name the post office in Brockway, Montana, as the "Paul Kasten Post Office Building." The bill honors rural mail carrier Paul Kasten for his more than five decades of dependable work in the Postal Service.

Mr. Kasten began his postal career in 1947. Believe it or not, in the early years he delivered the mail on horseback. After his lengthy career, Kasten retired earlier this year at the age of

86. He is a credit to the tremendous work performed by the entire Postal Service. That is why we are so pleased to see the House is considering an appropriate honor.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Montana (Mr. REHBERG) for his work, and I ask that this postal naming be approved on behalf of Paul Kasten.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in the consideration of H.R. 2977, legislation designating a postal facility in Brockway, Montana, after Paul Kasten. This measure was introduced by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. REHBERG) on July 17, 2005.

A rural letter carrier, Mr. Kasten retired this spring at the young age of 86, after delivering mail for over 50 years. He began his career delivering mail on horseback, covering miles and miles of roads in Montana.

Mr. Speaker, it always gives me such pleasure when we recognize the contributions of postal workers by dedicating a facility in their honor, and I could think of no better way to honor the more than 50 years of service given by Mr. Kasten than to name a postal facility in his honor.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2977.

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. ISSA. 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.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN BIRTHPLACE POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2894) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 102 South Walters Avenue in Hodgenville, Kentucky, as the "Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2894

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ABRAHAM LINCOLN BIRTHPLACE POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 102

South Walters Avenue in Hodgenville, Kentucky, shall be known and designated as the "Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA).

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

Mr. Speaker, it would be nearly impossible to pay sufficient homage to President Abraham Lincoln, our sixteenth President of the United States. President Lincoln was a man whose convictions enabled the emancipation of thousands from slavery and led to the preservation of the Union, which allowed our United States to develop into a strong and free Nation that it is today.

In our efforts to commend these and other contributions, it should be recognized that Lincoln's greatness extended far beyond the reaches of his Presidency. Today, however, through the consideration of this legislation, H.R. 2894, we focus on the humble origins that produced for us this great President. Considered by many to be our greatest President, we are designating Abraham Lincoln's Birthplace Post Office Building, for it was in Kentucky that he was born on February 12, 1809, in a log cabin near Hardin County, Kentucky. During his childhood, Lincoln's determined spirited led him to covet education and to develop an insatiable appetite for reading and learning.

Undoubtedly as a result, Lincoln's incredible oratorical capacity strengthened his political influence throughout his life. He effectively appealed to the Nation in such unforgettable speeches as the Gettysburg Address, the Second Inaugural Address, and the famous "House Divided" speech. He truly used his verbal skills to his fullest advantage.

As I am sure the distinguished sponsor of H.R. 2894 would assert, Lincoln's characteristic determination embodied the hard-nosed and ambitious attitude with which Kentuckians as he are often associated. His labors to free the slaves and preserve the Union positively impacted our Nation to an extent that cannot be overstated.

Again, we have often looked at President Lincoln as our greatest President. We have often honored him. But I think it is particularly important to recognize that H.R. 2894 speaks not to the State from which he heralded at the time of his election, not about the end of his life, but Kentucky, the place of the origin and the roots of his life.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleague in consideration of H.R. 2894, and I want to commend the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. LEWIS) for introducing this legislation.

Although Abraham Lincoln was indeed born in Kentucky, he did, in fact, ultimately move to Illinois. And those of us who live in Illinois, we often regard him as perhaps our greatest citizen, one who emerged from very humble beginnings, was somewhat of a non-traditionalist, but ultimately became President of the United States.

□ 1500

And then after becoming President of the United States had the courage to take some very decisive action when there was opposition swirling all around him. So I commend the gentleman from Kentucky for naming a postal facility in Hodgenville.

I was always a great Abraham Lincoln fan. As a matter of fact, when I was a small boy, my mother used to tell me stories about Abraham Lincoln, and she would read to us from books about Abraham Lincoln as a way of expressing to us that it was not always a matter of where you came from but of tentimes it could be a matter of where you were going.

So, again, I commend the gentleman for recognizing and honoring the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln with the naming of a postal facility in his honor.

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

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. LEWIS), the author of the bill, and just note that I feel I am on the path between Kentucky and Illinois here, with my own birthplace being Ohio.

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2894, a resolution to designate the United States Postal Service facility located at 102 South Walters Avenue in Hodgenville, Kentucky, as the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Post Office Building.

Hodgenville, Kentucky, is the birthplace and childhood home of our 16th President, one of the most influential figures in American history. Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809, in a one-room log cabin at the Sinking Spring Farm in what is now LaRue County, Kentucky. His family lived at Sinking Spring Farm for 2½ years before moving 10 miles away to Knob Creek Farm.

Of his birth and childhood, Lincoln wrote: "I was born on February 12, 1809, in then Hardin County, Kentucky, at a point within the now county of LaRue, a mile or mile and a half from where Hodgen's Mill now is. It was a wild region, with many bears and other wild animals still in the woods. There I grew up."

S. 775

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. BOONE PICKENS POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 W. 7th Street in Holdenville, Oklahoma, shall be known and designated as the “Boone Pickens Post Office”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Boone Pickens Post Office”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentleman from Illinois Mr. (DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA).

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in support of S. 775, a bill to name the postal facility at 123 W. 7th Street in Holdenville, Oklahoma, as the Boone Pickens Post Office.

Well-known businessman Boone Pickens has personified the American Dream through his hard work and determination. Early in his professional life and career, Pickens grew frustrated working at a large impersonal company. Instead of enduring the daily struggle through the organizational red tape, he decided to start his own business in 1956 at age 28. This nascent company ultimately evolved into one of the leading oil and gas exploration firms in the Nation, the Mesa Petroleum Company.

But more important, the House is considering this honor for Boone Pickens not because of his business success but for his philanthropy. Over the years, Pickens has generously invested in his alma mater, Oklahoma State University, supported a wide range of medical research initiatives, and several other scientific and social causes.

Boone Pickens has contributed his time, energy, and resources to make America a better place to live and work; and for these reasons, I support S. 775 today, and I ask my colleagues to support the bill.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in consideration of S. 775, legislation designating a postal facility in Holdenville, Oklahoma, after Boone Pickens.

This measure, which was introduced by Senator JAMES INHOFE on April 13, 2005, was unanimously passed by the Senate on July 29, 2005.

T. Boone Pickens is known worldwide as the founder of Mesa Petroleum, the Nation's largest independent producer of domestic oil and gas. T. Boone is well respected in Texas for his willing-

ness to spend time and money to improve the lives of those around him. In 1986, he started a nonprofit organization called the United Shareholders Association to fund a newspaper informing shareholders of corporate abuses, and he has served as the chairman of the board of West Texas A&M University business school.

Mr. Speaker, I urge swift passage of this bill.

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

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to urge all my colleagues to support the effort to name the post office in Holdenville, Oklahoma, where Boone Pickens was born in 1928; and I congratulate our distinguished Senator and my friend, Senator JIMMY INHOFE, on recognizing the importance of T. Boone Pickens in both business and philanthropy.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 775.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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CONGRESSWOMAN SHIRLEY A. CHISHOLM POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 571) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1915 Fulton Street in Brooklyn, New York, as the “Congresswoman Shirley A. Chisholm Post Office Building”.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 571

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONGRESSWOMAN SHIRLEY A. CHISHOLM POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1915 Fulton Street in Brooklyn, New York, shall be known and designated as the “Congresswoman Shirley A. Chisholm Post Office Building”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Congresswoman Shirley A. Chisholm Post Office Building.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentleman Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA).

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

Senate 571, sponsored in the other body by the distinguished Senator from New York, Senator CHARLES SCHUMER,

Thousands of historians, students, and tourists visit the Lincoln birthplace and museum at Sinking Spring and nearby boyhood home each year. Both sites are managed by the National Park Service and maintain historic recreations of the original log cabins. The Hodgenville community is currently hard at work planning for the bicentennial celebration of Lincoln's birth in 2009.

Lincoln's roots on the Kentucky frontier molded character traits, modesty, hard work, spiritual, and an intellectual fortitude and a sense of justice that made him a portrait of human greatness as a legislator, lawyer, father, and steward of his country through the most devastating experience in its national history.

Lincoln's achievements as President saved the Union and freed the slaves, and his martyrdom in death as the war was drawing to a close made him one of the most revered and historically significant figures in American history.

Carved in stone above the portals of the birthplace memorial are the eloquent and poignant words from his second inaugural address in which he urged “malice toward none” and “charity for all” in the peace to come.

Abraham Lincoln's early life in central Kentucky is a source of great pride to me personally and many of my constituents. The birthplace and childhood home provide a great historic treasure in our community. In honor of President Lincoln's connection to Hodgenville and the upcoming bicentennial celebration of his birth, I urge my colleagues to join me honoring Hodgenville and Lincoln's memory by designating the current postal facility as the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Post Office Building.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KOLBE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2894.

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. ISSA. 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.

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BOONE PICKENS POST OFFICE

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 775) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 W. 7th Street in Holdenville, Oklahoma, as the “Boone Pickens Post Office”.

The Clerk read as follows:

honors the late Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, the first African American woman elected to Congress.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, on November 20, 1924, Shirley Chisholm spent a lifetime advocating civil rights for all Americans. After graduating with honors from Brooklyn College, Shirley Chisholm worked at the Mount Cavalry Child Care Center in Harlem for several years. Later, she founded the Unity Democrat Club, which mobilized black and Hispanic voters. In 1964, Shirley Chisholm ran for and won a State assembly seat in the New York General Assembly. During her term, Ms. Chisholm most notably championed bills to aid day care centers and schools.

In 1968, she campaigned and was elected as the Representative from New York's Twelfth District to the United States Congress, where she served until 1982. Throughout her tenure, Congresswoman Chisholm boldly spoke out on civil rights, women's liberties, and issues specifically affecting those in need.

In 1972, Congresswoman Chisholm was emboldened and encouraged, as many are, to run for President. That year, she sought the Democrat nomination for President and in doing so became the first African American woman to run for the White House on a major party ticket. She received nearly 5 percent of the vote in the Democrat national convention, losing the nomination to then-Senator George McGovern of South Dakota.

Mr. Speaker, Shirley Chisholm sadly passed away on January 1 of this year. It is clear that Shirley Chisholm touched her colleagues and constituents with her courageous and groundbreaking public service career. Thus, it is appropriate to name the post office located in her hometown of Brooklyn in Congresswoman Chisholm's honor. I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting Senate 571.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in the consideration of S. 571, legislation designating a postal facility in Brooklyn, New York, after the late Shirley Chisholm.

This measure, which was introduced by Senator Charles Schumer of New York on March 9, 2005, was unanimously passed by the Senate on July 29, 2005. An identical bill, H.R. 1208, has been introduced by a Democrat in the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS).

Shirley Chisholm, a native New Yorker, was the first African American woman to be elected to Congress. After serving in the New York State legislature from 1964 to 1968, Ms. Chisholm was elected to the 91st Congress, where she represented the Twelfth Congressional District.

As a former educator and child care manager, Shirley worked hard in Congress on issues ranging from employment and education, to day care and income-support programs. She pushed hard to end the draft and reduce defense spending. She served in six Congresses, from 1969 to 1983, and was not a candidate for reelection to the 98th Congress.

Shirley Chisholm will be remembered for always fighting the good fight and for being the first black woman to announce her candidacy for President of the United States in 1972. In her speech before the Democratic National Convention in Miami, she declared "Although I am a woman, and I am equally proud of that, I am not the candidate of any political bosses or special interests. I am the candidate of the people."

Shirley Chisholm was fond of saying that she was unbought and unbossed, simply meaning that she did not represent any particular special interest, but she represented the will of the people.

Sadly, she passed away on January 1, 2005. Mr. Speaker, the late Shirley Chisholm was a legend; and I commend Senator SCHUMER and the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) for seeking to honor her hard work and dedication in this matter, and I urge support for this bill.

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

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the legacy of my predecessor and mentor, the Honorable Shirley A. Chisholm. In order to provide her community with an enduring testament to her name, S. 571, and its companion bill H.R. 1209, will designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1915 Fulton Street in Brooklyn, New York, as the "Congresswoman Shirley A. Chisholm Post Office Building."

Mrs. Chisholm was a New York icon and committed public servant. She was born in Brooklyn, on November 30, 1924, graduated with honors from Brooklyn College, and earned a Master's degree from Columbia University. She was an active member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), founder of the Unity Democrat Club, and Representative in the New York State Assembly (1964-68).

In 1968, Mrs. Chisholm became the first African American woman to be elected to Congress and serve for seven consecutive terms. During her congressional career (1968-82), Mrs. Chisholm served on the House Education and Labor, Veterans' Affairs and Rules Committees, where she passionately advocated for the rights of women, children, and minorities, and staunchly opposed the Vietnam War. In fact, she was unmatched as a voice for social justice.

Mrs. Chisholm was also a founding member of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues and the Congressional Black Caucus, and the first African American to seek the nomination of a major political party for President of the United States (1972). Her "unbought and unbossed" political style allowed her to make friends and political alliances on both sides of the aisle. In addition,

her lifetime achievements have inspired members of her Brooklyn community, and generations of women and African Americans, to engage in our nation's policymaking. We are forever grateful for her trailblazing effort.

Mrs. Chisholm was truly one in a million. I am honored to have been part of her Brooklyn political circle and to have worked along side her throughout her political career. In particular, I am thankful for her recommendation of my former chief-of-staff, the late Dr. Brenda Pillors. She, like Mrs. Chisholm, was an insightful and innovative force on Capitol Hill and a source of inspiration for me. Mr. Speaker, in light of the accomplishments and contributions of The Honorable Shirley Chisholm, I deem her to be more than worthy of the designation of a post office building in her name.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of designating the United States Postal Service facility at 1915 Fulton Street in Brooklyn, NY, as the Congresswoman Shirley A. Chisholm Post Office Building.

When I think about the honorable lady from Brooklyn, I am constantly reminded of her personal and campaign slogan of "unbought and unbossed." This bold assertion of independence captured the essence of who Shirley Chisholm was: a woman, a Black woman, who was long a champion of justice and a true pioneer who broke the glass ceiling for women in politics and elected office. Her life presented a model of resistance to discrimination, of challenge to the status quo, and of the inappropriateness of stereotypes. She broke barriers by her very presence and she set examples for future generations of leaders by her demeanor and behavior.

Shirley was an individual with a clear vision of the right—not the political right, but the moral one. She knew that to overcome struggle minorities, those with the least power in a democracy, must stand up to the majority. They must counter the popular misconceptions and prove those in positions of authority of the wrongness of their ideas.

Shirley was determined to lift the Black community in its own eyes as well as the rest of the world. She was confident in herself and her ability to get tasks done and she passed that confidence to those who were in her presence. At a time when few Blacks and few women held elected office, Shirley stepped forward for a seat in the House of Representatives and won that seat. She also stood up against the hierarchy and leadership of the Democratic party and ran for President. Facing insurmountable odds was not enough to prevent Shirley from advocating, fighting for, and working towards the goal of being President of the United States of America. Could you only imagine how different this country would have been if Shirley had won?

I thank the Honorable Gentleman from New York, Mr. TOWNS, as well as the Honorable Senators CHARLES SCHUMER and HILLARY CLINTON for introducing and championing this legislation into the 109th Congress. We send an important message to the Nation by paying honor to this extraordinary individual. We send the message that regardless of your race, your background, and your gender, you can be respected in this country for your determination, commitment, dedication, and hard work to justice and equality. This is a powerful message to send today to our young people in particular.

□ 1515

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KOLBE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 571.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JAMES T. MOLLOY POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3339) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2061 South Park Avenue in Buffalo, New York, as the "James T. Molloy Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3339

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. JAMES T. MOLLOY POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2061 South Park Avenue in Buffalo, New York, shall be known and designated as the "James T. Molloy Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "James T. Molloy Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA).

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

I rise in support of H.R. 3339 introduced by the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS). It would designate the facility of the U.S. Postal Service located at 2061 South Park Avenue in Buffalo, New York, as the James T. Molloy Post Office Building. The entire New York State delegation has cosponsored this bill, and I join with them in support.

In 1975, during the 94th Congress, James Molloy was elected doorkeeper of the House of Representatives, a position he held with distinction until the 104th Congress in 1995. As doorkeeper, he introduced six different Presidents, several heads of state and other dignitaries in joint sessions and other congressional events. In fact, Mr. Molloy is the last doorkeeper of the House of Representatives, and H.R. 3339 would honor his esteemed service. I urge all of my colleagues to support the naming of this post office.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the sponsor of this resolution, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS).

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for yielding me this time. I also thank the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman TOM DAVIS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) from the Committee on Government Reform for allowing this bill to be expedited to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity to speak on this measure, which represents a great honor for one of my district's finest citizens, a proud and favorite son of South Buffalo. James T. Molloy was born in South Buffalo on June 3, 1936, to Matthew Molloy and Katherine Hayden Molloy. Educated in Buffalo's Catholic schools, he followed in his father's footsteps by working in the grain elevators of Buffalo's waterfront and fighting fires as a proud member of the Buffalo Fire Department.

Through his labor, James T. Molloy paid his own way through Canisius College, a great Jesuit institution in western New York, and became a lifelong friend of western New York working families.

He was a member of the AFL-CIO, the International Brotherhood of Longshoremen and the International Association of Firefighters.

After pursuing studies at St. John's University Law School, James T. Molloy worked as a schoolteacher in the cities of Buffalo and Lackawanna. He also worked in the office of the Erie County District Attorney where he met his wife, Roseann.

Jim came to Washington in 1968 at the invitation of New York Congressman John Rooney. During his service in the House Finance Office, he oversaw the legislative appropriations for the House as they grew from \$75 million to \$126 million per year.

James T. Molloy was elected doorkeeper of the United States House of Representatives in 1974 and proudly remained in that post through the 103rd Congress, serving as the primary aide to Speakers Carl Albert, Thomas "Tip" O'Neill, James Wright, and Tom Foley.

In fact, Jim was the last of 30 people to hold the position of doorkeeper from its establishment in 1789 to its elimination in 1995. Within this capacity, he introduced Presidents and numerous heads of state to our august body. He coordinated 71 joint sessions of Congress, as well as many other special events, within this Chamber.

Jim also acted as a vital connection between his hometown, South Buffalo, New York, and Congress, inspiring countless men and women from the Buffalo area to consider careers in public service.

James T. Molloy's strong relationship with Capitol Hill can still be felt today. He continues to serve as chairman of the board on the Wright-Patman Congressional Credit Union, a position he has held for 30 years.

Jim has been awarded numerous honors for his life's work in public service. He has received the Outstanding Citizen Award from the New York State AFL-CIO, the President's Award from the New York State Federation of Police, the United States Senate Youth Alumni Association Outstanding Service Award, and the Sid Yudain Congressional Staffer of the Year Award from Roll Call.

I know that many of my colleagues had the pleasure of serving in this House during Jim Molloy's tenure. His strong commitment to our institution makes offering this bill, to name a South Buffalo Post Office after him, both a privilege and an honor.

James T. Molloy's success has been an inspiration to thousands in my district and throughout all of western New York. I know that many here today will want to join me in saluting James T. Molloy, his wife Roseann, and their daughter Amy in recognition of his invaluable service to this Nation, who was fortunate to have him, and to his hometown of South Buffalo and western New York, who are proud to claim him.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS) for introducing this important legislation. As a member of the Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join in support. As one who has spent such a long period of time as a Member of this House working for this House and working for government employees, the chairman of the Wright-Patman Federal Credit Union is indeed an inspiration, and I am sure that many people in western New York will continue to honor and revere him, just as many people will continue to do here in the Nation's Capital. I thank the gentleman from New York for designating a postal facility in his honor.

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

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I, too, want to join in thanking the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS) for bringing this important bill to our attention, and I urge its passage.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3339.

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. ISSA. 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.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISSA. 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.J. Res. 59, H. Con. Res. 181, H. Res. 329, H. Res. 289, H. Res. 294, H.R. 2977, H.R. 2894, S. 775, S. 571, and H.R. 3339.

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

There was no objection.

SPOKANE TRIBE OF INDIANS OF THE SPOKANE RESERVATION GRAND COULEE DAM EQUITABLE COMPENSATION SETTLEMENT ACT

Miss McMORRIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1797) to provide for equitable compensation to the Spokane Tribe of Indians of the Spokane Reservation for the use of tribal land for the production of hydropower by the Grand Coulee Dam, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1797

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 "Spokane Tribe of Indians of the Spokane Reservation Grand Coulee Dam Equitable Compensation Settlement Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) from 1927 to 1931, at the direction of Congress, the Corps of Engineers investigated the Columbia River and its tributaries to determine sites at which power could be produced at low cost;

(2) under section 10(e) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 803(e)), when licenses are issued involving tribal land within an Indian reservation, a reasonable annual charge shall be fixed for the use of the land, subject to the approval of the Indian tribe having jurisdiction over the land;

(3) in August 1933, the Columbia Basin Commission, an agency of the State of Washington, received a preliminary permit from the Federal Power Commission for water power development at the Grand Coulee site;

(4) had the Columbia Basin Commission or a private entity developed the site, the Spokane Tribe would have been entitled to a reasonable annual charge for the use of its land;

(5) in the mid-1930s, the Federal Government, which is not subject to licensing under the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 792 et seq.)—

(A) federalized the Grand Coulee Dam project; and

(B) began construction of the Grand Coulee Dam;

(6) when the Grand Coulee Dam project was federalized, the Federal Government recognized that—

(A) development of the project affected the interests of the Spokane Tribe and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation; and

(B) it would be appropriate for the Spokane and Colville Tribes to receive a share of rev-

enue from the disposition of power produced at Grand Coulee Dam;

(7) in the Act of June 29, 1940 (16 U.S.C. 835d et seq.), Congress—

(A) granted to the United States—

(i) in aid of the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Columbia Basin Project, all the right, title, and interest of the Spokane Tribe and Colville Tribes in and to the tribal and allotted land within the Spokane and Colville Reservations, as designated by the Secretary of the Interior from time to time; and

(ii) other interests in such land as required and as designated by the Secretary for certain construction activities undertaken in connection with the project; and

(B) provided that compensation for the land and other interests was to be determined by the Secretary in such amounts as the Secretary determined to be just and equitable;

(8) pursuant to that Act, the Secretary paid—

(A) to the Spokane Tribe, \$4,700; and

(B) to the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, \$63,000;

(9) in 1994, following litigation under the Act of August 13, 1946 (commonly known as the "Indian Claims Commission Act" (60 Stat. 1049, chapter 959; former 25 U.S.C. 70 et seq.)), Congress ratified the Colville Settlement Agreement, which required—

(A) for past use of the Colville Tribes' land, a payment of \$53,000,000; and

(B) for continued use of the Colville Tribes' land, annual payments of \$15,250,000, adjusted annually based on revenues from the sale of electric power from the Grand Coulee Dam project and transmission of that power by the Bonneville Power Administration;

(10) the Spokane Tribe, having suffered harm similar to that suffered by the Colville Tribes, did not file a claim within the Indian Claims Commission Act's 5-year statute of limitations;

(11) neither the Colville Tribes nor the Spokane Tribe filed claims for compensation for use of their land with the Commission before August 13, 1951, but both Tribes filed unrelated land claims prior to August 13, 1951;

(12) in 1976, over objections by the United States, the Colville Tribes were successful in amending their 1951 Claims Commission land claims to add their Grand Coulee claim;

(13) the Spokane Tribe had no such claim to amend, having settled its Claims Commission land claims with the United States in 1967;

(14) the Spokane Tribe has suffered significant harm from the construction and operation of Grand Coulee Dam;

(15) Spokane tribal acreage taken by the United States for the construction of Grand Coulee Dam equaled approximately 39 percent of Colville tribal acreage taken for construction of the dam;

(16) the payments and land transfers made pursuant to this Act constitute fair and equitable compensation for the past and continued use of Spokane tribal land for the production of hydropower at Grand Coulee Dam; and

(17) by vote of the Spokane tribal membership, the Spokane Tribe has resolved that the payments and land transfers made pursuant to this Act constitute fair and equitable compensation for the past and continued use of Spokane Tribal land for the production of hydropower at Grand Coulee Dam.

SEC. 3. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to provide fair and equitable compensation to the Spokane Tribe for the use of its land for the generation of hydropower by the Grand Coulee Dam.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Bonneville Power Administration or the head of any successor agency, corporation, or entity that markets power produced at Grand Coulee Dam.

(2) COLVILLE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.—The term "Colville Settlement Agreement" means the Settlement Agreement entered into between the United States and the Colville Tribes, signed by the United States on April 21, 1994, and by the Colville Tribes on April 16, 1994, to settle the claims of the Colville Tribes in Docket 181-D of the Indian Claims Commission, which docket was transferred to the United States Court of Federal Claims.

(3) COLVILLE TRIBES.—The term "Colville Tribes" means the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.

(4) COMPUTED ANNUAL PAYMENT.—The term "Computed Annual Payment" means the payment calculated under paragraph 2.b. of the Colville Settlement Agreement, without regard to any increase or decrease in the payment under section 2.d. of the agreement.

(5) CONFEDERATED TRIBES ACT.—The term "Confederated Tribes Act" means the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation Grand Coulee Dam Settlement Act (108 Stat. 4577).

(6) FUND.—The term "Fund" means the Spokane Tribe of Indians Settlement Fund established by section 5.

(7) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(8) SPOKANE BUSINESS COUNCIL.—The term "Spokane Business Council" means the governing body of the Spokane Tribe under the constitution of the Spokane Tribe.

(9) SPOKANE TRIBE.—The term "Spokane Tribe" means the Spokane Tribe of Indians of the Spokane Reservation, Washington.

SEC. 5. SETTLEMENT FUND.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States an interest-bearing trust fund to be known as the "Spokane Tribe of Indians Settlement Fund", consisting of—

(1) amounts deposited in the Fund under subsection (b); and

(2) any interest earned on investment of amounts in the Fund.

(b) DEPOSITS.—From amounts made available under section 11—

(1) for fiscal year 2006, the Secretary shall deposit in the Fund \$17,800,000; and

(2) for each of the 4 fiscal years thereafter, the Secretary shall deposit in the Fund \$12,800,000.

(c) MAINTENANCE AND INVESTMENT OF FUND.—The Fund shall be maintained and invested by the Secretary in accordance with the Act of June 24, 1938 (25 U.S.C. 162a).

(d) PAYMENT OF FUNDS TO SPOKANE BUSINESS COUNCIL.—

(1) REQUEST.—At any time after funds are deposited in the Fund, the Spokane Business Council may submit to the Secretary written notice of the adoption by the Spokane Business Council of a resolution requesting that the Secretary pay all or a portion of the amounts in the Fund to the Spokane Business Council.

(2) PAYMENT.—Not later than 60 days after receipt of a notice under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall pay the amount requested to the Spokane Business Council.

(e) USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) CULTURAL RESOURCE REPOSITORY AND INTERPRETIVE CENTER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the initial deposit under subsection (b)(1), \$5,000,000 shall be used by the Spokane Business Council for the planning, design, construction, equipping, and continuing operation and maintenance of a Cultural Resource Repository and Interpretive Center to—

(i) house, preserve, and protect the burial remains, funerary objects, and other cultural resources affected by the operation of the Grand Coulee Dam; and

(ii) provide an interpretive and educational facility regarding the culture and history of the Spokane Tribe.

(B) EFFECT.—The funding under subparagraph (A) does not alter or affect any authority, obligation, or responsibility of the United States under—

(i) the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.);

(ii) the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 470aa et seq.);

(iii) the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.); or

(iv) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(2) OTHER USES.—Of all other amounts deposited in the Fund (including interest generated on those amounts)—

(A) 25 percent shall be—

(i) reserved by the Spokane Business Council; and

(ii) used for discretionary purposes of general benefit to all members of the Spokane Tribe; and

(B) 75 percent shall be used by the Spokane Business Council to carry out—

(i) resource development programs;

(ii) credit programs;

(iii) scholarship programs; or

(iv) reserve, investment, and economic development programs.

SEC. 6. PAYMENTS BY THE ADMINISTRATOR.

(a) INITIAL PAYMENT.—On March 1, 2007, the Administrator shall pay the Spokane Tribe—

(1) the amount that is equal to 29 percent of the Computed Annual Payment for fiscal year 2005, adjusted to reflect the change in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers published by the Department of Labor, from the date on which the payment for fiscal year 2005 was made to the Colville Tribes to the date on which payment is made to the Spokane Tribe under this subparagraph; and

(2) the amount that is equal to 29 percent of the Computed Annual Payment for fiscal year 2006.

(b) SUBSEQUENT PAYMENTS.—On or before March 1, 2008, and March 1 of each year thereafter through 2033, the Administrator shall pay the Spokane Tribe the amount that is equal to 29 percent of the Computed Annual Payment for the previous fiscal year.

(c) PAYMENT RECOVERY.—Pursuant to the payment schedule in subsection (b), the Administrator shall make commensurate cost reductions in expenditures on an annual basis to recover each payment to the Tribe. The Administrator shall include this specific cost reduction plan in the annual budget submitted to Congress.

(d) SUNSET.—This section shall have no force or effect on and after the date that is 25 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 7. TREATMENT AFTER FUNDS ARE PAID.

(a) USE OF PAYMENTS.—Payments made to the Spokane Business Council or Spokane Tribe under section 5 or 6 may be used or invested by the Business Council in the same manner and for the same purposes as other Spokane Tribe governmental funds.

(b) NO TRUST RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SECRETARY.—Neither the Secretary nor the Administrator shall have any trust responsibility for the investment, supervision, administration, or expenditure of any funds after the date on which the funds are paid to the Spokane Business Council or Spokane Tribe under section 5 or 6.

(c) TREATMENT OF FUNDS FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES.—The payments of all funds to the Spokane Business Council and Spokane

Tribe under sections 5 and 6, and the interest and income generated by the funds, shall be treated in the same manner as payments under section 6 of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan Distribution of Judgment Funds Act (100 Stat. 677).

(d) TRIBAL AUDIT.—After the date on which funds are paid to the Spokane Business Council or Spokane Tribe under section 5 or 6, the funds shall—

(1) constitute Spokane Tribe governmental funds; and

(2) be subject to an annual tribal government audit.

SEC. 8. REPAYMENT CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall deduct from the interest payable to the Secretary of the Treasury from net proceeds (as defined in section 13 of the Federal Columbia River Transmission System Act (16 U.S.C. 838k)—

(1) in fiscal year 2007, \$2,600,000; and

(2) in each subsequent fiscal year in which the Administrator makes a payment under section 6, \$1,300,000.

(b) CREDITING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), each deduction made under this section shall be—

(A) a credit to the interest payments otherwise payable by the Administrator to the Secretary of the Treasury during the fiscal year in which the deduction is made; and

(B) allocated pro rata to all interest payments on debt associated with the generation function of the Federal Columbia River Power System that are due during the fiscal year.

(2) DEDUCTION GREATER THAN AMOUNT OF INTEREST.—If, in any fiscal year, the deduction is greater than the amount of interest due on debt associated with the generation function for the fiscal year, the amount of the deduction that exceeds the interest due on debt associated with the generation function shall be allocated pro rata to all other interest payments due during the fiscal year.

(3) CREDIT.—To the extent that a deduction exceeds the total amount of interest described in paragraphs (1) and (2), the deduction shall be applied as a credit against any other payments that the Administrator makes to the Secretary of the Treasury.

SEC. 9. TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION AND RESTORATION OF OWNERSHIP OF LAND.

(a) TRANSFER OF JURISDICTION.—The Secretary shall transfer administrative jurisdiction from the Bureau of Reclamation to the Bureau of Indian Affairs over—

(1) all land acquired by the United States under the Act of June 29, 1940 (16 U.S.C. 835d), that is located within the exterior boundaries of the Spokane Indian Reservation established pursuant to the Executive Order of January 18, 1881; and

(2) all land on the south bank of the Spokane River that—

(A) extends westerly from Little Falls Dam to the confluence of the Spokane River and Columbia River; and

(B) is located at or below contour elevation 1290 feet above sea level.

(b) RESTORATION OF OWNERSHIP IN TRUST.—All land transferred under this section—

(1) shall be held in trust for the benefit and use of the Spokane Tribe; and

(2) shall become part of the Spokane Indian Reservation.

(c) RESERVATION OF RIGHTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The United States reserves a perpetual right, power, privilege, and easement over the land transferred under this section to carry out the Columbia Basin Project under the Columbia Basin Project Act (16 U.S.C. 835 et seq.).

(2) RIGHTS INCLUDED.—The rights reserved under paragraph (1) further include the right

to operate, maintain, repair, and replace boat ramps, docks, and other recreational facilities owned or permitted by the United States and existing on the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) RETENTION OF NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM STATUS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Land transferred under this section that, before the date of enactment of this Act, was included in the Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area shall remain part of the Recreation Area.

(B) ADMINISTRATION.—Nothing in this section affect the authority or responsibility of the National Park Service to administer the Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area under the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535, chapter 408; 16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.).

(4) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—The cognizant agencies of the Department of the Interior shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Spokane Tribe to provide for coordination in applying this subsection.

SEC. 10. SATISFACTION OF CLAIMS.

Payment by the Secretary under section 5 and the Administrator under section 6 and restoration of ownership of land in trust under section 9 constitute full satisfaction of the claim of the Spokane Tribe to a fair share of the annual hydropower revenues generated by the Grand Coulee Dam project for the past and continued use of land of the Spokane Tribe for the production of hydropower at Grand Coulee Dam.

SEC. 11. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act.

SEC. 12. PRECEDENT.

Nothing in this Act establishes any precedent or is binding on the Southwestern Power Administration, Western Area Power Administration, or Southeastern Power Administration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Washington (Miss MCMORRIS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington (Miss MCMORRIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Miss MCMORRIS. 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 bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I am the author of H.R. 1797, which brings fairness to a long-standing problem. I first want to thank my predecessor, the Congressman from Washington, George Nethercutt, for his hard work on this issue. He first introduced a version of this legislation 6 years ago. It is through the foundation of that bill that I am able to present this piece of legislation today before the House of Representatives.

I would also like to thank my colleagues from the Washington delegation, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) and the gentleman from

Washington (Mr. INSLEE). In addition, I would like to thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) for his support as well.

When the Grand Coulee Dam was built in the 1930s, the accompanying reservoir inundated key parts of the Spokane Indian Reservation. Due to a number of circumstances, the Spokane Tribe has never had the opportunity to pursue monetary claims as a result of these land damages. Rather than focusing on litigation, the tribe has instead worked for many years to bring about a legislative solution.

The bill authorizes Federal funding to compensate the Spokane Tribe for land damages. Since this nonlegal settlement is unique, these payments are sunsetted. The bill also seeks to protect electricity ratepayers by requiring the Bonneville Power Administration to cut costs to make up for the payments to the tribe. As a result, Congress does not expect the Federal Government to use this legislation as any reason for a rate increase.

Mr. Speaker, this bill has bipartisan support and is the result of lengthy discussions for over a decade. I commend the parties for their hard work and commitment to bringing this solution, and urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

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

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, the Democrats on the Committee on Resources support the passage of H.R. 1797, which will provide a fair and equitable financial settlement for the Spokane Tribe of Indians. H.R. 1797 will provide the Spokane Tribe of Indians with compensation which will be proportional to the compensation provided to the Colville Tribes through enactment of Public Law 103-436, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation Grand Coulee Dam Settlement Act.

Our only concern with H.R. 1797 is the included sunset language in section 6 of the bill. As noted in the additional views filed with the committee report on this bill, however, the Spokane Tribe has agreed to the sunset provision in the bill with the understanding that in the future the tribe may seek an amendment to extend or modify the sunset provision or otherwise seek reauthorization of the Bonneville Power Administration's annual payments after the year 2030.

With this understanding, and in the interest of moving the legislation forward and thereby providing long overdue relief to this tribe, we do not object to the inclusion of the sunset provision in the bill, and urge passage of the bill.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Miss McMORRIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1797.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING GOALS OF NATIONAL MARINA DAY AND URGING MARINAS CONTINUE PROVIDING ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY GATEWAYS TO BOATING

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 308) supporting the goals of National Marina Day and urging marinas continue providing environmentally friendly gateways to boating.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 308

Whereas the people of the United States highly value their recreational time and their ability to access the waterways of the United States, one of the Nation's greatest natural resources;

Whereas in 1928, the National Association of Engine and Boat Manufacturers first used the word "marina" to describe a recreational boating facility;

Whereas the United States is home to more than 12,000 marinas that contribute substantially to local communities by providing safe and reliable gateways to boating;

Whereas the marinas of the United States serve as stewards of the environment and actively seek to protect the waterways that surround them for the enjoyment of this generation and generations to come;

Whereas the marinas of the United States provide communities and visitors with a place where friends and families, united by a passion for the water, can come together for recreation, rest, and relaxation; and

Whereas the Marina Operators Association of America has designated August 13, 2005 as "National Marina Day" to increase awareness among citizens, policymakers, and elected officials about the many contributions that marinas make to communities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals of National Marina Day; and

(2) urges that the marinas of the United States continue to provide environmentally friendly gateways to boating for the people of the United States.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE).

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

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 308 was introduced by the distinguished gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) and co-sponsored by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP).

□ 1530

This resolution recognizes August 13, 2005, as National Marina Day. This resolution acknowledges the significant contributions that marinas provide to so many of our local waterfront communities.

There are over 12,000 marinas, Mr. Speaker, in the United States, and these facilities serve as a place where people who share a passion for the water can come together to enjoy our Nation's oceans, lakes and rivers. Marinas also serve as stewards of the environment and actively seek to protect the waterways that surround them.

Many Members of this body represent districts in which recreational boating plays an important role in the lives of many of our constituents, and marinas provide an easy access point for citizens who wish to enjoy our Nation's coasts and waterways.

This resolution highlights the importance of marinas and their role in promoting recreational boating and in connecting people to the water. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I thank my friend from North Carolina for managing this bill. We refer to him as the maitre d' of marinas in the House, so I thank the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. COBLE. I thank the gentleman from California.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, there are 12,000 marinas in the United States providing safe harbor for millions of recreational vessels that operate on the lakes and navigable waters of the United States. This includes boat yards, yacht clubs, and public and private moorings across our country. Marinas in the United States provide employment for more than 140,000 of our citizens. But perhaps most importantly, marinas provide a means for millions of Americans to relax and enjoy themselves boating.

National Marina Day is a time to celebrate the history of marinas and boating and to look to the future of this vibrant industry. National Marina Day activities across the United States will include environmental demonstrations, youth center events, fishing rodeos, boating safety demonstrations, and marina open houses. This day is going to be celebrated from Maine to Florida; from Maryland to my hometown of San Diego, California.

Marina owners are working closely, also, with the United States Coast Guard to step up vigilance at their facilities to improve security on our waterways. This includes being on the watch for any suspicious activities; attempts to gain access to vehicles without proper identification; looking out for any fixtures attached to structures; keeping an eye out for unusual diving operations; and watching out for vehicles and vessels in unusual locations.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting and appropriate for the House of Representatives to recognize the ongoing contribution of marina operators in the United States to our economy, our security, our environment, and most of all for providing us with a way of enjoying a day on the beautiful waterways of the United States.

I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting H. Res. 308 which recognizes our support for the goals of National Marina Day on August 13, 2005.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 308, a bill supporting the goals of National Marina Day and urging marinas to continue providing environmentally friendly gateways to boating.

On August 13, we will celebrate National Marina Day. This annual celebration promotes the United States' 12,000 marinas and offers local marina operators the opportunity to host educational events to bring tens of thousands of people to our country's marinas. These marinas are gateways to boating and help maintain the natural environments that we enjoy. In fact, as we debate this resolution today, Americans throughout the country are using their summer vacations to enjoy their own recreational boats or to charter time on professionally operated vessels.

By serving as stewards of the environment, marina owners help protect our Nation's natural resources for generations to come. Marina operators and owners realize that the success of their industry relies in part on the health and beauty of their surroundings.

In addition, marina owners are working closely with the United States Coast Guard to step up vigilance at their facilities to improve security on U.S. waterways. These efforts include looking out for aggressive activities, attempts to gain access to vessels without proper identification, fixtures attached to structures, unusual diving operations, and vehicles and vessels in unusual locations. Marina owners are on the water every day and when something appears unusual they are able to alert the Coast Guard.

Boating is an important pastime as well as a major business activity in my congressional district. From inside Puget Sound to the Pacific coast of Washington State and the Straits of Juan de Fuca, marinas provide access for recreational sailors and motor-powered cruising boats in addition to home ports for charter boats and commercial fishermen.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting for the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize the ongoing contribution of marina operators to our economy, our security, our environment, and most of all, for providing us with a way of enjoying a day on the water. I urge adoption of the resolution.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KOLBE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 308.

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. COBLE. 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.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE THAT THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION SHOULD INVESTIGATE THE PUBLICATION OF THE VIDEO GAME "GRAND THEFT AUTO: SAN ANDREAS"

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 376) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Federal Trade Commission should investigate the publication of the video game "Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas" to determine if the publisher intentionally deceived the Entertainment Software Ratings Board to avoid an "Adults-Only" rating, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. Res. 376

Whereas the video game "Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas" was given a rating of "Mature" by the Entertainment Software Ratings Board;

Whereas the game contains sexually explicit content that is accessible by consumers but that appears to have been hidden from the ratings board in order to avoid the game receiving an "Adults Only" rating;

Whereas the Entertainment Software Ratings Board took swift action in investigating the matter and revoked the "Mature" rating, ensuring any future sales of "Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas" will be under an "Adults Only" rating; and

Whereas the publisher of the video game, Rockstar Games, may have deceived the ratings board and consumers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) the Federal Trade Commission should investigate the publication of the video game "Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas" to determine if the publisher, Rockstar Games, deceived the Entertainment Software Ratings Board to avoid an "Adults-Only" rating; and

(2) if the Commission determines Rockstar Games to have committed such deception or fraud, the Commission should apply the toughest of penalties.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material on the same.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, last week I was appalled to hear about the release of the new version of the video game Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas having a back door to porn embedded in its files. That kind of material would have certainly earned it an "Adults-Only" rating rather than the "Mature" rating that it has been marketing. I cannot imagine how a good player in the video game industry could make an honest mistake of something like that, so you have to wonder just what they are trying to do.

We have had hearings on rating video games as well as music and movies in our committee, and I believe fully that parents are the first line of defense for controlling what their kids watch. Up until now, parents have been able to trust the Entertainment Software Ratings Board, ESRB, to give them credible information about exactly what is in a video game. I want to make sure that that remains the case.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, the FTC, parents are involved in the purchase and rental of games more than 8 out of 10 times, better than 80 percent, making it indisputably clear that parents are the gatekeepers when it comes to deciding what games they bring into their homes.

The facts about consumer awareness and use of the ESRB ratings: 78 percent of parents are aware of the rating system, up 8 percent in the last 2 years; 61 percent of parents are aware of content descriptors, up 53 percent in the last 2 years; 70 percent of parents regularly check the rating before making a purchase. If this company purposely hid that information or material to make a sham of the ratings, it is nothing less than deceptive advertising and it ought to be punished, in this case severely.

My resolution, coauthored by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), calls on the Federal Trade Commission to investigate Rockstar Games to see if they intentionally deceived the ratings board to avoid the Adults-Only rating, and, if they determine that such deception or fraud has taken place, that they apply the very toughest of penalties or sanctions. The video game industry has gone into great detail to define their ratings, but I want parents to feel confident that the labeling of the video games that they allow their kids to play or purchase is reliable and that bad actors do not get away with deceptions like this.

Mr. Speaker, if these ratings were willfully violated, they ought to be punished, and a firm should not be allowed to profit from that outrageous circumstance when those rules are followed by so many families when they buy or see the video games in their homes. This resolution calls for that.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD a letter that I sent earlier this week to the Chair of the FTC signed by more than 75 Members of Congress, the cover letter signed by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON), the

gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and myself, asking that the FTC take every action that they can if, in fact, the material shows that it was wrong in terms of getting the “M” rating.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, July 21, 2005.

Hon. DEBORAH PLATT MAJORAS,
Chairman, Federal Trade Commission,
Washington, DC.

CHAIRMAN MAJORAS: We write to express our profound concern regarding the sexually explicit material contained in the rated “M” video game “Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas.” We ask for your attention to this matter and to determine if the publisher, Rockstar Games, intentionally deceived the Entertainment Software Rating Board to avoid an “Adults-Only” rating. We believe that they may have and the toughest penalties need to be applied.

The recent release of “Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas” was widely anticipated by consumers, but an “Adults-Only” rating would have severely limited its sales in retail outlets. It appears that the publisher has blatantly circumvented the rules in order to peddle sexually explicit material to our youth, and they should be held accountable.

We stand in agreement that parental involvement is the most important line of defense in determining the type of content suitable for children, and the ratings system empowers parents to do just that. Unfortunately, this latest incident of deceit has severely degraded the integrity of the ratings system. How can parents trust a system in which game makers do an end-run around the process to deliver pornographic material to our kids?

We appreciate the ESRB’s swift action in investigating the matter and revoking the M rating and ensuring any further sales of “Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas” will be under an AO rating. But this action should have never been necessary had Rockstar Games complied with industry standards from the outset.

We respectfully request that you investigate this matter, and if Rockstar Games is found to have intentionally deceived American consumers, we ask that severe sanctions are imposed to the greatest extent under the law. This type of profiteering from peddling smut to minors must not be tolerated. A company cannot be allowed to profit from deceit.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Fred Upton, Ed Markey, Joe Barton, John Dingell, and 75 other Members of Congress.

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak on House Resolution 376. I would like to commend the resolution’s author, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON). I agree with the previous remarks made by him.

Let me start by commending an organization, however, I have worked with over the past 3 years, the National Institute on Media and the Family, and its founder Dr. David Walsh, for uncovering and exposing this video game scandal. Dr. Walsh and the Institute on Media and the Family have for years been calling for an independent rating system on interactive video games.

They have been national leaders on calling on retail stores across the country to ensure age-specific ratings are enforced. I agree, and I support an independent rating system and retailer responsibility.

The video game industry has a scandal on its hands, and parents across America have been given a wake-up call. Video games can be fun, but they can also be very powerful tools for exposing children to violence, sex and inappropriate material. Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas is not a video game. It is a violent and sexually explicit tool to train virtual victimizers in crime and sexual violence, and this was before the current pornographic scenes were exposed.

In a review of Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas on Amazon.com, it is described as “even more bloody, violent and sadistic than its popular predecessors, offering up an enormous 3-D city in which nearly any criminal act is possible. Players are free to steal cars, beat up the local population for their money or weapons, to make time with prostitutes, or to simply roam to their heart’s content.” That was a review before the pornographic scenes were made known.

Dr. Walsh has been, as I said, outspoken on this issue. Even before the pornographic scenes were exposed, Dr. Walsh, and I quote him as saying, this was not an appropriate game for our children, this violence training tool was rated “M” for mature, meaning the material was suitable for persons age 17 and older. Titles in this category may contain intense violence, blood and gore, sexual conduct, and/or strong language. The shooting of police officers, the killing of senior citizens for sport and winning points for sleeping with prostitutes and then killing them is not a game for 17-year-olds. It is disgusting, and it is a vile example of an industry with enormous potential being hijacked.

However, I would like to applaud two Minnesota-based retailers, Best Buy and Target, for their responsible and prudent decision to remove this so-called “game” from their shelves. I strongly support the intent of this resolution.

I would also like to enter for the RECORD two editorials, one from the Minneapolis Star Tribune and one from the New York Times, calling on action because of this game.

[From the Minneapolis Star Tribune, July 25, 2005]

GRAND THEFT/ABSENT PORN, STILL NOT FOR TEENS

Take-Two Interactive and Rockstar Games must have thought they were pulling a fast one on parents. Hidden in the bestselling video game “Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas”—activated by an Internet download and a code—are scenes that allow players to engage in virtual sex acts.

But the inside joke eventually went public. And people didn’t laugh.

Last week, the Entertainment Software Ratings Board (ESRB) slapped an AO (adults only 18-plus) rating on the popular video

game. Immediately, Wal-Mart, Target, Best Buy and several other retailers pulled it from their shelves. Rockstar, the game’s developer, which for weeks blamed “outsiders” for the sexually explicit modifications, now admits that the retail version was produced with them on the game. It has now ceased production of that version and will produce one minus the pornography.

Before someone is tempted to nominate either company for a Good Citizenship Award, keep in mind what will remain on the game. “Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas” is definitely not “Ms. Pacman.” An amazon.com review describes it as “even more bloody, violent, and sadistic than its popular predecessors, offering up an enormous 3-D city in which nearly any criminal act is possible. Players are free to steal cars, beat up the local population for their money (or weapons), make time with prostitutes, or simply roam to their heart’s content.”

The “toned-down” version will be rated Mature, making it available for anyone 17 or older.

The violence in “Grand Theft Auto” is not an aberration. Take-Two is excited about its upcoming release, “Bully.” Take-Two says “you’ll laugh and cringe as you stand up to bullies, get picked on by teachers, play pranks on malicious kids, win or lose the girl, and ultimately learn to navigate the obstacles of the fictitious reform school, Bullworth Academy.” Given its track record with other games, it is safe to assume gunplay will be featured prominently in “Bully.” We wonder if the folks in Littleton, Colo., or Cold Spring, Minn., will laugh.

This all alarms David Walsh, president and founder of the National Institute on Media and the Family. His research shows that the teen brain is still a work in progress, struggling to manage sexual and violent impulses. These games, which are marketed toward teens, should not be in the hands of teens, he believes.

We agree. The rating system for video games simply doesn’t work. The ESRB was established by the Entertainment Software Association. Advising the ESA is an executive from Take-Two Entertainment, which owns Rockstar, which makes of “Grand Theft Auto.” It’s comparable to letting the defense attorney serve as the jury foreman.

This industry repeatedly has shown it can’t be trusted to monitor itself. There is too much money to be made from young people by keeping ratings standards relaxed, and there are no penalties for companies that skirt the rules.

Parents aren’t off the hook. They need to take more of an interest in the kinds of games their children are playing. But a truly independent oversight body is necessary. By evaluating and rating these games, a proper oversight panel would help arm parents with the information they need to ensure the video games their children are playing are age-appropriate.

[From the New York Times, July 21, 2005]

VIDEO GAME KNOWN FOR VIOLENCE LANDS IN RATING TROUBLE OVER SEX

(By Seth Schiesel)

Under pressure from Democratic senators, the board that rates video games assigned the latest installment of the Grand Theft Auto series an adults-only label yesterday, effectively removing it from the shelves of most major retail stores.

The decision comes a few weeks after independent programmers uncovered a sexually suggestive scene that the game’s creators say was never meant to be seen.

The board’s president, Patricia Vance, said yesterday that the move was the first time in years that the group, the Entertainment

Software Rating Board, had changed the rating for a game that had already been released. The rating was changed to "Adults Only" from "Mature," which is meant to signal appropriateness for players 17 and older.

Several top video game retailers, including Wal-Mart and Target, said yesterday that they would no longer sell the current version of the game, *Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas*.

Like the motion picture ratings system, the video game's review system is nominally voluntary but usually compulsory in practice. Just as major movie theater chains almost always refuse to exhibit NC-17 movies, most mainstream retailers refuse to stock adults-only games.

The game's developer, Rockstar Games, which is owned by Take-Two Interactive, said yesterday that it would stop making the current version of the game and would release a new version as soon as possible.

Fueled by a mix of freewheeling play and rough-and-tumble urban motifs, the *Grand Theft Auto* series has become one of the world's most popular game franchises. According to the NPD Group, a market research firm, the game had sold more than 21 million copies since 2001 and had generated \$924 million in revenue for Rockstar Games.

Even as game players, mostly young men, have flocked to the series, politicians have signaled it out for its violence and sexually suggestive material.

The franchise's latest installment, *San Andreas*, has sold almost six million copies since its release in October but has drawn close scrutiny in recent weeks after independent game enthusiasts uncovered a sex-oriented "minigame" that had been hidden in the program's code.

To unlock the hidden scene, a user must download a program from the Internet known as *Hot Coffee* that was created by fans of the game. The scene depicts mostly clothed digital people performing sex movements.

"An artist makes a painting, then doesn't like the first version and paints over the canvas with a new painting, right?" said Rodney Walker, a spokesman for Rockstar Games. "That's what happened here. Hackers on the Internet made a program that scratches the canvas to reveal an earlier draft of the game."

Yesterday's decision by the rating board is sure to fuel tension between game companies and a subset of their players, known as modders, who make modifications for their favorite titles. Many companies, including Rockstar, have traditionally encouraged modders as a way of extending the life and relevance of their games.

But yesterday's action may also encourage publishers to make their games less alterable so that they are not held responsible for the changes the modders make or the old code that they unearth.

In a statement, Take-Two said that it was considering legal action against companies that help game players change the content.

Game players can buy devices on Web sites that allow them to alter games for consoles like Sony's PlayStation 2 that are impossible for normal users to change. On personal computers, users can change their games without special hardware.

Ms. Vance, the board's president, said that the mere presence of the *Hot Coffee* scene on the game disc, even in locked form, was cause to change the rating.

This is the first time that we have dealt with a third-party modification and this raises a number of issues that we as an industry will have to deal with," Ms. Vance said.

"We want to make it very clear to publishers that they must clean up their product

before shipping it," she said. "In the past they may have included content on the disc that they never intended the audience to access, but now hackers have sophisticated tools to unlock this stuff and the publishers have to be sure to either disclose the material to us or delete it."

Yesterday's move came as the industry and the ratings board have come under increasing political pressure. After reports about the modification, Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, Democrat of New York, called on the Federal Trade Commission last week to investigate the game's earlier mature rating.

Mr. Walker of Rockstar said the company intended to release a new version of the game without the *Hot Coffee* code as soon as possible.

Ms. Vance said such a move would restore the Mature rating, and a Wal-Mart spokeswoman said that her company would almost certainly restock the new version.

Nonetheless, Take-Two lowered its financial forecast for its year that ends in October.

The company said it expected net sales for the year of \$1.26 billion to \$1.31 billion, down from an earlier forecast of \$1.3 billion to 1.35 billion. The company said it expected earnings of \$1.05 to \$1.12 a share, down from an earlier forecast of \$1.40 to \$1.47 a share.

The Federal Trade Commission should look into this matter and investigate how this hidden material was placed in *Grand Theft Auto*. Parents across America must learn from this episode and participate and understand the games that their children are playing. They must play the games with their children when they bring them home and constantly review as the child progresses through the game, as the game changes. But right now what is needed more than ever is an independent rating system. We need it. We need it immediately.

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

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I am a dad. I have got two teenagers. My son has an X Box game. We are very careful in terms of the games that come into our house, both when we go to the store to purchase them as well as what both he and my daughter watch. It is my clear understanding, and the gentlewoman from Minnesota and my colleagues here know it is our understanding, that this particular video game never should have had an "M" rating. It always should have been an "Adults-Only." Had it had an "Adults-Only," it would not have been on the shelves of a number of different major retail stores, whether they be Best Buy, Sears, Wal-Mart, et cetera. It was appropriate that they immediately remove those games from their shelves.

□ 1545

It is not appropriate. We are thinking that we are taking the right steps to send that message for all families across this country. Not only did we get the letter that was signed literally in about 10 minutes by more than 75 Members of this House in a bipartisan approach, but I have called the FTC to talk with them as well to make sure

that if, in fact, they did violate the standard that they ought to use every sanction that they can to go after this particular manufacturer.

But this resolution spells it all out as well. And I would urge my colleagues to support this resolution because that indeed will send the message not only to this particular gamemaker but to use all the strength that the FTC has for those who violate those standards that we ought to seek sanctions appropriately to go after them so they do not profit from despicable games like this that no 13-year-old ought to be exposed to, let alone families across the country.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 376, to ask the FTC to look into the misrating of the "Grand Theft Auto" video game.

I have been working on this issue for the last five years, since 2000, and have been working also with Representative WOLF and others to ensure that members and the public understand the importance of this issue to our children. It's good to know that other members are becoming aware of the problem and together we can work in a bipartisan effort and make a difference.

Through our hard work, and that of those who are with us, the ESRB, the Voluntary Industry Rating Board, has now changed the rating of "Grand Theft Auto" from an M to an AO. That is not enough, because there are literally dozens of games out there that have the same type of offensive content, and the burden is now on the industry to explain why all of those games should not be rated AO, also.

But we will not wait for the industry. We must take action now. We must step up the pressure. For this reason, we have asked the FTC to scrutinize all video games, including "Grand Theft Auto", to make sure they are properly rated. We appreciate the continued expression of support by the Congress. Together we can make a difference.

My legislation, the Software Accuracy and Fraud Evaluation Rating Act or Safe Rating Act (H.R. 1145), would empower parents, by calling upon the FTC to look at all video game ratings.

Parents are the gatekeeper for what their children watch or play, but how can they do that, if the ratings are not accurate? How can they do that if the ratings are confusing? We must empower parents!

The decision to rate "Grand Theft Auto—San Andreas" as adults only represents a small victory for those of us who have been calling on the video game industry to clean up its act.

However, the industry's self-regulation is a case of the fox guarding the hen house—and American children are at risk because of this.

Although the ratings board has decided in July of 2005 that *San Andreas* should be rated adults only, it has already been sold for at least 18 months, earning millions of dollars for its producer. In fact, it was the best-selling game of 2004! And that means that millions of American children have played it, being exposed to graphic violent and sexual content.

Parents are confused by the ratings and angry that their kids are being exposed to filth and violence.

I hear from concerned parents in my district in California and from all over America.

The most important step we should take now is to pursue an investigation by the Federal Trade Commission into the video game rating system as my legislation calls for.

I have recently met with the FTC chairwoman Deborah Majoras to press for changes in how the games are reviewed and rated.

This is a \$25 billion worldwide industry that makes much of its profits by targeting teenage and younger boys.

The industry can give a game an M rating with a wink because it knows that any kid can buy a game even if it has an M rating.

There are several problems with the M Rating:

The wording on the label (in the small print on the back of the package) does not give parents a full and honest understanding of what is really in the game.

The M rating is confusing because the criteria that the industry uses to determine an M rating is almost identical to what it uses for the adults only rating.

Kids are buying these games! This month CBS News reported the results of a recent study: Despite the warning labels, 50 percent of boys age 7–14 have bought a game rated-M, for mature audiences, and a stunning nine out of ten of the boys have played them.

These games are harmful to children. Playing a violent or graphic video game hurts a child even more than watching a violent movie or TV show or listening to an obscene song because the child is role playing. The child assumes the identity of a criminal or a gang member.

Too many video games glorify and reward violent and criminal behavior. Why don't the video games feature heroic characters? Instead of having a child act like a cop-killer, why not make him a police officer? Instead of someone who kills, why not make him a lifesaver, like a fireman or a doctor?

It's time that the video game industry acted responsibly. It's time to take a hard look at their ratings. We must support this legislation on the floor today, and I urge all members to give their full support to my bill, H.R. 1145, to have the FTC look at the ratings of all video games.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, with consideration of H. Res. 376, which expressed the sense of the House of Representatives that the Federal Trade Commission Should Investigate the Publication of the Video Game "Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas" to determine if the publisher intentionally deceived the Entertainment Software Ratings Board to avoid an "Adults-Only" rating, I would like to enter a recent article from the Los Angeles Times into the RECORD. This article highlights the conflict of interest that is inherent in a voluntary rating system. The real question is: Can you trust this industry?

[From the Los Angeles Times, July 21, 2005]

HIDDEN SEX SCENES SPARK FUROR OVER VIDEO GAME

(By Alex Pham)

The oversight board that puts parental ratings on video games took the unusual step Wednesday of slapping its strongest warning on a bestselling title as the game maker admitted putting explicit, interactive sex scenes on the disc.

Retailers began pulling copies of "Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas" from their shelves after the Entertainment Software Ratings Board revoked the game's "Mature" rating and raised it to "Adults Only." Publisher

Take-Two Interactive Software Inc. said it planned to rework "San Andreas"—the top-selling video game of 2004—and reissue it later this year.

The ratings board is similar to the Motion Picture Assn. of America's rating board. A "Mature" rating is analogous to an R movie rating, and "Adults Only" is equivalent to NC-17. Most retailers refuse to sell "Adults Only" games.

Executives at New York-based Take-Two had denied for weeks that company programmers were responsible for the graphic sex scenes, which can be unlocked with software that was widely available on the Internet. But Wednesday they acknowledged that the game's designers had created the scenes, dubbed "Hot Coffee."

"The editing of any game is a highly technical process," said Take-Two spokesman Rodney Walker. "We liken it to a painter who paints one painting and paints over it on the same canvas."

Walker's explanation did little to mollify critics, who point to the "Grand Theft Auto" series to highlight the issue of violence and sexuality in video games. The games celebrate nihilistic killing, and Take-Two has reveled in its image as the bad boy of a \$25-billion global game industry that's trying to gain respectability to match its profits.

"It looks like Take-Two Interactive purposefully conned the video game industry rating board and parents across the country," said Washington state Rep. Mary Lou Dickerson. "'San Andreas,' as a top-selling game in the country, now is in the hands of thousands of children who can practice interactive pornography. There should be legal consequences . . . so [the company doesn't] laugh all the way to the bank."

"San Andreas," which retails for about \$50, has sold more than 12 million copies worldwide since its launch in October. "Mature" rated games are intended for players older than 17. Many retailers keep such games under lock and key and have policies requiring clerks to check the identification of buyers.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc., which accounts for as much as 20% of video game sales in the United States, began removing "San Andreas" from its shelves Wednesday, as did Best Buy Co.

"Our policy is not to carry any adult titles on our shelves," said Wal-Mart spokeswoman Karen Burk, who said buyers "can certainly bring the product back" for a refund.

Take-Two said it would make a patch available for downloading so that customers could block the sex scenes.

Word of the scenes began spreading over the Internet last month after Dutch programmer Patrick Wildenbourg began distributing software that he said unlocked them.

Many video games have secrets to which players gain access as they progress. They might, for instance, win extra powers or reach hidden levels.

"Hot Coffee," by contrast, is an interactive sex game, featuring oral sex and intercourse.

Wildenbourg, who removed his software from the Internet on Wednesday, declined to comment.

As late as last week, Take-Two had insisted that the sex scenes were "the work of a determined group of hackers who have gone to significant trouble to alter scenes in the official version of the game." Hackers, the company said, created the scenes by "disassembling and then combining, recompiling and altering the game's code."

The scenes prompted an outcry from game critics, including Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.), who last week called for a federal investigation into "Hot Coffee."

The Entertainment Software Ratings Board began a review to determine whether

the scenes were part of the game's original code and warranted a re-rating of "San Andreas," versions of which play on Sony Corp.'s PlayStation 2, Microsoft Corp.'s Xbox and personal computers.

"After a thorough investigation, we have concluded that sexually explicit material exists in a fully rendered, unmodified form on the final discs of all three platform versions of the game," said Patricia Vance, president of the ratings board. "Clearly the [original] rating was incorrect, and it needed to be corrected."

Take-Two's Walker said Wednesday that the sex scenes were never meant to be seen by the public and that they were revealed only when an outside programmer, called a "modder," wrote software to unlock them.

"The mod community scratched the paint, revealing the earlier work," he said.

Analysts estimated that modifying and re-marketing "San Andreas" would cost Take-Two about \$40 million in lost sales. Shares of Take-Two fell 11% in after-hours trading.

"It was a very poor exercise of judgment and a very costly one," said Michael Pachter, a video game industry analyst at Wedbush Morgan Securities in Los Angeles. "It's an embarrassment for management because obviously a maverick developer in their studios decided to put this stuff in there. I can only fault the management team for not putting systems in place to vet their games."

Take-Two is no stranger to controversy. Previous installments of "Grand Theft Auto" have been adored by hard-core gamers but excoriated by parent groups and lawmakers for their depictions of violence and sex.

In one, players could have sex with a prostitute and then beat her to death and take back their money. That game was rated "Mature" because players did not see the sex. Instead, they saw a parked car rock back and forth.

Some lawmakers criticized the ratings board for failing to detect the sex scenes in its initial evaluation of "San Andreas" last year. Although the system is voluntary, most game publishers seek a rating from the organization, which evaluated more than 1,000 titles last year.

"It should not have taken this long," said Rep. Joe Baca (D-Rialto). "This is evidence that the voluntary ratings system does not work."

Video game industry executives tried to assure parents that the "San Andreas" incident was an anomaly.

The ratings board "has been in business for 11 years, and there has never yet been an incident of this kind," said Doug Lowenstein, head of the Entertainment Software Assn., the industry's trade group. "You're looking at well over 10,000 games rated. If you look at that track record, you can say parents have every reason to be confident in the ratings system."

Some consumers weren't completely reassured.

"As a parent I've lost some confidence in the [ratings board's] ability to police the industry," said Dennis McCauley, editor of GamePolitics.com. "But [the board] did take a big step today, and I have to give them credit for that."

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KOLBE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 376, 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. UPTON. 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair earlier announced to the Members that there would be a moment of silence observed at this time in honor of Officers Gibson and Chestnut.

However, this moment of silence will be observed this evening in between votes, which will commence at 6:30 p.m.

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 3 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on three of the motions to suspend the rules previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.J. Res. 59 by the yeas and nays;

H. Con. Res. 181 by the yeas and nays; and

H. Res. 376 by the yeas and nays.

Proceedings on the other postponed questions will resume on another day.

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

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS WITH RESPECT TO COMMEMORATION OF WOMEN SUFFRAGISTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the joint resolution, H. J. Res. 59, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H. J. Res. 59, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 378, nays 0, not voting 55, as follows:

[Roll No. 417]
YEAS—378

Abercrombie	DeGette	Jones (NC)
Ackerman	DeLauro	Jones (OH)
Aderholt	DeLay	Kanjorski
Akin	Dent	Kaptur
Alexander	Diaz-Balart, L.	Keller
Allen	Dicks	Kelly
Andrews	Dingell	Kennedy (MN)
Baca	Doggett	Kennedy (RI)
Bachus	Doyle	Kildee
Baird	Drake	Kind
Baker	Dreier	King (IA)
Baldwin	Duncan	Kingston
Barrett (SC)	Edwards	Kline
Barrow	Ehlers	Knollenberg
Bartlett (MD)	Emanuel	Kolbe
Barton (TX)	Emerson	Kucinich
Bass	Engel	Kuhl (NY)
Beauprez	English (PA)	LaHood
Berkley	Eshoo	Langevin
Berry	Etheridge	Lantos
Biggert	Evans	Larsen (WA)
Bilirakis	Everett	Larson (CT)
Bishop (GA)	Farr	Latham
Bishop (NY)	Ferguson	LaTourette
Blackburn	Filner	Leach
Blumenauer	Fitzpatrick (PA)	Lee
Blunt	Flake	Levin
Boehlert	Foley	Lewis (CA)
Boehner	Forbes	Lewis (GA)
Bonilla	Fortenberry	Lewis (KY)
Bonner	Fox	Lipinski
Bono	Frank (MA)	LoBiondo
Boozman	Franks (AZ)	Lofgren, Zoe
Boren	Frelinghuysen	Lowe
Boswell	Garrett (NJ)	Lucas
Boucher	Gerlach	Lungren, Daniel
Boustany	Gilchrest	E.
Boyd	Gillmor	Lynch
Bradley (NH)	Gingrey	Mack
Brady (PA)	Gohmert	Maloney
Brady (TX)	Gonzalez	Manzullo
Brown (OH)	Goode	Marchant
Brown (SC)	Goodlatte	Markey
Burgess	Gordon	Marshall
Burton (IN)	Granger	Matheson
Butterfield	Graves	Matsui
Calvert	Green (WI)	McCarthy
Camp	Green, Al	McCaul (TX)
Cantor	Green, Gene	McCollum (MN)
Capito	Grijalva	McCotter
Capps	Gutknecht	McCreery
Capuano	Hall	McDermott
Cardin	Harman	McGovern
Cardoza	Harris	McHenry
Carnahan	Hart	McHugh
Carson	Hastings (FL)	McIntyre
Carter	Hastings (WA)	McKeon
Case	Hayes	McKinney
Castle	Hayworth	McMorris
Chabot	Hefley	McNulty
Chandler	Hensarling	Meehan
Chocola	Herger	Meek (FL)
Cleaver	Herseth	Meeks (NY)
Clyburn	Higgins	Melancon
Coble	Hinche	Menendez
Conaway	Hoekstra	Mica
Conyers	Holden	Michaud
Costa	Holt	Millender-
Costello	Honda	McDonald
Cox	Hooley	Miller (FL)
Crenshaw	Hoyer	Miller (NC)
Crowley	Hunter	Miller, Gary
Cubin	Hyde	Miller, George
Cuellar	Inglis (SC)	Mollohan
Culberson	Inslee	Moore (KS)
Cummings	Israel	Moore (WI)
Davis (AL)	Issa	Moran (KS)
Davis (CA)	Jackson (IL)	Moran (VA)
Davis (FL)	Jackson-Lee	Murphy
Davis (IL)	(TX)	Murtha
Davis (KY)	Jefferson	Musgrave
Davis (TN)	Jindal	Myrick
Davis, Jo Ann	Johnson (CT)	Nadler
Davis, Tom	Johnson (IL)	Napolitano
Deal (GA)	Johnson, E. B.	Neugebauer
DeFazio	Johnson, Sam	Ney

Northup	Ross	Tancredo
Norwood	Roybal-Allard	Tanner
Nunes	Royce	Tauscher
Oberstar	Ruppersberger	Taylor (MS)
Obey	Ryan (OH)	Taylor (NC)
Olver	Ryan (WI)	Thomas
Osborne	Ryun (KS)	Thompson (CA)
Otter	Sabo	Thompson (MS)
Owens	Salazar	Thornberry
Oxley	Sanchez, Linda	Tiahrt
Pallone	T.	Tierney
Pascrell	Sanchez, Loretta	Towns
Pastor	Sanders	Turner
Paul	Saxton	Udall (CO)
Payne	Schakowsky	Udall (NM)
Pearce	Schwartz (PA)	Upton
Pence	Schwartz (MI)	Van Hollen
Peterson (MN)	Scott (GA)	Velázquez
Peterson (PA)	Scott (VA)	Vislosky
Petri	Sensenbrenner	Walden (OR)
Pickering	Serrano	Walsh
Pitts	Sessions	Wamp
Platts	Shadegg	Wasserman
Poe	Shaw	Schultz
Pombo	Sherman	Waters
Pomeroy	Sherwood	Watson
Porter	Shimkus	Watt
Price (GA)	Shuster	Waxman
Price (NC)	Simmons	Weiner
Putnam	Simpson	Weller
Ramstad	Skelton	Westmoreland
Rangel	Slaughter	Wexler
Regula	Smith (NJ)	Whitfield
Rehberg	Smith (TX)	Wicker
Reichert	Smith (WA)	Wilson (NM)
Renzi	Snyder	Wilson (SC)
Reynolds	Solis	Wolf
Rogers (AL)	Spratt	Woolsey
Rogers (KY)	Stark	Wu
Rogers (MI)	Stearns	Wynn
Rohrabacher	Stupak	Young (AK)
Ros-Lehtinen	Sullivan	

NOT VOTING—55

Bean	Ford	Pelosi
Becerra	Fossella	Pryce (OH)
Berman	Gallegly	Radanovich
Bishop (UT)	Gibbons	Rahall
Brown, Corrine	Gutierrez	Reyes
Brown-Waite,	Hinojosa	Rothman
Ginny	Hobson	Rush
Buyer	Hostettler	Schiff
Cannon	Hulshof	Shays
Clay	Istook	Sodrel
Cole (OK)	Jenkins	Souder
Cooper	Kilpatrick (MI)	Strickland
Cramer	King (NY)	Sweeney
Cunningham	Kirk	Terry
Delahunt	Linder	Tiberi
Diaz-Balart, M.	Miller (MI)	Weldon (FL)
Doolittle	Neal (MA)	Weldon (PA)
Fattah	Nussle	Young (FL)
Feeney	Ortiz	

□ 1854

Ms. WOOLSEY and Mr. FERGUSON changed their vote from "nay" to yea."

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the joint resolution was amended so as to read: "Joint Resolution Expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the women suffragists who fought for and won the right of women to vote in the United States."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 417 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 417 had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

MOMENT OF SILENCE OBSERVED IN MEMORY OF OFFICER JACOB J. CHESTNUT AND DETECTIVE JOHN M. GIBSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON). Pursuant to the Chair's announcement of earlier today, the House will now observe a moment of silence in memory of Officer Jacob J. Chestnut and Detective John M. Gibson.

Will all please rise for a moment of silence.

Thank you.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the next votes will be 5-minute votes.

There was no objection.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND RULES OF NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE AWARENESS MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 181, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 181, 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 377, nays 4, not voting 52, as follows:

[Roll No. 418]

YEAS—377

Abercrombie	Bradley (NH)	Davis (AL)
Ackerman	Brady (PA)	Davis (CA)
Aderholt	Brady (TX)	Davis (IL)
Akin	Brown (OH)	Davis (KY)
Alexander	Brown (SC)	Davis (TN)
Allen	Burgess	Davis, Jo Ann
Andrews	Burton (IN)	Davis, Tom
Baca	Butterfield	Deal (GA)
Bachus	Calvert	DeFazio
Baird	Camp	DeGette
Baker	Cantor	DeLauro
Baldwin	Capito	DeLay
Barrett (SC)	Capps	Dent
Barrow	Capuano	Diaz-Balart, L.
Bartlett (MD)	Cardin	Dicks
Barton (TX)	Cardoza	Dingell
Bass	Carnahan	Doggett
Beauprez	Carson	Doyle
Berkley	Carter	Drake
Berry	Case	Dreier
Biggert	Castle	Duncan
Bilirakis	Chabot	Edwards
Bishop (GA)	Chandler	Ehlers
Bishop (NY)	Choccola	Emanuel
Blackburn	Cleaver	Emerson
Blumenauer	Clyburn	Engel
Blunt	Coble	English (PA)
Boehlert	Conaway	Eshoo
Boehner	Conyers	Etheridge
Bonilla	Costa	Evans
Bonner	Costello	Everett
Bono	Cox	Farr
Boozman	Crenshaw	Ferguson
Boren	Crowley	Filner
Boswell	Cubin	Fitzpatrick (PA)
Boucher	Cuellar	Foley
Boustany	Culberson	Forbes
Boyd	Cummings	Ford

Fortenberry	Lofgren, Zoe	Rogers (AL)	Cannon	Gutierrez	Radanovich
Fox	Lowey	Rogers (KY)	Clay	Hinojosa	Rahall
Frank (MA)	Lucas	Rogers (MI)	Cole (OK)	Hobson	Reyes
Franks (AZ)	Lungren, Daniel E.	Rohrabacher	Cooper	Hostettler	Rothman
Frelinghuysen		Ros-Lehtinen	Cramer	Hulshof	Rush
Garrett (NJ)	Lynch	Ross	Cunningham	Istook	Shays
Gerlach	Mack	Roybal-Allard	Davis (FL)	Jenkins	Sodrel
Gilchrest	Maloney	Royce	Delahunt	Kilpatrick (MI)	Souder
Gillmor	Manzullo	Ruppertsberger	Diaz-Balart, M.	King (NY)	Strickland
Gingrey	Marchant	Ryan (OH)	Doolittle	Linder	Sweeney
Gohmert	Markey	Ryan (WI)	Fattah	Miller (MI)	Terry
Gonzalez	Marshall	Ryan (KS)	Feeney	Nussle	Tiberi
Goode	Matheson	Sabo	Fossella	Ortiz	Weldon (FL)
Goodlatte	Matsui	Salazar	Gallegly	Pelosi	Weldon (PA)
Gordon	McCarthy	Salazar, Linda T.	Gibbons	Pryce (OH)	Young (FL)
Granger	McCaul (TX)				
Graves	McCollum (MN)	Sanchez, Loretta T.			
Green (WI)	McCotter				
Green, Al	McCrery	Sanders			
Green, Gene	McDermott	Saxton			
Grijalva	McGovern	Schakowsky			
Gutknecht	McHenry	Schiff			
Hall	McHugh	Schwartz (PA)			
Harman	McIntyre	Schwarz (MI)			
Harris	McKeon	Scott (GA)			
Hart	McKinney	Scott (VA)			
Hastings (FL)	McMorris	Sensenbrenner			
Hastings (WA)	McNulty	Serrano			
Hayes	Meehan	Sessions			
Hayworth	Meek (FL)	Shadegg			
Hefley	Meeks (NY)	Shaw			
Hensarling	Melancon	Sherman			
Herger	Menendez	Sherwood			
Herse	Mica	Shimkus			
Higgins	Michaud	Shuster			
Hinche	Millender-	Simmons			
Hoekstra	McDonald	Simpson			
Holden	Miller (FL)	Skelton			
Holt	Miller (NC)	Slaughter			
Honda	Miller, Gary	Smith (NJ)			
Hooley	Mollohan	Smith (TX)			
Hoyer	Moore (KS)	Smith (WA)			
Hunter	Moore (WI)	Snyder			
Hyde	Moran (KS)	Solis			
Inglis (SC)	Moran (VA)	Spratt			
Inslee	Murphy	Stearns			
Israel	Murtha	Stupak			
Issa	Musgrave	Sullivan			
Jackson (IL)	Myrick	Tancredo			
Jackson-Lee (TX)	Nadler	Tanner			
Jefferson	Napolitano	Tauscher			
Jindal	Neal (MA)	Taylor (MS)			
Johnson (CT)	Neugebauer	Taylor (NC)			
Johnson (IL)	Ney	Thomas			
Johnson, E. B.	Northup	Thompson (CA)			
Johnson, Sam	Norwood	Thompson (MS)			
Jones (NC)	Nunes	Thornberry			
Jones (OH)	Oberstar	Tiahrt			
Kanjorski	Obey	Tierney			
Kaptur	Olver	Towns			
Keller	Osborne	Turner			
Kelly	Otter	Udall (CO)			
Kennedy (MN)	Owens	Udall (NM)			
Kennedy (RI)	Oxley	Upton			
Kildee	Pallone	Van Hollen			
Kind	Pascrell	Velazquez			
King (IA)	Pastor	Viscosky			
Kingston	Payne	Walden (OR)			
Kirk	Pearce	Walsh			
Kline	Pence	Wamp			
Knollenberg	Peterson (MN)	Wasserman			
Kolbe	Peterson (PA)	Schultz			
Kucinich	Petri	Waters			
Kuhl (NY)	Pickering	Watson			
LaHood	Pitts	Watt			
Langevin	Poe	Waxman			
Lantos	Pombo	Weiner			
Larsen (WA)	Pomeroy	Weller			
Larson (CT)	Porter	Westmoreland			
Latham	Price (GA)	Wexler			
LaTourette	Price (NC)	Whitfield			
Leach	Putnam	Wicker			
Lee	Ramstad	Wilson (NM)			
Levin	Rangel	Wilson (SC)			
Lewis (CA)	Regula	Wolf			
Lewis (GA)	Rehberg	Woolsey			
Lewis (KY)	Reichert	Wu			
Lipinski	Renzi	Wynn			
LoBiondo	Reynolds	Young (AK)			

NAYS—4

Flake Paul
Miller, George Stark

NOT VOTING—52

Bean	Bishop (UT)	Brown-Waite,
Becerra	Brown, Corrine	Ginny
Berman		Buyer

Cannon	Gutierrez	Radanovich
Clay	Hinojosa	Rahall
Cole (OK)	Hobson	Reyes
Cooper	Hostettler	Rothman
Cramer	Hulshof	Rush
Cunningham	Istook	Shays
Davis (FL)	Jenkins	Sodrel
Delahunt	Kilpatrick (MI)	Souder
Diaz-Balart, M.	King (NY)	Strickland
Doolittle	Linder	Sweeney
Fattah	Miller (MI)	Terry
Feeney	Nussle	Tiberi
Fossella	Ortiz	Weldon (FL)
Gallegly	Pelosi	Weldon (PA)
Gibbons	Pryce (OH)	Young (FL)

□ 1906

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.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE THAT THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION SHOULD INVESTIGATE THE PUBLICATION OF THE VIDEO GAME "GRAND THEFT AUTO: SAN ANDREAS"

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENT). The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 376, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 376, 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 355, nays 21, answered "present" 1, not voting 56, as follows:

[Roll No. 419]

YEAS—355

Ackerman	Boyd	Crowley
Aderholt	Bradley (NH)	Cubin
Akin	Brady (PA)	Cuellar
Alexander	Brady (TX)	Culberson
Allen	Brown (OH)	Cummings
Andrews	Brown (SC)	Davis (AL)
Baca	Burgess	Davis (CA)
Baird	Burton (IN)	Davis (IL)
Baker	Butterfield	Davis (KY)
Baldwin	Calvert	Davis (TN)
Barrett (SC)	Camp	Davis, Jo Ann
Barrow	Cantor	Davis, Tom
Bartlett (MD)	Capito	Deal (GA)
Barton (TX)	Capps	DeFazio
Bass	Capuano	DeGette
Beauprez	Cardin	DeLauro
Berry	Cardoza	DeLay
Biggert	Carnahan	Dent
Bilirakis	Carson	Diaz-Balart, L.
Bishop (GA)	Carter	Dicks
Bishop (NY)	Case	Dingell
Blackburn	Castle	Doggett
Blumenauer	Chabot	Doyle
Blunt	Chandler	Drake
Boehlert	Choccola	Dreier
Boehner	Cleaver	Duncan
Bonilla	Clyburn	Edwards
Bonner	Coble	Ehlers
Bono	Conaway	Emanuel
Boozman	Cooper	Emerson
Boren	Costa	Engel
Boswell	Cox	English (PA)
Boucher	Crenshaw	Eshoo
Boustany		

Etheridge	Levin	Rehberg
Evans	Lewis (CA)	Reichert
Everett	Lewis (KY)	Renzi
Farr	Lipinski	Reynolds
Ferguson	LoBiondo	Rogers (AL)
Filner	Lofgren, Zoe	Rogers (KY)
Fitzpatrick (PA)	Lowey	Rogers (MI)
Foley	Lucas	Rohrabacher
Forbes	Lungren, Daniel	Ros-Lehtinen
Ford	E.	Ross
Fortenberry	Lynch	Roybal-Allard
Fox	Mack	Royce
Franks (AZ)	Maloney	Ruppersberger
Frelinghuysen	Manzullo	Ryan (OH)
Garrett (NJ)	Marchant	Ryan (WI)
Gerlach	Markey	Ryun (KS)
Gilchrest	Marshall	Sabo
Gillmor	Matheson	Salazar
Gingrey	Matsui	Sanchez, Linda
Gohmert	McCarthy	T.
Gonzalez	McCaul (TX)	Sanchez, Loretta
Goode	McCollum (MN)	Sanders
Goodlatte	McCotter	Saxton
Gordon	McCreery	Schakowsky
Granger	McGovern	Schiff
Graves	McHenry	Schwartz (PA)
Green (WI)	McHugh	Schwartz (MI)
Green, Al	McIntyre	Scott (GA)
Green, Gene	McKeon	Scott (VA)
Gutknecht	McKinney	Sensenbrenner
Hall	McMorris	Sessions
Harman	McNulty	Shadegg
Harris	Meehan	Shaw
Hart	Meek (FL)	Sherman
Hastings (WA)	Meeks (NY)	Sherwood
Hayes	Melancon	Shimkus
Hayworth	Menendez	Shuster
Hefley	Mica	Simmons
Hensarling	Michaud	Simpson
Herger	Millender	Skelton
Herseth	McDonald	Slaughter
Higgins	Miller (FL)	Smith (NJ)
Hinches	Miller (NC)	Smith (TX)
Hoekstra	Miller, Gary	Smith (WA)
Holden	Miller, George	Snyder
Holt	Mollohan	Solis
Honda	Moore (KS)	Spratt
Hooley	Moore (WI)	Stearns
Hoyer	Moran (KS)	Stupak
Hunter	Moran (VA)	Sullivan
Hyde	Murphy	Tancredo
Inglis (SC)	Musgrave	Tanner
Inslee	Myrick	Tauscher
Israel	Nadler	Taylor (MS)
Issa	Napolitano	Taylor (NC)
Jackson (IL)	Neal (MA)	Thomas
Jackson-Lee	Neugebauer	Thompson (CA)
(TX)		Thompson (MS)
Jindal	Northup	Thornberry
Johnson (CT)	Norwood	Tiahrt
Johnson (IL)	Nunes	Tierney
Johnson, Sam	Oberstar	Turner
Jones (NC)	Oliver	Udall (CO)
Kanjorski	Osborne	Udall (NM)
Kaptur	Otter	Upton
Keller	Oxley	Van Hollen
Kelly	Pallone	Vislosky
Kennedy (MN)	Pascrell	Walden (OR)
Kennedy (RI)	Pastor	Walsh
Kildee	Pearce	Wamp
Kind	Pence	Wasserman
King (IA)	Peterson (MN)	Schultz
Kingston	Peterson (PA)	Waters
Kirk	Petri	Watson
Kline	Pickering	Waxman
Knollenberg	Pitts	Weiner
Kolbe	Platts	Weller
Kucinich	Poe	Westmoreland
Kuhl (NY)	Pombo	Wexler
LaHood	Pomeroy	Whitfield
Langevin	Porter	Wicker
Lantos	Price (GA)	Wilson (NM)
Larsen (WA)	Price (NC)	Wilson (SC)
Larson (CT)	Putnam	Wolf
Latham	Ramstad	Wu
LaTourette	Rangel	Wynn
Leach	Regula	Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—56

Bachus	Fattah	Obey
Bean	Feeney	Ortiz
Becerra	Fossella	Pelosi
Berman	Galleghy	Pryce (OH)
Bishop (UT)	Gibbons	Radanovich
Brown, Corrine	Gutierrez	Rahall
Brown-Waite,	Hinojosa	Reyes
Ginny	Hobson	Rothman
Buyer	Hostettler	Rush
Cannon	Hulshof	Shays
Clay	Istook	Sodrel
Cole (OK)	Jefferson	Souder
Costello	Jenkins	Strickland
Cramer	Kilpatrick (MI)	Sweeney
Cunningham	King (NY)	Terry
Sabo	Linder	Tiberi
Davis (FL)	Miller (MI)	Weldon (FL)
Delahunt	Miller (MI)	Weldon (PA)
Diaz-Balart, M.	Murtha	Young (FL)
Doolittle	Nussle	

On rollcall No. 415, the Velázquez amendment to H.R. 3070, I would have voted “aye.”
 On rollcall No. 416, passage of H.R. 3070, I would have voted “aye.”
 On rollcall No. 417, passage of H.J. Res. 59, I would have voted “yea.”
 On rollcall No. 418, passage of H. Con. Res. 181, I would have voted “yea.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 417, “yea” on rollcall No. 418, and “yea” on rollcall No. 419.

□ 1923

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.

The title of the resolution was amended so as to read: “Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Federal Trade Commission should investigate the publication of the video game ‘Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas’ to determine if the publisher deceived the Entertainment Software Ratings Board to avoid an ‘Adults-Only’ rating.”

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber today. I would like to the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall votes 417, 418 and 419.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, personal business prevents me from being present for legislative business scheduled for today, Monday, July 25, 2005. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on H.J. Res. 59, expressing the sense of Congress concerning the establishment of an appropriate day for the commemoration of the women suffragists who fought for and won the right of women to vote in the United States (rollcall No. 417); “yea” on H. Con. Res. 181, supporting the goals and ideals of National Life Insurance Awareness Month (rollcall No. 418); and “yea” on H.R. 2977, designating the “Abraham Lincoln Birthplace Post Office Building” (rollcall No. 419).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for a series of rollcall votes occurring the morning of July 22, 2005. During that time I was attending a memorial service for my friend, Avon Williams III, held at the Pentagon. I was also unable to be present for a series of rollcall votes held on the evening of July 25, 2005. During that time I incurred an unavoidable transportation delay.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

NAYS—21

Abercrombie	Hastings (FL)	Paul
Berkley	Johnson, E. B.	Payne
Blumenauer	Jones (OH)	Serrano
Conyers	Lee	Stark
Flake	Lewis (GA)	Towns
Frank (MA)	McDermott	Velázquez
Grijalva	Owens	Woolsey

ANSWERED “PRESENT”—1

Watt

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION AND THE REAL ID ACT

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday the Chattanooga Times Free Press ran an op-ed that I wrote about the READ ID Act. They also ran an op-ed by a college professor who disagrees with the READ ID Act.

I want to thank the editors of that paper for being sure that both sides were represented on this issue. That is what every newspaper should strive for: equal time and let the readers decide.

As I pointed out in my op-ed, illegal immigration is clearly a matter of national security, and for too long States like Tennessee have known and done nothing about the ease with which illegal aliens are obtaining valid government IDs. I believe it is unacceptable. I think most Tennesseans agree with me.

When I was in the State Senate in Tennessee, I fought to fix the problem, and now I am pleased that Congress and this Republican leadership have supported the READ ID Act. We are taking critically important steps toward tightening our licensing and identification policies to fight illegal immigration and terrorism.

UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS

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

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I just want to respond to the previous speech, and that is to say I wish that we would call people “undocumented workers.” I do not think it is too much to call people “undocumented workers” because that is who they are. Many times people are working hard in our communities, with families, who are trying to get their families food at night, a place for them to sleep.

To call them aliens, I think, is degrading to them, and I think it is unfitting for this country to refer to people in that

manner. And I would hope that, in the rest of the debate, instead of calling them “illegal aliens,” Members would call them what they are, and that is “undocumented workers.”

FIGHTING CHILDHOOD OBESITY

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a young lady from my district who is inspiring her peers to live a healthy lifestyle.

Eleven-year-old Madison Newberry of Lewisville, North Carolina was just like any other kid at Lewisville Elementary School, except that she was never able to fit into a pair of jeans. Madison is one of approximately 15 percent of American children who are overweight.

Yet Madison grew tired of wearing stretch pants. And when her doctor told her she had high cholesterol, she knew it was time to make a lifestyle change.

Madison lost 15 pounds by switching to a healthy diet and exercising. In April of 2004, Subway chose Madison to appear in two nationally televised commercials as part of its childhood obesity prevention campaign. Then in July, 2004, she marched in Washington with Subway spokesperson Jared Fogle to help kick off the restaurant's national childhood obesity program.

Obesity among young Americans is a serious problem that can have serious ramifications in the long run. The number of kids affected by obesity has tripled since 1980, and this can be traced in large part to lack of exercise and a healthy diet. I am proud of Madison Newberry for serving as a positive role model to other kids and look forward to seeing more of her peers follow in her footsteps.

THE WAR ON TERROR AND OFFERING SYMPATHY TO THE PEOPLE OF EGYPT

(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, as we did just 2 weeks ago and then just 4 days ago on behalf of the people of London to offer them our sympathy for the tragedy of another terrorist attack, I rise today to offer my sympathy to the people of Egypt, who have experienced an enormous tragedy over the last couple of days.

Militant terrorists have terrorized a tourist area where Americans and many others from around the world come in harmony to enjoy summer vacation. This should tell us that we are united and should be united in the war on terror. The war on terror does not have a face, and it does not discriminate. It does not distinguish. It is attacking people of goodwill around the world.

My sympathies to President Mubarak, who stood fast and said that, as the terrorists acted in Egypt, they were going to find them and bring them to justice.

This is the kind of war on terror that we need to join hands with people from around the world. We are not losing the battle, but we need all of the help that we possibly can get; and our focus should be united around those terrorists who do not have country, do not have mind, do not have care, and are attacking people from everywhere all over the world.

We need to stand united against the war on terror.

□ 1930

SUPPORT ASSOCIATION HEALTH PLANS

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

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, the number one problem facing small businesses today is the skyrocketing cost of health insurance. Association health plans are a big part of the solution.

I met with many small-business people from my hometown of Orlando, Florida, and they told me that they need association health plans. I believe them, and I will tell you why.

Of the 45 million Americans now without health insurance, 60 percent are small-business employees and their families. They do not have health insurance because their employers cannot afford it. If we allowed these small businesses to join together, they could have the same bargaining power as a large corporation, which could lower their health insurance premiums by up to 30 percent.

Mr. Speaker, association health plans will increase access to health care for millions of Americans now without health insurance.

I urge my colleagues to vote yes on association health plans.

CRITICIZING DRUG LIABILITY PROVISION IN MEDICAL MALPRACTICE LEGISLATION

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, this body is scheduled to vote on medical malpractice legislation. This bill contains an egregious provision to protect drug companies from any form of liability.

Why would this Congress protect companies like Merck, who deceived the American public by hiding the side effects of Vioxx? An estimated 139,000 people have had heart attacks as a result of taking Vioxx, and, according to the FDA, 55,000 people have died. I am not aware of any other industry that would receive this type of liability protection just for going through the government approval process.

The fact is that drug companies have made a smart investment. There is no other place in the world that would give them this type of return on their investment but this Congress.

On one side of the screen, Americans are fighting for fairness in the court. On the other side of the screen, Congress is mounting a rear-guard action to protect the pharmaceutical companies.

Mr. Speaker, when Congress takes up this medical malpractice legislation, I will introduce the Vioxx amendment to strike this blatantly beneficial provision just for the drug companies. When the Speaker's gavel comes down, it is intended to open the people's House, not the auction house.

COMMENDING FELLOW CONGRESSMAN CHRIS COX OF CALIFORNIA

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend one of our colleagues, the gentleman from California (Mr. Cox). Tomorrow he will go before the Senate Committee on Financial Services, Housing, and Urban Affairs to have his nomination considered for the Securities and Exchange Commission, and I would like to extend congratulations to him and his family. I have every confidence that in his new capacity, CHRIS will do an excellent job.

CHRIS has made such a positive and lasting impression during his tenure here in the House, and he will be sorely missed.

Since 1988, CHRIS has made countless contributions, especially as the first chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security. In this capacity, he oversaw a momentous and much-needed reorganization of the Nation's security authority.

I feel privileged to have worked with such a distinguished Member of Congress, and I wish him continued success in all of his future endeavors.

THE TIME IS NOW FOR PENSION REFORM

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the time to pass pension reform is now.

Today, with Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND), I spoke with Delta employees and retirees at the Delta Pension Reform Support Day in Atlanta. The sense of urgency for a solution to our Nation's pension crisis could not have been more evident.

In the face of high fuel costs and a post-9/11 world, financial losses continue to hinder legacy airline carriers' ability to fully fund their pension plans. Having airlines keep their commitments to their employees and not burden taxpayers is what this is all about.

Pension reform is financial security for thousands of airline employees. Retiring with a pension of only a fraction of what you expected is not truly a retirement. A lifetime of work should not be rewarded with wondering how you will make ends meet.

Mr. Speaker, the case has been made. Pension reform is needed now. The employees with whom I spoke today have put forth much effort to make a difference. They realize the crisis their pension plans are in, the American public realizes the crisis that pension plans are in, and it is time we fixed the problem before it is too late and before the burden is put on the backs of the American taxpayers. Without objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENT). 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.

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

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. 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 gentleman from Kansas?

There was no objection.

A CELEBRATION OF INA MAE SELFRIDGE'S LIFE

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

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, this evening I rise to recognize and celebrate the life of a constituent and friend, Ina Mae Selfridge. Ina passed away suddenly on Sunday, July 17, at the age of 76. Her death is a tremendous loss to her family, her community, and the many individuals who were fortunate enough to call her a friend.

Probably the greatest compliment I could give Ina is that she was a great farm girl. In truth, she embodied much of what is good and decent about the family farm and the way of life we enjoy in Kansas. Ina is one of those people you meet and you think to yourself, I am in the presence of an extraordinary human being.

I have known Ina through her many years of service to the organization Women Involved in Farm Economics, otherwise known as WIFE. Most re-

cently, Ina was the national president of WIFE and has served in this position for the past 2 years. Ina was also the State president and member of the Gold Waves Chapter 76 of WIFE located in central and southwest Kansas.

It would not be fitting to talk about Ina and not bring up the ideals and accomplishments of WIFE. Ina truly cared about agriculture and about rural communities. On her many visits to Washington over the years, Ina joined other WIFE leaders to advocate on behalf of the family farm. From health care to energy policy to emergency drought assistance, Ina knew what was going on in farm country because she lived it each and every day.

In fact, Ina's trips to D.C. were usually scheduled so they would not interfere with harvest. In written testimony she gave in 2003 on credit availability in rural areas, she wrote that she would have preferred to be here in person, but it was wheat harvest and "all hands are on deck for the entire family." Indeed, Ina was an integral part of her family farm, even at age 76.

Ina farmed in true partnership with her husband Elmer Selfridge and several of her sons. Their farm in eastern Hodgeman County included wheat, forages and grains for their 1,000-head feedlot. She is survived by her husband; her four sons, Randy, Tyler, Brad, and Wade; and nine grandchildren.

Ina would want me to use part of this time to talk about agriculture. Today I wear a domino on my lapel that she gave to me. It represents WIFE's theme that agriculture has a domino effect on America. Like dominos standing next to each other, when the farmer suffers economic loss, so do local businesses, schools, communities, churches, and local government. Today, however, I wear the domino to show how Ina's life had a positive domino effect on the many lives of everyone who came in contact with her.

Ina had an enthusiasm that few possess. You could not be around Ina and not feel a sense of excitement about what the future might hold. The pioneer spirit of optimism and hard work that established farms across Kansas was alive and strong in Ina. Insights into the life she lived can be derived from her e-mail address, which is simply "happy." This is not to say there were not hardships on the farm. Many parts of Kansas are just now recovering from 5 years of drought, but Ina's can-do personality is an inspiration to us all.

The last time she was in my office she said, "I may not be the WIFE president next year, but I will be back again to remind you about the importance of agriculture." Today I bet she would say, "Time to get back to work. The wheat harvest is in, but we must get ready for the fall crops."

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Ina's family in this time of difficulty with the knowledge that their loss on Earth is God's gain in heaven. It is my absolute privilege to have known Ina.

The world is a better place because of her, and she will be greatly missed.

GUN LIABILITY LEGISLATION

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, first I would like to congratulate a colleague of ours, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY), who is actually having her 100th 5-minute Special Order, and we are very proud of her, the country is very proud of her, on bringing issues that certainly affect her constituency and all of ours. So I congratulate her.

The leadership of Congress is constantly preaching about responsibility. Individuals should accept the consequences of their actions. Unfortunately, this culture of responsibility does not extend to the gun industry and negligent gun sellers.

The other body is planning on taking on legislation to grant the gun industry unprecedented immunity from litigation and other legal action. Under this legislation, dealers and manufacturers of guns would receive immunity from any legal action. The gun industry would be unlike the sellers and makers of nearly every other consumer product. These industries must face the consequences of their negligence and misjudgment. In fact, manufacturers and sellers of toy guns are more liable for their products than the makers and sellers of assault weapons and handguns.

The NRA has named this issue as their number one legislative priority this year. They say this bill will end frivolous lawsuits, but not a single, not a single suit against the gun industry has ever been deemed frivolous by a court of law.

This legislation is not about protecting an honest gun dealer who legally sells a gun to someone who later commits a crime. This legislation protects cases of gross negligence which has led to the deaths of unsuspecting victims.

For example, the owner of the Bull's Eye Shooter Supply Store in Washington State was sued because he could not account for 239 guns in his inventory. One of those guns was the Bushmaster used in the D.C. sniper killings. The D.C. sniper killers were allowed to get their hands on a gun because of a gun seller's negligence. But this legislation would get the Bull's Eye Shooter Supply Store off the hook from any legal action.

Fortunately, a lawsuit was already filed against Bull's Eye and Bushmaster. Part of the settlement was Bushmaster agreeing to work with its dealer to promote safe sales practices to prevent continued instances of negligence. But the bill being taken up by the other body would have forced the immediate dismissal of the lawsuit against Bull's Eye.

The gun industry must be subjected to the same laws that govern every other American business, and courthouse doors must remain open to those injured or who have lost loved ones because of the gun industry's negligence. This bill would allow gun dealers to knowingly sell large quantities of guns to a single customer intending to traffic the guns to criminals without any legal repercussions.

Stripping away the threat of legal action would seriously jeopardize any opportunity to make guns safer. Without the threat of lawsuits, the gun industry would have no incentive to incorporate gun locks, safety triggers, and smart gun technology into their products. Imagine if this bill had been passed 40 years ago to cover the auto industry. Today cars would not have seatbelts, airbags, or antilock brakes.

Instead of giving the gun industry never-before-seen levels of protection, I support giving the industry Federal research and development money. This money will be used to develop reasonable safety measures for their products.

Congress has not been responding to the threat that gun violence poses on our safety and homeland security. So I will speak in a language the congressional leadership understands: dollars and cents.

It is unfortunate Congress will not allow the Centers for Disease Control to study the economic impact of gun violence, so we have to use data from independent sources.

□ 1945

Independent studies have shown gun violence costs our health care system over \$100 billion a year, \$100 billion a year. The \$100 billion-a-year cost includes premiums paid for private health insurance and tax dollars used to pay for Medicaid.

These costs often are not reimbursed and cost the States vital health care money. Victims who survive and suffer years of rehabilitation costs run into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. The average cost of each firearm fatality, including medical care, police services, and lost productivity is almost \$1 million per person.

Researchers found taxpayers finance 48 percent of health care costs resulting from gun violence through Medicaid and other government programs, which means the American taxpayers are footing the bill for the destruction gun violence causes.

Mr. Speaker, why are we spending time helping the gun dealers and manufacturers? We should be investigating technology that will make guns safer. Safer, smarter guns prevent lawsuits against the gun industry, but more importantly prevent the tragic, unnecessary loss of life that the gun industry's negligence provokes.

We should be giving them research and development money. We should be doing everything we can to prevent the injuries. People do not understand

when gun violence hits home, it is a whole disaster to the family and to the community. We can do a better job. We should be doing a better job.

But protecting the gun industry, or certainly the gun dealers from not being able to be sued, is wrong. We should not be closing the courts for anyone.

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

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order for 5 minutes.

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

There was no objection.

LACK OF SUPPORT FOR CAFTA

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 on the floor again tonight. I have been speaking against CAFTA. I have joined my friends on both the Republican side and the Democratic side who feel that CAFTA is not good for the American workers and not good for the American people and certainly does not help those in Central America.

And tonight I want to take just a few minutes and insert for the RECORD the entirety of a letter from seven members of the general assemblies down in five of the countries that are opposed to CAFTA.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman that I met recently is from El Salvador, and this was at a conference last week that the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and I attended, Interfaith Council of Protestants, Catholics, and also one rabbi to speak in opposition to CAFTA.

Let me just give the first introductory statement. It says: "Dear Members of the United States Congress, the CAFTA market has fewer than 9.2 million people who can buy U.S. goods."

Now, this is a long letter. It is signed by seven members of the Central American assemblies, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Honduras.

Mr. Speaker, I want to go to the last paragraph of the letter from those members of the elected bodies of those countries. And this is what it says in the close of their letter, not mine, but their letter: "CAFTA is a bad trade deal because it puts the interests of international corporations ahead of the welfare of the working poor and the poor in Central America. If CAFTA is

approved, the social instability that CAFTA supporters like to use as a reason for approving the agreement will come not from outside forces, but from the pressures created by the millions of displaced workers who will fall further into poverty."

It is time to say "no" to CAFTA and begin negotiating a new trade agreement that takes into account the region's need for development and real opportunity for its citizens. We respectfully ask you for your support of our people and vote "no" on CAFTA.

Mr. Speaker, again this is from seven people from different countries who represent their people in Central America who are opposed to this agreement.

Let me now go, in the few minutes I have left, to a joint statement concerning the United States Central American Free Trade Agreement by the Bishops' Secretariat of Central America and the chairman of the Domestic and International Policy Committees of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

And let me just make a few points that they make in their long letter of opposition. First it says: "In light of the values and principles that we have outlined as well as the situation of the people, we express some of our specific concerns about the potential impact of CAFTA on our countries, especially in Central America."

I am going to just read a few points: "There has not been sufficient information and debate in our countries about the various aspects of CAFTA and its impact on our societies." Another point: in the area of agriculture, there is insufficient attention given to such sensitive issues as the potential impact that U.S. farm supports on Central America farm products. It seems like that poor farming communities in Central America will suffer greatly when subsidized agricultural products from United States expand their reach into these markets.

Another point made by the bishops: while certain labor and environmental provisions are included in the agreement, it is not clear that the enforcement mechanisms within CAFTA will lead to stronger protections of fundamental worker rights and the environment.

Then there is one other point that I want to read, Mr. Speaker. This, again, was from the Catholic Bishops of Central America and the Catholic Bishops of America: the treaty will have effects on intellectual property rights. The proposed legal framework could jeopardize a right of Central American countries to exercise proper stewardship of their natural resources.

Mr. Speaker, I am here tonight because in my State of North Carolina, I was not here when NAFTA passed back in 1992, enacted in 1993, but we have lost over 200,000 jobs in North Carolina. In the country of America, we have lost better than 2.5 million jobs since NAFTA was enacted in 1993.

I did not vote for Trade Promotion Authority. I did not think President

Bush should have it, nor Clinton. I am not for trying to enable the Chinese to have all of the manufacturing, all of the moneys, and to build their military like they are doing. That is of great concern to many Americans in this country.

Mr. Speaker, to my left there is an article that was in a paper in one of my counties in eastern North Carolina about 4 months ago. And it says: VF Jeanswear closes plant. Operations performed in Wilson, North Carolina, which included fabric cutting and finishing garments will be moved to Central America. Quite frankly, it is going to Honduras.

Four hundred forty-five American citizens lost their jobs. They are going to Central America without even CAFTA. I do not know what it takes for this Congress to understand that if this country becomes a second-rate manufacturing country, then we can place our orders for airplanes and tanks from China.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that I do not live long enough to see that happen. But I am afraid it is going to happen. CAFTA is not good for the American people. It is not even good for the people in these five Central American countries. They need to redraw this amendment. I think I can support an amendment if it were fair to America and fair to Central America.

Let us bury CAFTA next week or this week, and God bless America and our men and women in uniform.

The letter previously referred to follows:

JULY 19, 2005.

DEAR MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS:

THE CAFTA MARKET HAS FEWER THAN 9.2 MILLION PEOPLE WHO CAN BUY U.S. GOODS

President Bush claims that the CAFTA countries represent a growing market for U.S. goods. Unfortunately, this claim is far from the truth. A document prepared by CEPAL (the Economic Commission for Latin America-United Nations) entitled, "Development Objectives of the millennium, A Glance from Latin America and the Caribbean," June 10, 2005, reveals that of a population of 46 million people in the five Central American countries and the Dominican Republic, 25.6 million are poor. Only 20.4 million people are considered non-poor people. These numbers show that the open market of 44 million people that Pres. Bush claims will buy U.S. made goods does not exist. The majority of Central Americans are too poor to be able to afford U.S. made goods.

Furthermore, the majority of those who are considered non-poor (20.4 million people), are not secure market for most of the higher end goods and services that the North American companies want to export. This fact has been established by the same study CEPAL which affirms that 20 percent of those 46 million people, control more of 50 percent of the income; this can only mean that only 9.2 million people are the real market for U.S. companies. This is the same market that it is already shared with companies of the region, Europe and Asian countries who export to the region.

The low competitive advantage that companies of the Central American region have (i.e., low technology, high interest rates on financing, low skilled workforce), compared

to the U.S. companies, will mean that the majority of small and large domestic firms will be devastated, subsequently generating more unemployment and less purchasing capacity for the rest of the population.

As in the case of the agro-business products, the level of asymmetry between the subsidized U.S. agro-products, and the non-subsidized Central American products, the situation of displacement is even worse. On its own account, the U.S. Department of Commerce forecast that the present levels of U.S. production will increase by more than 20 billions dollars in the first nine years of the implementation of CAFTA. More exports of U.S. goods to the region, while it is seen as a benefit for U.S. farmers, only means more displacement of the Central American agricultural production, the destruction of the already vulnerable food industry capacity of the region. This further aggravates the levels of poverty and unemployment of million of central American farmers in the region, who are already facing a very difficult economic and social crisis due to the lack of rural development policies by their own governments.

Therefore based on these facts, we believe the following: CAFTA will only lead to more social instability in the region as more medium and small farmers will lose their livelihoods and become part of the poor population numbers; CAFTA will bring a weakening of the already vulnerable democratic processes in Central America as more people are excluded from the productive sectors of the economy. More exploitation of workers in the formal sectors of the economy will only lead to further social unrest all through the region; CAFTA will only lead to more migration to the U.S. as more people are unable to make a living working on the rural areas, and the jobs perspectives in the cities do not improve. The 20 million who are currently poor, and those that will be further displaced, will turn to immigration to the U.S. as the only solution to their economic problems. Just like the U.S. has seen an increase of immigrants from Mexico after NAFTA, more central American will turn to migration to the U.S.

As Legislative Representatives of the region, who represent a diverse perspective of political views, we respectfully ask you to vote NO on CAFTA. Some of our countries already approved the agreement (El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras), others have not (Costa Rica and Dominican Republic); however, in all of the region, there has been real opposition to the agreement with mass protest from all the sectors. And the opposition keeps growing all through the region because this treaty threatens to weaken the already vulnerable democratic institutions that were created during the long conflicts of the 80s.

Our countries want trade, but not trade agreements like CAFTA that limit the possibilities for our countries to enact policies that will truly develop our economies and improve the lives of our people.

CAFTA is a bad trade deal because it puts the interest of international corporations ahead of the welfare of the working poor and the poor in Central America. If CAFTA is approved, the social instability that CAFTA supporters like to use as a reason for approving the agreement, will come not from outside forces, but from the pressures created by the millions of displaced workers who will fall further into poverty. It is time to say NO to CAFTA and begin negotiating a new trade agreement that takes into account the region's needs for development and real opportunity to all its citizens.

We respectfully ask you for your support of our people and Vote NO on CAFTA!

Sincerely,

REP. SALVADOR ARIAS,

National Legislative Assembly, El Salvador.

REP. HUGO MARTINEZ,
National Legislative Assembly, El Salvador.

REP. FERNANDO GONZALEZ,
National Legislative Assembly, El Salvador.

REP. ALBA PALACIOS,
National Legislative Assembly, Nicaragua.

REP. ORLANDO TARDENCILLA,
National Legislative Assembly, Nicaragua.

REP. OTONIEL FERNANDEZ GONZALEZ,
National Legislative Assembly, Guatemala.

REP. DORIS GUTIERREZ,
National Legislative Assembly, Honduras.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 525, SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH FAIRNESS ACT OF 2005

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-183) on the resolution (H. Res. 379) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 525) amending title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to improve access and choice for entrepreneurs with small businesses with respect to medical care for their employees, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 22, POSTAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-184) on the resolution (H. Res. 380) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 22) reforming the postal laws of the United States, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

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

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order for 5 minutes.

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

There was no objection.

REVIEW MINORITY HEALTH
STATUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend Members of the Black, Hispanic and Asian Pacific Islander caucuses met in Chicago to review the status of health in communities of color there and discuss policy and legislative remedies.

On the weekend before that, the Congressional Black Caucus held a brain trust, held similar meetings in Cleveland, Ohio. Both meetings, like the ones we have held in L.A., Miami, Newark, Charleston, and the U.S. Virgin Islands were opportunities to talk to our wider constituencies, particularly people of color in this country, about their health care, or lack of it, their needs and what they think we, their Members of Congress and our colleagues, should be doing about it.

Mr. Speaker, all of the places we visited are communities in which African Americans in particular, but all people of color, suffer disproportionately from disease and disabilities and die prematurely from preventable causes in numbers which are far in excess of our white counterparts.

They are the health disparities that we have repeatedly come to the floor to talk about. Some examples are as follows: American Indian/Alaskan natives have diabetes rates that are nearly three times higher than the overall rate.

The death rate from asthma is more than three times higher among African Americans than among whites. The infant mortality rate for African Americans and American Indian and Alaskan Natives are more than two times higher.

Latino women who were newly diagnosed with breast cancer or lung cancer were diagnosed in later stages and had lower survival rates than white women with the same conditions.

Vietnamese women have cervical cancer death rates that are almost five times higher, and people of color make up almost three-fourths of all new AIDS cases.

In our discussions on these and other realities of health care in our country, what our community said to us was affirming, but it was also frustrating, affirming because their comments, complaints and recommendations told us that our agendas are on target, but frustrating because we have not been able to get this or the other body to make these needs the high priority they ought to be.

What is even more distressing is that what is on the health care agenda of this Congress would instead reduce access and increase gaps in health, and because of this, increase the cost of health care for everyone.

We, people of color, are already over half of the uninsured. Medicaid cuts

will further reduce access to quality medical services; so we will continue to get to the system sicker, requiring more expensive care.

Association health plans, like the misguided health savings account, work best for the healthy, which because of centuries of neglect, minority communities are not.

Worst of all, the association health plans remove these plans from State laws that protect our access to an adequate level of benefits and our ability to seek redress if denied. The only place fairness can be found in the bill is in its name.

What our communities have told us they need are adequate coverage, expanding Medicaid. Just to cover 200 percent of poverty would make a major difference. They also want help to overcome the language barriers, and they want language services paid for, and not by the physicians and centers that provide our care.

They want health care providers to reflect the diverse Nation we have become, providers on all levels who know, understand and speak the same language they do. They want comprehensive care and more emphasis on prevention and health maintenance for the diseases that disable and kill us in disproportionate, preventable numbers.

They want a more effective office of minority health, office of civil rights, and Indian health service; and they want the health facilities that take care of us to stay open and be better funded. They also said they want resources and the technical assistance to be provided to our communities and our indigenous organization, not to groups from the outside who then come in and try to provide what only we ourselves can do effectively.

They want all of the agencies of government that impact our communities, and thus our health, to work together. I want to take this opportunity to thank the hundreds of people who came out to meet with us, our sponsors that are too many to name, and our hosts, Case Western Reserve and the University of Illinois at Chicago schools of medicine.

We of the Asian Pacific, Hispanic, Native American, and Black caucuses have listened. And this week we stand ready to provide the vehicle that responds to this important and large segment of the American population.

The health of all Americans and the strength of our Nation depend on fairness in health care services and equality and health status for all of its people no matter their race, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, religion or national background, sexual identification or geography.

Mr. Speaker, I am calling on all of my colleagues to provide the health leadership this country really needs to unite and not divide us as the bills that will be on the floor this week will do, and to support a better America, a stronger America, and the America our Founders envisioned by supporting the

Health Care Equality and Accountability Legislation, or the Heal America Act, when it is introduced later this week.

CONGRATULATING COLONEL
CHARLES E. POWELL

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

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to recognize a friend and constituent, Colonel Charles E. Powell, retired U.S. Air Force of San Angelo, Texas.

On June 14, 2005, Colonial Powell received the Road Hand Award from the Texas Department of Transportation, presented by Texas Transportation Commissioner John W. Johnson.

The Road Hand Award was created in 1973 by Luther DeBerry, a former State highway engineer of the Texas Department of Transportation. It is designed to honor public servants throughout Texas who have dedicated themselves to improving public transportation safety.

In 32 years, only 198 awards have been given, an average of about six per year.

□ 2000

Previous Road Hand Award winners include former mayor of San Antonio and Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Henry Cisneros, and former Congressman Jake Pickle, who recently passed away.

Colonel Powell is the seventh recipient from the San Angelo district and the first honoree ever to receive the award for their dedication to Texas aviation safety. Honorees have their names inscribed on the Road Hand Hall of Fame plaque, which is displayed in the foyer of the DeWitt C. Greer Highway Building in Austin, Texas.

Colonel Powell's career of service brings credit to all Americans and pride to his hometown of San Angelo. Colonel Powell served as commanding officer at Goodfellow Air Force Base from 1980 to 1984. In 2000 he was appointed to the Texas Aviation Advisory Committee, where he helped increase grants by 44 percent. As a member of the San Angelo Chamber of Commerce, Colonel Powell was a great advocate for local transportation issues, including to our State government, and helped secure funding for the U.S. Highway 67 Houston Harte Freeway through San Angelo.

Texas has over 79,000 miles of roadway, the most in the United States, and it takes a lot of work to keep Texas safe in our many transportation systems. To a long list of honors and awards reflecting a lifetime of public service, Colonel Powell has added the Texas Department of Transportation Road Hand. Colonel Powell represents the best of District 11 and the State of Texas, and I am proud to be his Congressman and his friend.

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

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

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. WYNN).

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

There was no objection.

SMART SECURITY

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, on April 20 of last year, I spoke in this Chamber in opposition to the war in Iraq and my belief that we needed a new SMART Security plan to protect America.

Since then nearly every day that this body has been in session, I have again taken to the floor to express my outrage about our Nation's disastrous Iraq policy and the urgency for a different approach. Today I rise for the 100th time on this gravely important topic.

Since I first spoke out last spring, look at what has happened: The Abu Ghraib story broke soon thereafter. We learned that the Pentagon sent our troops into battle without basic safety equipment. The Downing Street memo revealed that the decision to invade Iraq had been made as early as July 2002 with the intelligence and facts being fixed around the policy. And they were so committed to the lies peddled to sell this war that the President's top aide was willing to blow the cover of a CIA agent to smear a White House critic. And most importantly, since last April more than 1,000 Americans have made the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq, with thousands more wounded, and let us not forget the countless innocent Iraqi civilians who have died simply because they had the misfortune of living in a nation we wished to occupy.

And what have we paid for the right to kill and be killed? More than \$80 billion in supplemental appropriations for Iraq since last April alone. Since then America and Americans have gradually begun losing confidence in the administration's handling of Iraq. Fifteen months ago when I began, few people dared discuss an end to this war; but by this May, 128 Members of the House voted for my amendment to the defense authorization bill which called on the President to develop and implement a plan to withdraw our troops from Iraq as soon as possible. Unfortunately, the Bush administration remains tone-deaf on this life-and-death issue.

This White House, so famous for refusing to admit mistakes, continues to keep its head down and recite the talking points. Their stubbornness is costing us an average of about 17 American servicemen and women a week and over \$1 billion every third day. Over this period I have become even more convinced that we must end this war and bring our brave men and women home to their families as quickly as we can. But that is not enough.

The end to the war must mean the start of a whole new way of thinking about national security, like my SMART Security plan, with SMART standing for sensible, multilateral American response to terrorism.

At the core of SMART is the belief that the use of military force must be an absolute last resort to be pursued only in the most extreme circumstances. SMART recognizes that America faces threats that cannot be ignored, like terrorism and the spread of deadly weapons; but it would address these threats by strengthening our global alliances, improving our intelligence capabilities, and upgrading weapons inspections regimes. SMART would also redirect the money we are currently spending on outdated Cold War weapons systems towards homeland security and an energy independence plan. And SMART is based on the belief that the only way to truly address terrorism is to do something about the poverty and despair that gives rise to terrorism in the first place.

So SMART also includes an ambitious international development component, helping underdeveloped nations with democracy building, human rights education, conflict resolution, sustainable development of natural resources and more.

SMART protects America by relying on the very best of America, not violence and conquests, but our capacity for global leadership, our belief in freedom, and our compassion for vulnerable people around the world.

This first step is to return Iraq to the Iraqi people and return our troops to their families. Until that happens, I will continue to speak out in this Chamber as I have done 100 times. It is my sincere hope, Mr. Speaker, that I will not have to speak 100 times more, but if I must, I will.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. OTTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. OTTER).

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

There was no objection.

OPENING DOORS WITH CAFTA-DR

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, as the House prepares to take up the Central American Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement, CAFTA-DR, this week, I urge my colleagues to render their full support for this measure.

This is an agreement that is not solely about trade, but also about saving lives and furthering the spread of democracy in the world. Passing CAFTA-DR has many positive and far-reaching implications. It promotes U.S. national security objectives in our own backyard by opening markets and fostering economic development, which are the critical weapons in fighting the conditions that breed instability and terrorism. By supporting CAFTA-DR, we will be giving the people of the countries included under the agreement the hope for change and for progress.

CAFTA-DR is not only vitally important to the future of the Central American nations and to the Dominican Republic, but to our own economic well-being and overall strategic considerations. By expanding exports, by lowering the trade deficit, CAFTA-DR creates jobs. Today nearly 80 percent of the products from Central America and the Dominican Republic and 99 percent of the agricultural products already enter the United States duty free. America's markets are already open. But Americans who wish to sell to Central America and the DR, on the other hand, face high tariffs. CAFTA-DR eliminates those foreign taxes, opening the region's markets to goods, services and farm products from the United States.

U.S. investors have invested billions of dollars overseas, stimulating trade. U.S. investors must be treated fairly in foreign markets like Central America if the system is to work fairly. The passage of CAFTA-DR in my home State of Florida would have far-reaching positive implications. Collectively the countries of CAFTA-DR are Florida's largest export destinations. Even individually CAFTA-DR markets are important trading partners for my home State of Florida. CAFTA-DR would provide enhanced market access to the Dominican Republic and to Central America as it will boost opportunities for Florida exporters throughout the region, providing new market access for the State's products.

CAFTA-DR will further obligate our trading partners to bring their laws and their regulations up to U.S. standards in areas such as the regulation of services, investments, intellectual

property, telecommunications, procurement, and e-commerce. Establishing a level playing field helps U.S. businesses to compete. Concurrently CAFTA-DR will help strengthen the rule of law and promote transparency against all sectors. In doing so, it would help deny criminal elements and other unsavory characters of the corrupt structures that they could manipulate for anything from money laundering to terrorist financing.

As such, CAFTA-DR also serves to promote democratic governments, thus advancing stability and consolidating freely elected governments that are our allies in the war on drugs and the international war on terror.

By strengthening our allies, our neighboring countries, we are helping to stabilize and strengthen our own Nation. In passing CAFTA-DR, we are helping to ensure that the countries it includes will have the opportunity to fight threats to their democratic institutions that feed off discontent, poverty, and disenfranchisement.

On the other hand, failure to pass CAFTA-DR in Congress will only serve to cripple our efforts in freezing out narcoterrorist gangs and others who threaten our hemispheric stability.

Finally, CAFTA-DR would also allow Central America to thrive by exporting goods through trade rather than exporting people through illegal immigration. Opportunities would also increase access to new technologies and educational opportunities that are going to afford small and medium businesses the ability to expand and diversify. It would open the door to more private investment, to a qualitative and quantitative improvement in the job market, and higher economic growth, government revenue and increased social spending.

In summary, Mr. Speaker, adoption of CAFTA-DR will not only advance our own economic objectives, further our efforts to combat the war on terror and narco-trafficking, but also will strengthen our mission of strengthening and spreading democracy.

I look forward to the passage of CAFTA-DR. A vote for CAFTA-DR is a vote for our U.S. national security.

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

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

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS).

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

There was no objection.

PLANNED WITHDRAWAL FROM IRAQ

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

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate my colleague from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) on the 100th occasion of speaking on this very important subject.

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) has maintained a drumbeat of truth on one of the most important issues, probably the most important issue, facing our Nation. It is a most important moral issue. It is the most important political issue also. It is moral because human life is sacred, and too many souls have already been destroyed in this war on both sides, on all sides.

The insurgent fanatics who seem to be growing unlimited are not really that powerful. Insurgent fanatics do not have the support of the majority of the people. A clearly articulated plan for withdrawal will drastically decrease the clusters of support that the fanatic killers have. If people could see the movement towards some progress in resolving this problem, they would abandon the fanatics at a faster rate.

Let us propose a plan. And I do not disagree with any of the plans and proposals that have been made by my colleague, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) in her 100 presentations, or plans that have been made by my other colleagues. I think that we have enough brainpower in America with our think tanks and our various academic circles, et cetera, to come up with a plan which really can work.

I want to just add that in that plan should be some more open discussion and honest discussion of oil, the oil wealth of Iraq. Too little is being said about the oil wealth of Iraq and what is going to happen to the oil wealth of Iraq. The people of Iraq, the different factions, I think, would begin to react differently if they heard from America a clear statement of how we propose to fairly divide the oil wealth of Iraq.

□ 2015

First, they will want to hear that we are not going to take a disproportionate amount in investment returns and technical assistance fees, et cetera. That is the first thing they want to hear. But the biggest things for the Kurds, the Sunnis, and the Shiites is how will the oil well be divided as they draw boundaries for sectors or provinces or states or whatever they are going to do in their constitution to divide up the nation.

I think we ought to put on the table, tell the Sunnis, the Kurds, and the Shiites that the oil wells will be fairly shared by all revenue benefits being assigned on a per capita basis, regardless of ethnicity or geographic location; that the revenue, the profits, are going to be divided equally on a per capita basis. So if one area of the country oc-

cupied by the Kurds has a certain population, they will get according to the population their share of the oil no matter where the wells are located. No matter where the oil wells are located, those who live in Baghdad, whether Shiite or Sunnis, their particular sector would get a share of the oil revenues also.

I think it is also important because it is necessary to draw some boundaries in this constitutional process, and they will be drawing boundaries. Whether by state or by provinces or whatever, there are going to be boundaries; and there is a need to have some kind of understanding that concentrations of ethnic groups or concentrations of religious affiliations need to be respected. So there will be a necessity to draw some sectors that have a majority of Sunnis, necessity to draw boundaries which have a majority of Shiites, et cetera with the Kurds.

This nation was held together, I think, partially due to the principle that it was divided up into states so that many different kinds of personalities and groups could express themselves through a state process when the states were more independent and the national government was less of an entity. I think the same process would hold in the case of Iraq. We should have a chance for groups to express themselves for local decision-making to be maximized in those areas, in those sectors.

But, overall, they should understand they are not going to be starved for revenue, that the riches underneath the Earth in Iraq are going to be available to every group no matter where they are located.

I think it is up to us to have that kind of honest discussion. There is too little talk about exactly what we are going to do about the oil in Iraq, and too many whispers and too many rumors about our having some kind of hidden agenda that is not to the benefit of Iraq. Let us tell the people of Iraq what we are going to do with the oil.

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

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

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

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

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

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

FEDERAL YOUTH COORDINATION
ACT

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

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I am here this evening to speak about the Federal Youth Coordination Act. This act was written in response to a report issued by the White House Task Force on Disadvantaged Youth in 2003. This task force report indicated that 25 percent of U.S. teens are at risk of not having productive lives, not growing up to be people who can hold a job, who are free of substance abuse, and are able to contribute to the society. The estimate is that roughly 10 million young people fall into this category.

This is a very difficult time to be a young person. As almost anyone in our culture knows, we have drug and alcohol abuse, we are the most violent Nation in the world for young people in terms of homicide and suicide, and roughly one-half of the young people growing up in our country today are going to be growing up without both biological parents, so they have undergone a significant amount of dysfunction at some point in their lives.

In response, the Congress, being generous and compassionate, has devised 339 Federal programs which serve youth and their families. There are 339 of these programs. These programs are disbursed over 12 different agencies. The greatest number are in the Department of Education, Health and Human Services and the Department of Justice. Some are in the Department of Labor, some are in the Department of Agriculture, and so on; and so they are spread all over. The cost of all of these programs was \$223.5 billion in 2003. So it is a huge part of the Federal budget.

Now, the problem is that these programs are not coordinated in any way at all. They have kind of grown like Topsy. In many cases, they have no measurable quantifiable goals; and in many more cases, no one really knows whether they even serve the purpose which they were first intended to serve. So we have a very confused picture as far as these programs are concerned.

The General Accounting Office refers to this confused government response to troubled youth as a perfect example of "mission fragmentation." The GAO recommends that programs with similar goals, target populations, and services be coordinated, consolidated and streamlined.

As a result of this report and the GAO commentary on it, the Federal Youth Coordination Act was written. It was written in response to the White House Task Force, and it creates a Federal Youth Coordinating Council. Now, this council is designed to do several things.

First of all, it is composed of members from each of the 12 agencies that have these youth-serving agencies. Also included on the council are some

young people who actually have been in dysfunctional situations, young people who have been in foster care, and young people who have been through the system and have seen some of the problems. So what this council will do is to meet regularly, at least four times a year; and they are charged with these different responsibilities:

First of all, evaluate youth-serving programs. Does each program really serve any good objective? What programs are duplication? What programs could be combined; what programs could be eliminated?

Secondly, coordinate among Federal agencies with programs serving youth. There may be a program in Health and Human Services that mirrors a program in the Department of Education. Why have that duplication? Why is there no coordination or even communication across agency lines?

Improve Federal programs that serve at-risk youth. What works; what does not work? What types of programs should we be promoting? What should we be putting more money into and what should we be defunding, and so on?

Fourthly, recommend improvements in an annual report. The commission has to file a report with Congress which examines exactly what they have been doing and what they have accomplished.

And then probably most important of all, set and meet quantifiable goals and objectives. In other words, each program has to have a measurable quantifiable goal, a series of goals and benchmarks as to whether they are accomplishing anything or not. We think this is critical in any type of program that is going to move forward.

Lastly, hold Federal agencies accountable for achieving results. Of course, accountability in government sometimes is lacking. So I urge support of this bill. We think it is very important.

IRAQ

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

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to commend my colleague, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY), for making tonight on the floor of this House her 100th statement concerning the war in Iraq.

Over the course of the last 15 months, the gentlewoman from California has made a very substantial contribution to the debate concerning that tragic event in Iraq, the circumstances surrounding it, and also making recommendations as to what we might do in the future to correct the terrible mistakes and injustices that have been perpetrated against the Iraqi people and against our own country. I commend her for doing so.

She and I were among those 143 Members of this House who voted against

the resolution that was submitted by the Bush administration to authorize the war in Iraq. It has now come to my attention, and to, I think, many other Members of this House, that there are a growing number of people here, as well as around the country, that understand that this war was a deep and tragic mistake and that the rationale presented for it was based upon falsehoods. The statements which came from various people within the administration were completely false and misleading. Among those initially was the idea that Iraq had something to do with the attack on our country of September 11, 2001. That, of course, was completely and totally false.

Additionally, it was stated by members of the Bush administration that there was some connection between al Qaeda and Saddam Hussein. That has been proven to be completely and totally false. Again, we were told that there were so-called weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, chemical and biological weapons, and the President himself in this House made allegations with regard to the development of a nuclear weapons program by Iraq. That too has been shown to be totally and completely false.

This administration has entirely twisted and distorted the facts and the information and the intelligence to try to fit a policy decision which they made based on no facts or information, but based upon a decision which was made by this administration to suit their own private, personal, and political objectives. The consequence of that has been the loss of more than 1,760 lives of American service men and women for no good reason. That war was unnecessary, unjust; and we need to face up to it. The Members of this House need to face up to it.

We have, over this period of time, been confronted with a gross amount of information which has been totally misleading and totally false. The administration contracted with private-public relations firms to persuade the American people of the falsity of their notions with regard to weapons of mass destruction and the relationship between Iraq and al Qaeda and the attack of September 11, now known to be totally and completely false.

And the administration apparently continues to seek to mislead the country. We have just recently, just today, a report over CNN broadcasting which quotes two separate people in Iraq on two separate circumstances with regard to an attack that took place on July 13 and another that took place on July 24, just yesterday. Let me read into the RECORD what those news releases coming out of Iraq say:

A Sunday, July 24, news release says: "The terrorists are attacking the infrastructure, the ISF, and all of Iraq. They are enemies of humanity without religion or any sort of ethics. They have attacked my community today, and I will now take the fight to the terrorists, said one Iraqi man who preferred not to be identified."

Eleven days earlier, it was reported from the same military sources, a July 13 news release said: "The terrorists are attacking the infrastructure, the children, and all of Iraq," said one Iraqi man who preferred not to be identified. "They are enemies of humanity without religion or any sort of ethics. They have attacked my community today, and I will now take the fight to the terrorists."

These are false statements, obviously, and we continue to be afflicted by propaganda out of this administration to attempt to justify the initial attack, now the occupation, and the ongoing occupation which is increasingly dangerous.

So I commend the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) for what she has done, and the House really needs to pay much more attention to these issues.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Massachusetts (Mr. CAPUANO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

□ 2030

THE SITUATION IN IRAQ

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to stand in solidarity with the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) and other Members who are calling for an end to the U.S. occupation of Iraq. As other Members have stated earlier, I commend the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) for her persistence, for her 100 days of bringing this issue before the American people as she has so clearly articulated the facts as related to our situation in Iraq.

The war in Iraq has become a crisis of global proportions. Every day there are violent attacks on innocent civilians in Iraq and on our service men and women stationed there. We have seen the fact that the President has overstated the situation in Iraq. We are starting to see a backlash around the world. Just recently, Egypt's Ambassador to Iraq was kidnapped and subsequently killed. Algeria's diplomatic staff of only a handful of people have been withdrawn because, even though the North African country has no troops in Iraq, just to represent the current government and recognize it,

two of its staff were kidnapped last week.

The President has overstated the threat that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction and biological and chemical weapons in order to frighten the American public into giving him preemptive strike ability and for the support of this war.

The U.S. presence of approximately 150,000 troops in Iraq is fueling our enemies around the world and causing them to rise up against not only Americans, but anyone who supports the American occupation in Iraq. Our presence is not containing violence, it is almost sparking violence. Almost every day there are fatal car bombings and suicide bombings. Men in the military for Iraq are being targeted. Policemen in the service for Iraq are targeted and killed. Diplomats are being targeted and killed.

We cannot ignore that the deadly bombs in London 2½ weeks ago are also inextricably linked to Iraq. We cannot ignore the fact that the insurgents have not been weakened since Congress authorized the President to use force in Iraq in October 2002, almost 2 years ago, nor can we ignore the fact that life for Iraqis under this occupation is far worse than life was before the occupation.

Estimates range between 15,000 and 17,000 innocent Iraqis have died to date. This is not an improvement in the life they had. These are innocent people who now have lost their lives because of the preemptive strike there. At the very least, basic services that we take for granted in the United States, such as electricity, running water and sewage systems, are destroyed and not accessible to all Iraqis.

Even our brave service men and women are suffering. We still hear about some of their needs that are not being met. When I was there earlier this year, soldiers told me about being attacked in unarmed Humvees, and wanted to know why were there not enough armed vehicles to protect them. They showed me a Humvee that is not properly protected and those that are. It is a world of difference.

A March 27 report in USA Today revealed that the Pentagon realized they did not have enough armed Humvees, only 235 in June 2003. We should not plan a war without having the equipment to fight it. Yet more than 2 years later, I was hearing from our young men and women in the service that still the Humvees are not all up to where they ought to be for protection. This means there was poor planning and poor execution of this war, and our troops bear the brunt of the Pentagon's shortsightedness. The President must do more to protect our troops.

Let me ask for the support of the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY), H. Con. 35, where she asked for the development of a plan, and I commend the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) for her persistence.

AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, when I am back home in my district in Tennessee talking with a lot of small-business owners, which are the primary mode of employment in my district, there are a lot of things that always come up. I can always count on hearing about taxation, the need for deregulation, the effects of illegal immigration, and health care.

Increasingly I am hearing from these owners that they want Congress to open the way for more affordable health care choices. Last week in Roll Call there was a great article talking about association health plans, and I am glad to see some attention is on that idea, and that legislation is going to come before the House.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) really should be applauded for introducing the Small Business Health Fairness Act of 2005, which will help our small businesses purchase association health plans through national trade groups. I have joined him as a cosponsor of this important legislation because I believe we have a wonderful opportunity to extend affordable quality health care to millions of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans and this leadership are fighting to help the engine of economic growth in this country, our small businesses, helping them gain access to the sort of health care typically we only see provided by large corporations.

Small businesses feel like their employees are family members. They want the best for them. Every small-business owner knows that providing those employees with health care can be costly, and it can be a difficult part of running a business. Costs are rising, the paperwork never seems to end, and we have the power to help in this situation. We have the power to provide a vehicle for extending health care to millions of Americans. This does not require a big government program. It will not require spending billions of taxpayer dollars. It is common sense. It is providing an opportunity.

The Small Business Health Fairness Act has the potential to be very effective, to be pro-health care, to be a great effort for our communities across the Nation. The bill is going to reduce costs for entrepreneurs and their employees by letting small businesses band together to pool their purchase power, to work cooperatively and to dilute the risk to the insurers. It will lower premiums, and we believe it will give millions of uninsured Americans the access they want to quality health care.

We have debated this issue for years on end, and it is time for action. It is time to listen to America's small businesses and to their employees. I want

to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) for his work on this. I want to thank the leadership for their efforts, and I ask all of my colleagues to strongly support this important effort.

PASS DR-CAFTA

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

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, for the United States to remain the greatest economic power in the world, it is no longer enough to simply buy American, we have to sell American. We have to sell our American products throughout the world, our products and services created by the most productive workforce on this planet.

But when our businesses and farmers try to compete, they discover that Europe and Asia have aggressively negotiated trade agreements with other countries that tilt much of the world in their direction, leaving the U.S. and our companies and businesses and farmers at a severe disadvantage.

That is unfair to American farmers, it is unfair to American businesses, and it is especially unfair to American workers who can compete if given a level playing field and other countries are held accountable to the same trade rules.

Rather than build economic rules around our Nation that only harm American jobs, restrict what we can buy, and raise prices on our families, we must use American muscle to secure favorable trade agreements that tear down the "American need not apply" signs that close off potential customers from our products.

In the coming days, the House of Representatives will give final consideration to the Dominican Republic Central American Free Trade Agreement, the most significant trade agreement in a decade. It will open 44 million new customers to American products, help America win the textile war against China, and honor America's commitment to democracy, freedom and human rights in our hemisphere.

With me tonight are a number of Members of Congress who have examined this trade agreement and feel strongly about it from the standpoint of national security and jobs and agriculture. Joining us tonight is the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL), the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. BEAUPREZ), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY) and the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER), chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL), who spent a decade with the Department of Justice, the last 4 years as the deputy attorney

general in Texas, and understands the national security implications of this trade agreement.

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) for his leadership on this issue. He has been the point man on this in Congress, and he has done a great job. I am proud to work with him on this, and proud to call him my friend as well.

Since September 11, we have made this Nation's security and prosperity our number one priority. Halfway around the world, we fight terrorism and promote freedom with the strength of our military. In our own hemisphere, we have several different weapons in the strength of our economy, our business and our trade that will help to guarantee our safety. We must utilize these tools to prevent tyranny and evil from gaining power in our own backyard.

For years, our Central American neighbors were torn apart by civil wars that epitomized the global battle between good and evil. With our help they have created stable and free governments. However, that battle is far from won. There are those who would like to reverse the progress that we have made, and those who wish to use the fragile state of our friends' democracies to attack our very existence.

In order to win the war on terror, we must continue to guarantee the stability of democracy in our own hemisphere. The citizens of this country have entrusted us with their safety and their well-being. They have asked us to represent their interests and to help increase their standard of living. Job creation should not fall prey to politics. We need to rise above partisan politics to work for the good of our country.

That is why this week my colleagues and I in the United States Congress will vote for legislation that will strengthen our economy, our security, and our way of life. The Dominican Republic and Central American Free Trade Agreement will help reinforce freedom and democracy throughout our entire region.

When considering the benefits of CAFTA, we must consider the pitfalls of not passing it. With the improvement of our economic relationship with Central America, we will see an improvement in our security relationship.

Recently I met with Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld at the Pentagon, and he made it clear to me that this trade agreement is crucial to our national security. We are currently engaged in a war on terror on the other side of the world, while there are already terrorists who are using Central America as a base of operations against the United States. This trade agreement is not only good for our economy, it is also vital to our national security by stabilizing Central American democracies.

□ 2045

In addition to international terrorism, we must also mind the rising

threat of China's global influence. If the United States does not adopt CAFTA, we will see China take our place as Central America's biggest and most important trading partner. This would mean an increase in America's trade deficit with nations all over the world and make the United States a secondary economic power. Twenty years ago we helped Central America fight a war against Communist forces, and now China is trying to reassert its influence within our own hemisphere. We will not allow this to happen. This trade agreement keeps America ahead of China and will increase America's financial security. Through CAFTA, Central America should continue to see the U.S. as its main trading partner instead of Communist China.

And on the issue of immigration, by passing CAFTA and helping people to create a better life in Central America, the citizens of those countries will be motivated to work, to prosper, and, most importantly, to stay in their own countries. Working with America, their standards of living will increase. Ultimately my home State of Texas and the rest of the Nation will spend less time and money combating the problem of illegal immigration. This is really, in my view, the long-term solution to our immigration problem.

CAFTA will also level the playing field. CAFTA represents the completion of our trade relationship, not just the beginning of one. Through unilateral preference programs already approved by Congress, nearly 80 percent of CAFTA imports and 99 percent of CAFTA ag products already enter the United States duty free. CAFTA will make this one-way road a two-way superhighway by giving our agriculture and industrial goods and services access to their markets. We will level the playing field by eliminating high tariffs, tariff rate quotas and nontariff barriers. My home State of Texas will be one of the top three States to benefit by enacting this trade agreement.

On the issue of new jobs, CAFTA countries, which include the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, are the United States' largest market for domestic apparel and yarn exports and the second largest market for U.S. fabric exports. Trade with these countries exceeds trade with countries like Australia and Russia. This deal is critical to sustain and expand existing partnerships to give CAFTA goods a competitive edge, particularly with the elimination of global quotas and increased competition from Asia. This trade agreement will help support approximately 400,000 jobs in Central America and the Dominican Republic and 700,000 workers in the United States in cotton, yarn, textile and other apparel sectors.

On the issue of agriculture, America's farmers are also expected to see increases in the needs from Central America for their crops and livestock. Some of the most important U.S. ex-

ports to the region expected to gain significantly from CAFTA include feed grains, wheat, soybeans, poultry, pork and beef. That is why the American and the Texas Farm Bureau support CAFTA.

On the issue of technology and business, this agreement creates huge potential profits for our technology industry. CAFTA holds the promise of new opportunities and expanded markets for a wide array of U.S. high-tech merchandise, exporters, manufacturers, service providers and their employees. Total U.S. high-tech exports to Central America in 2003 totaled nearly \$2.5 billion. From Dell to Samsung to Applied Materials to Hewlett Packard, the high-tech industry in Texas and the United States will benefit greatly from this trade agreement. And as the standard of living improves in these countries, the demand for more advanced technology will grow with it.

In conclusion, it is essential that we pass CAFTA. Along with President Bush, I believe this trade agreement will mean increased safety and security for our Nation. With their own nations seeing prosperity, Central Americans will have less reason to illegally cross U.S. borders looking for better opportunities in our country. America's farmers and businesses will find new and easier ways to export their goods and services to the tune of billions of new dollars. For the average American, CAFTA will mean a cost savings at the grocery store. And for the entire Western Hemisphere, this trade agreement will spread and strengthen democracy, peace and freedom.

CAFTA has support, wide and deep, from many groups, but it is important to note tonight those who oppose CAFTA. CAFTA is opposed by Marxist leftists and terrorist leaders such as Fidel Castro and Hugo Chavez. In addition, this vote is being watched carefully by Iran, North Korea and China, who all stand to gain by the failure of this vote, a vote we cannot afford to lose.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. If the gentleman would stay for just a moment. You have spent your whole life in law enforcement and a number of your recent years in protecting homeland security from threats. One of the key points you made is that while we are fighting a war against terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan with our men and women, the fact is we fought a war, as well, 20 years ago in Central America, moving those countries away from communism and socialism toward democracy. They have made real progress, but we still have leaders like Castro and Chavez and Daniel Ortega and FMLM, some of the most Socialist anti-American groups in this hemisphere opposing us because their point is democracy does not work, human rights does not work, the rule of law does not work. Communist does. Come, step backward in time.

One of my colleague's points was the worst thing we could do would be to

give that region back to the Communists and Socialists at a time when they have made so much progress.

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. We cannot afford to turn the clock back, as the gentleman mentioned. We won that war 25 years ago, but now we see instability in the region. We see President Chavez down in Venezuela aligning himself with people like Fidel Castro, asking Iran for nuclear technology. We have a triborder region down in South America where al Qaeda and groups like Hezbollah meet and discuss their activities. The threat is very real. It is no surprise that Fidel Castro and President Chavez oppose CAFTA because they know that there is nothing better for us and for Central America in spreading democracy than for CAFTA to get passed. That is why President Hugo Chavez has actually sent money to legislators in Nicaragua to actually oppose CAFTA in their country.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. My understanding, too, is we are seeing letters from legislators down in Central America who are being financed by our Socialists down there who say they are opposing it on the merits, but in fact they are getting a nudge from the enemies of freedom to do so.

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. I think if we fail to pass it, we will give the enemies of freedom a victory. That is a victory we cannot afford to turn over. This is the first of many trade agreements. If this does not pass, it takes away, in my view, a lot of credibility on the part of the administration when it goes to other countries and tries to broker agreements. In the defeat of communism, socialism, and the spread of freedom and democracy, that is why I am here tonight. That is why I ran for Congress, and that is why it is so important that this Congress pass this important piece of legislation.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I thank the gentleman from Texas for his commitment to law enforcement and homeland security in our hemisphere.

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. I thank the gentleman as well.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to turn now to a gentleman from Colorado who has a wonderful background. He is a farmer. He is a rancher. He is a community banker. In recent years he has served as an outstanding member of the Ways and Means Committee. I yield to a good friend, a good colleague from the great State of Colorado, BOB BEAUPREZ.

Mr. BEAUPREZ. I thank the gentleman for yielding. He likewise is a very good friend.

I want to applaud, first of all, your leadership. I know many of us in the House have worked on the passage of CAFTA, but I do not know that anybody has worked harder, longer, more diligently and more successfully than the gentleman from Texas. I am confident later this week we will not only take up CAFTA, but we are going to pass CAFTA. We will pass it, I think, in a bipartisan fashion. I fully believe

and hope and expect that a number of our colleagues from the Democrat side of the aisle of this great Chamber will join with us.

I want to stay on the point that the gentleman from Texas (Mr. McCaul) and you were just dialoguing about just a moment ago, this issue of national security. I think you will recall that we had the opportunity, we in our Ways and Means Committee, to sit with the six economic ministers of these member nations. All of them just volunteered to us that they have got a long way to go. They are not the United States of America yet. These are developing, fledgling democracies. But you were just making the point that 20 years ago, what was in the news day after day? El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua were hotbeds of communism. Today we would be calling it terrorism; anti-American hatred right on our southern border. Who would think that less than a generation later, economic ministers from these now developing democratic nations would be sitting with us, Members of the United States Congress, saying, please help us.

Someone is going to be the political and economic mentors of these developing nations that are our next-door neighbors. I think that someone ought to be the United States of America, not people like Hugo Chavez, not Fidel Castro, not the anti-American freedom haters around the globe who would love to have a foothold on our southern border.

This is a critical agreement for us in the United States of America. I think sometimes that we get up in the morning, and often it is easier to find a reason to not do something; everything from the simple not getting out of bed on time or not getting out of bed at all, not going to work in the morning, not rolling up your sleeves and putting in a good, hard day's work, or maybe not taking on a real significant challenge. Certainly anybody in this great Chamber can look through this document if they want to go looking for some reason to say no.

But I am saying yes. I join the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Brady) in saying yes because this is the right thing to do. It is the right thing to do because neighbors help neighbors, and it is not just one way. It is not about us just helping these six developing nations. It is about the United States of America and American workers.

I used to be, as the gentleman pointed out, in the cattle business. We exported cattle all around the world. Nothing would make me happier to wake up some morning and suddenly find out that the United States Congress and our President had just adopted an agreement with some foreign nations that immediately, immediately made my product, my cattle, more competitive to these nations. That is what happens in this agreement. The day it is signed, \$1 billion a year of tariff goes away on our goods, our services, the products we send down there.

From my State, just like your State of Texas, a lot of that is agricultural products. A lot of it, too, is manufactured goods, in the high-tech sector, plastic molds. We are sending a lot of stuff down there. These are developing nations, meaning that in future years it will be more that we will be sending them. It only makes sense that somebody around this globe is going to meet the needs of those people. I want that somebody to be American farmers and ranchers and laborers and small businesspeople.

I was a community banker. A lot of my bank customers were in the business of making stuff, all kinds of stuff, stuff you could not even imagine that somebody is really out there making that. But they are all anxious for a bigger market. We have got a bigger market right on our southern border. They are begging us to give them a chance to do business with the United States of America. Why? Because they know that by doing business with us, that is the quickest way to emulate us, to be like us, to be a free, open society. That is what they want to become, both politically and economically. How can we as the United States of America, the greatest Nation ever on God's green Earth, deny that kind of hope, that kind of opportunity to our neighbors and friends and at the same time help our own citizens, the workers right here in the United States?

I will just close and yield back to the gentleman here in a moment by saying that when I get up in the morning, I like to be about building up, not tearing down. I think the CAFTA agreement is very much one that builds up. It builds up opportunity for the United States of America and United States workers, but it also does the right thing that we as Americans, compassionate people, know we have an obligation to do around the globe, and that is help people that are reaching out a hand to us.

With that, I will say, let us pass CAFTA later this week. I applaud you for your leadership. Thank you for letting me be part of your Special Order tonight.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Colorado's leadership. The key point, many of them that he made, was that America's agricultural community is so strongly behind this trade agreement. There are nearly 70 ag associations around America who are supporting this. In fact, the American Farm Bureau Federation believes that we will sell almost \$1.5 billion more ag products each year to Central America. That is our beef, that is our chicken, that is our pork, our corn, our milk, our potatoes, you name it, at a time when a lot of the world is closed to America's ag products.

□ 2100

We have got the most productive ag community in the world; but if we keep making things cheaper and faster and

better but do not have anyone to sell it to, the price just goes down. We want those "American need not apply" signs to be torn up all throughout this world, give our ag community a chance to compete. Watch what we will sell around the world.

And we ought to start with Central America, a neighbor, a proven neighbor, who cannot only buy our goods and services but is easy to ship to and in the process we are going to continue to help those six countries into stronger democracies, a stronger rule of law. It is truly a win-win situation.

I appreciate the gentleman's leadership. As a business person, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. Beauprez) knows what small businesses and small farmers and small communities have to go through to compete, and giving them a level playing field is good for Colorado and good for America as well.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Carter), who served, before coming to Congress, as a district judge for more than 2 decades. And his background is just filled with decades of common sense. He did a great job on the bench in Texas. Here in Washington he has been intent not only on national security, supporting our troops, but also in serving on his committee, finding ways to help our American economy grow.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Carter).

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Brady), who clearly has been in the lead and is outspoken for the CAFTA-Dominican Republic project, for yielding to me.

This is critical not only to the Central America region but to the United States of America. We are opening up trade so that our products get sold in Central America without duties on our products.

The Central American countries have the opportunity to sell in our country, and they do not have a burden on their products up here. And, in fact, we are their number one trading partner. The expansion, the benefit that we see is what is going to happen to our folks.

Whenever I look at one of these things that are coming up in Congress, I try to take a look at my district and see who is in my district and try to learn and study and figure out who is going to get helped by these things. And it was easy to see how the high-tech industry with Dell Computer, one of our great neighbors in Williamson County, it was easy to see what is going to happen there. But I look further down to that dairy farmer in Stephenville, Texas, in Erath County. This is not a little dairy farm operation in Erath County. We are talking about one of the most important parts of the agriculture industry in Texas. The area in my district produces over \$40 million to the Texas economy every year in milk and dairy product production. And under the CAFTA agreement, doors are going to open to them that

are going to allow them to sell their dairy products in Central America.

Right now they face duties of between 60 percent and the World Trade Organization allows up to 100 percent of tariffs that can be assessed against our products. With the opening of CAFTA, we are going to be able to open up tariff rate quotas the first year starting at 10,000 metric tons across the six countries, and this will expand as the CAFTA agreement goes forward. The TRQs will grow by 5 percent a year for Central American countries and 10 percent a year for the Dominican Republic until we have got a good access to the market, and it is going to be an outstanding source of sales for our milk and milk-related products that come right from my district.

When I look at that, I see the benefit there. I have had, fortunately, in the recent past, within the last 3 months, the good fortune of going down with the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Subcommittee to Nicaragua and Honduras. And we went down there not on the issue of CAFTA. We went down there on other issues, to look at areas where our foreign aid is being used very productively in those countries. And I was able to talk one on one with folks like farmers and small businessmen and politicians that are down there in Nicaragua and Honduras.

First, let me tell the Members that when we see that country and see what really great potential there is in Nicaragua and Honduras, what resources are available, there are plenty of cattlemen who would love to have about half of Nicaragua to run cattle on in Texas. With underground water less than four meters under the ground, I know a lot of cowmen from my part of the State that would love to be able to have some irrigated grass farms down there in Nicaragua. Beautiful cattle country.

Cheap sources of power are available in that area because they have the ability to create geothermal electricity. They have a lot of potential in Central America. But when we talked to those folks, they said, Look, it is all about CAFTA. The future of our country is all about CAFTA.

Let us take Nicaragua. We had a whole bunch of trouble with the Sandinistas in Nicaragua. And as has been said before here, about 20 years ago we had a pretty good fight down there. And for a while the Sandinistas ran the country and ran it absolutely into the ground. And people who opposed the Sandinistas, it is not like political parties here where we will bicker with our opponents and we will talk, but then we all go back and let somebody reelect us. If one loses to the Sandinistas, they had better get out of the country because these people who were against the Sandinistas had to flee or die.

Today in Nicaragua, underlying like a cancer lying beneath the surface, is the Sandinista Party; and Daniel Or-

tega still walks the streets down there. But what is he walking the streets with now? He is walking the streets with an offer from Hugo Chavez of up to an unbelievable number, \$1 billion, to turn Central America back to the Marxist cause he and Fidel Castro believe in so firmly. He is one of the great threats to the world right now. He is a communist with money, and he is spreading it around. He takes his oil money from Venezuela and is threatening to spread it around because he wants to make sure that the Marxist communist government dominates Central America.

And their only hope is to show how capitalist free trade works. And that is what CAFTA is all about, and that is what they said. They said, This is going to get great support down here. These people, if they can get their markets open, they can get the capital investment they need to grow.

One of the merchants down there I was talking to said, You know what? I do not know why you think you have got to ship your cloth to China and make your shirts and pants and stuff in China. We have a history of making that stuff for you. Let us break down these barriers between our countries. Let us make those things, and you will not have to put it in big containers and ship it across the Pacific Ocean. We can make it just as economically and just as profitably for American companies as they can in China, and we can put it on a train and ship it up into Texas and spread it across the Nation.

That just makes sense to me. That is just good common sense, and CAFTA is good common sense when we get down to it. It meets many requirements that we have.

First and foremost, we help our neighbors. And where the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) and I come from, and as for most of the folks in this country, but certainly in Texas, number one is taking care of our neighbors because we are kind of out in big spaces and, sometimes if we will not take care of our neighbors, they might be the only people we will get a chance to visit with.

So we need to take care of those neighbors. We need to prevent an enemy, a cancer, from growing in Central America that we will wake up one day and find it is growing right across the Rio Grande. And this agreement is part of stopping that cancer. And those people down there say without CAFTA, without a chance for a level playing field in Central America, what is going to happen to us is the Marxists will rise up and we will either be killed or run out of the country. Those countries will never survive with this type of quality people leaving the country.

And then, finally, it is a benefit to our industry and to our people. It is a win-win-win, and for that reason I think Republicans and Democrats are going to join together this week in this House and pass the CAFTA agreement, pass the free trade agreement. It is important to America.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, the gentleman made excellent points tonight in that we need the customers in Central America for our American Texas ag and small business communities. And for national security, this is exactly the wrong time to turn our backs on Central America.

One of the other points he made is deals with China, and the fact of the matter is he talked to that gentleman who said we can survive China.

Since January 1 around the world, of course, all the quotas went off; so anyone can import any of the apparel, the clothes we wear, the towels we use, and China has just swamped the world, including the U.S. And some people say, well, let us just give up; China is just going to win. But that gentleman's point is exactly right. If America partners up with Central America, we grow the cotton in Texas, which is why the Texas Cotton Council supports this. How we can do the fabric and yarn in American textile plants with American workers, send it down to Central America. They cut it, sew it, put it together, and send it back.

So today what is interesting is that if the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) and I go to a store down here and buy a shirt that says "Made in Honduras," about 70 to 80 percent of that shirt is made right here in America. But if at the same store we pick up one that says "Made in China," there may be, may be 1 percent of American content there.

And the fact of the matter is if we partner up with American agriculture, with American workers in textiles, which is why so many of the textile industry is supporting this, partner up with Central America, we can survive. We can beat China in the textile areas. We can save jobs in America and save jobs in Central America.

And my understanding is just since January 1, Central America has already lost 28,000 textile jobs to the Chinese. We know where some of those folks might be headed to find jobs. And the fact of the matter is, I think, from an immigration standpoint, Central America wants to keep its best and brightest and hard-working at home. If we partner up, not only do we save American jobs, we save Central American jobs and help preserve our immigration and borders in the process. I think the gentleman made a wonderful point to that extent.

Mr. CARTER. Absolutely, Mr. Speaker. And if the gentleman will continue to yield, these are our neighbors. These are the people in the Americas. They are part of America. They are Central American. And they know the Chinese are breathing down their necks too, and they are very concerned about that, just as the gentleman pointed out.

This is a win for the United States. It is a benefit to a neighbor that needs to be boosted up politically because when Chavez gets in there and spreads his

money around, it could be disastrous. So the gentleman is right. It is a win for us. It is a win for our farmers, our textile manufacturers, and others. They can do assembly work. They have got a lot of skilled labor available in Nicaragua and Honduras. They are wonderful people, just as gentle and kind a bunch of people as I have ever been around. They will be good folks to work with. We need what they have to offer, and they need what we have to offer. It is a good trade. And we always say when we walk away from the day having made a good trade, we feel like it has been a pretty good day. Well, I think we can walk away from this day and feel like we made a pretty good trade.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I appreciate the leadership of the gentleman from Texas on national security and on our Armed Forces and today in support of our American Texas farmers and businesses as we partner up with Central America, and I appreciate the gentleman very much.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we have another gentleman from Texas, who, like the previous one, has experience that relates directly to creating jobs. He has been a small business person for more than 32 years, is an accountant and a small business owner in west Texas. He understands that America needs to be able to sell its products around the world, that Central America can sell them to the United States today and they have for 20 years. Now it is our turn to sell into that growing market.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY).

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Houston, Texas for yielding to me and for hosting this hour tonight. And in addition to all of his other great attributes, he is one of the all-time best second basemen to play for the Republicans in the annual baseball game.

□ 2115

Mr. Speaker, many of the points have been made tonight, and I would like to continue with some of those, one of which is labor standards. We have an awful lot of criticism of the CAFTA agreement based on labor standards. The other side seems to take the position that a trade agreement can be used to cure labor issues and labor ills in a country that would, in effect, bring their labor standards and their labor conduct up to that of the United States. I think that is really misplaced. In addition, the argument seems to be that if the labor standards or the labor conditions or the pay wages or whatever is going on, it seems that if a fellow is out of a job, he is in a better position to, in effect, change or make improvements to those conditions than if he has a job.

Well, I think that is really wrong-headed. I think that no matter how bad

the standards are, no matter how bad the pay or the working conditions, if I have a job, I will take that job and take whatever money is available to me, and I will feed my family as best I can, and then I will work to try to improve those conditions. But while that is going on, I at least have a job that I can make some money at; maybe not as much money as some would like me to make or I would like to make, but I will be able to continue to work and feed my family while those conditions are being addressed.

Under CAFTA, we have negotiated the strongest labor protection and labor improvement agreements of any of our trade agreements, and going forward. The signatories to this agreement have agreed that if we sign this CAFTA agreement, that they are committed to enforce those standards; which has always been one of the issues with trade agreements is that we will put these agreements in place. But, the other side, the leadership of those countries will not enforce those agreements the way they are supposed to. Those commitments in enforcing labor standards, improving labor conditions and wages in those countries, those commitments simply evaporate if we do not sign this CAFTA agreement.

In addition to that, the administration has pledged \$610 million over the next 4 years to improve enforcement, to improve economic assistance to the rural areas, and most of these countries would qualify as rural, to help build that capacity, and to help these countries put in place the enforcement processes that will raise labor standards, that will raise wages, and enforce this agreement, and that has to be a better circumstance than those folks being unemployed.

We have had in place what is called the Caribbean Basin Initiative; it dates back to the 1980s. With that agreement we created basically a symbiotic relationship between agriculture interests in this country and jobs in Central America. What happens is, as my colleague already mentioned, when you buy a shirt that says it is made in Honduras or made in Costa Rica or Nicaragua, 60 percent of the inputs into those shirts, those garments, come from the United States. Well, in west Texas that input is another word for cotton, because we grow and harvest a lot of cotton. It is far better for our cotton farmers to be able to sell that cotton into Central America and have it spun into thread and woven into clothes, garments, and cut and sewn and brought back to this country and sold to consumers in America than it is if we have to try to figure out a way to sell that cotton to China. Because if that shirt that you are wearing, and I would challenge my colleagues when they get home tonight to take their shirts off, take their clothes off and look for that label. It says, made someplace, and find out where it was made. If that label says "Made in China," less than 1 percent of the input into that

cloth that came from the United States. It does not take a rocket scientist to know that is not real good for Texas cotton farmers.

So this idea of creating this agreement, it does improve labor standards, it enforces labor standards, but it also helps keep in place this Caribbean Basin Initiative which creates a symbiotic relationship with these countries in Central America. My colleague has already said that there is clear evidence that if these jobs do not stay in Central America, they are not coming back to America. As harsh as that is for our good colleagues in North Carolina and Virginia and other places to talk about, having lost those jobs, those jobs, cutting and sewing and weaving and looming jobs, they are not coming back to America. We cannot compete in that arena anymore. Those jobs are going to China, those jobs are going to Thailand or the Philippines. If they go there, they are not going to be using American input as that work is done on those clothes that are shipped back to Americans to purchase.

Let me give an example. I heard recently, earlier today, about the impact that tariffs have on American consumers, or actually American manufacturers. All of us would agree that the manufacture of airplanes is a manufacturing job that we want to keep in America. Now, we can argue about some of the lower-end manufacturing jobs may go places, but no one would argue about outsourcing the manufacture of an airplane. Last year, Cessna, based out of Kansas, lost \$43 million in a competitive bid to Embraer, which is based out of Brazil, for sales into these countries. Now, the reason they lost it, one of the reasons they lost it, there is a 15 percent tariff on Cessna airplanes that are made in America and sold into these countries. Embraer does not have that same tariff. Brazil has already initiated or already negotiated a bilateral agreement that dropped that tariff. So head-to-head competition, if it is just on price, and I have a 15 percent competitive advantage against anybody else, I want to use some of that 15 percent to make sure I win the bid. And that is \$43 million worth of airplanes that would have been manufactured in Kansas or in America that instead were manufactured in Brazil; somewhere else.

Our colleagues on the other side talk about the 44 million customers in these countries not being able to afford our high-end merchandise. Well, it probably makes for good rhetoric and sound bites, but if you really think about that, it really does not have much of a place in this argument. Quite frankly, I cannot afford all of the high-end merchandise that is manufactured in the United States, so to say that somebody in Central America cannot afford a Cadillac or something like that, and that is a reason to not pass CAFTA, is certainly misplaced in the extreme.

We have also talked about immigration and that impact. Let me say it the

way I typically say it, some of the other colleagues have already talked about it, is that everywhere I go in District 11 and talk to folks, they are concerned about border security. In my mind, you cannot separate border security and immigration reform. We have to protect our borders; we need to know who is coming into this country.

One of the long-term best interests of the United States is for opportunities in Mexico and, as this phrase is used, OTMs, other than Mexicans, for countries, for opportunities to be created in those countries, because that is who is coming to America. It is not just Mexicans, but it is OTMs, other than Mexicans, percolating up through Mexico and coming into this country. CAFTA will help keep jobs in Central America. If somebody has a job in Central America, they are going to be less likely to want to try to percolate up through Mexico and come into the United States.

So I thank my good friend who has hosted this hour tonight. I am supporting CAFTA, I am voting for CAFTA. There are a lot of reasons; we have heard them on national security and immigration and trade. All of these are good reasons why we should support CAFTA, and I would encourage my colleagues across the aisle and on our side of the aisle to vote for CAFTA. Let us put this trade agreement in place. Let us take advantage of the opportunities for dropping the tariffs that our manufacturers currently face like Cessna in selling and trying to operate in these Central American countries.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the leadership of the gentleman from Texas. Several of the points he made, such as the fact that Central America already sells in the United States, and now is the chance for us to sell our products to those 44 million new customers, and that is critical.

Mr. Speaker, I see people who make fun of Central America and say they are too poor and too backward, not worthy, I guess, of trading with the United States, and they could not be more wrong. Economically, I think, those critics are pretty unwise. Central America is already our tenth largest trading partner, and growing. I do not know very many successful businesses that have made it very long by only selling to one or two customers. It does not happen very often. The fact of the matter is they have the potential to grow even larger. They are not large by American standards, but they are large by world standards, and those 44 million customers already buy more from the United States than Italy, which is a world power. They buy more from us than Australia. They buy more from us than Russia, India, and Indonesia combined. In fact, if you took the total economies of Central America together, it is larger than 33 sizes of the United States, those economies in total, and they have not even begun yet.

It makes great economic sense, at a time when America needs more customers, to strengthen the ties with the customer in our backyard that is the tenth largest, and growing every day. My colleagues know how important it is. There is a reason why Europe and Asia and China are trying to get trade agreements with Central America, because they want to sell their products there. But it is time for us, it is our turn to sell there, and I appreciate the leadership of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY) on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude myself, but before we do that, I want to turn to the chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight in the House Committee on Ways and Means, the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER). He has been looking for ways to strengthen democracy around the world for many years. He is a big supporter of finding new customers for California's products. In fact, California is the largest agriculture State in America. And he has also here in America helped to rewrite our welfare laws, so he understands what it means to get people back to work.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER).

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) for his leadership on this incredibly crucial issue of trade.

As the gentleman mentioned, California is the richest agricultural State in the Nation; actually, the richest agricultural area in the world. The Imperial Valley, the San Joaquin Valley, the Sacramento Valley, which is part of what I represent, north of Sacramento, and more than 250 different major commodities come from California. Again, I thank the gentleman for his active role in getting the facts out, the truth out about trade.

We are the largest trading Nation in the world, bar none other. And in the United States we have very low, and many times almost nonexistent, barriers for other countries to be able to trade to the United States. Yet we see very major trading barriers to other countries. So it is really win-win when we have an agreement such as CAFTA that can help bring down their barriers.

I would like to reemphasize the importance of CAFTA to farmers and ranchers, both in my home State of California and in the greater United States. Especially now, as we fast approach a vote in the House on CAFTA-ratifying legislation, it is important to note a few points on this agreement in general.

First, CAFTA was negotiated by all countries in the agreement, and already three have ratified it. Secondly, CAFTA is the only legislation of its kind that will come before the Congress. If it fails, the prospects of approving any similar agreement for the Central American countries and the Dominican Republic fail as well.

Finally, CAFTA has to be considered with some degree of historical context.

In May 2000, I joined 308 of our 435 colleagues in the House to lower or eliminate tariffs on products entering the U.S. from CAFTA nations. At the time there was no reciprocal treatment. In other words, the U.S. products would continue to face high tariffs and other barriers to entry in CAFTA nation markets. The CAFTA-ratifying agreement soon to come before us will immediately zero out tariffs on 50 percent of U.S. agricultural products exported to the region, with the remaining schedule to be eliminated in 10 years. The American Farm Bureau estimates that this could mean an increase in U.S. agricultural exports of \$1.5 billion per year.

In California, exports of farm products help boost both farm prices and income generated in the agricultural sector. Taken together with jobs, both on and off the farm, agriculture employs in California alone 129,560 workers, including food processing, storage, and transportation. Agriculture exports account for roughly \$8.2 billion, or about 30 percent of the total export product of California.

□ 2130

CAFTA implementation would increase those exports. As the Nation's largest producer and exporter of dairy products, with cash receipts of over \$4 billion, California dairy producers would benefit greatly from reductions of the current duties imposed in CAFTA countries, which can be as high as 60 percent.

As our Nation's leading exporter of fruits, California fruit producers too would benefit from CAFTA passage. Grapes, for example, are the State's third largest source of farm cash receipts. Current duties on grapes can reach 20 percent in some CAFTA countries and could grow as high as 135 percent under WTO rules.

Producers and processors would benefit from the immediate elimination of duties on grapes and raisins in all CAFTA nations. California peaches grown in my district, a nearly \$250 million industry, would benefit from elimination of duties on both fresh and canned peaches immediately.

Pears would also gain immediate duty-free access under CAFTA. Mr. Speaker, California is the leading producer of tree nuts in the United States, accounting for over \$2 billion in farm cash receipts. California almonds, walnuts, pistachio producers would benefit from the immediate duty-free access in all CAFTA countries.

Current duties on those products can reach 20 percent. With over \$1.7 billion in cash receipts, California lettuce producers would benefit from immediate duty elimination in Costa Rica and duty phase-out in most other Central American countries within 5 years.

The California tomato and broccoli industries would see similar tariff elimination. Another crop, California rice, which is a major commodity in my district, currently faces duties of

up to 60 percent. As the Nation's second largest rice exporter, California rice producers would benefit from the immediate market access of 400,000 metric tons of U.S. rice in CAFTA countries.

As the Nation's second largest cotton exporter, California cotton would benefit from immediate market access worth up to \$73.1 million.

For beef, too, CAFTA passage brings with it positive economic prospects. With cash receipts of nearly \$1.6 billion, California would see tariffs reduced from as high as 30 percent to zero. Tariffs on some cuts of meat will be eliminated immediately in Central American countries.

Mr. Speaker, as stated in a letter from the California Ag Coalition for Free and Fair Trade, California producers of beef, fruit, nuts, vegetables, cotton, poultry, dairy products, wheat and rice stand to gain in a major way under CAFTA.

I support this agreement for passage, and I urge my friends on both sides of the aisle to do likewise. CAFTA would help level the playing field for America's agriculture, increasing export opportunities for our growers and producers. It would be truly tragic for our Nation's agriculture and all of our economy if we let this opportunity escape us.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER) speaking about this issue, because opponents to CAFTA say that does not matter. It would help our trade deficit if we just ignored selling all of our products to Central America. I do not understand how it helps our trade deficit to turn down 44 million new customers, in all of the ag, in technology and small business and manufacturing trade that we have and want to sell to.

I would ask the gentleman, how does that help our trade deficit to turn down a growing country and all of those new customers?

Mr. HERGER. Well, obviously, it does not help our trade deficit; it makes it worse. As the gentleman is pointing out, if we lose that, and the gentleman has pointed this out, there are other countries that are seeking to take these markets. China is working very diligently to take these markets, and we cannot allow this to happen.

So it is imperative that we move, and we look to be having a vote this week, that we win and we have a big win in this very important area of trade.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I notice, too, the gentleman serving on Ways and Means, all we hear about is NAFTA; but what the critics do not tell you is that there is one huge difference between the two agreements, ignoring for a minute that during NAFTA years Texas grew by 1.7 million jobs. Our economy grew by 75 percent, we doubled our sales to Mexico, ignore all of that.

But the big difference is, Central America already sells most of its prod-

ucts in the United States today; they have for 20 years. If a company wanted to move away, they had 2 decades to do it. Now it is our turn to sell into Central America. Those are the ag sales and manufacturing sales and financial and insurance and telecommunications and chemicals from the Gulf Coast and forest products from east Texas, and ag from west Texas, and a number of products that we are looking for the new jobs and the new customers that this agreement provides us.

Mr. HERGER. Again I thank the gentleman. You brought up the agreement of NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement, with Canada and with Mexico. And again, it was so tongue-in-cheek, it was so detrimental that we more than doubled our trade to both of these countries who are our major trading partners now, and we see our unemployment rate at one of the lowest levels in our Nation's history, right at 5 percent.

So if these trade agreements are so bad for our country, why are we seeing such incredibly dramatic positive results because of them?

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Well, I appreciate the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER) for coming tonight and being part of this key debate.

Let me just conclude with a question. In recent years, a bipartisan Congress has extended its trade hand to the Muslim people of Morocco, the sub-Saharan nations of South Africa, our Asian allies in Singapore, and our Arab allies in Jordan. Why would Congress balk now at extending the same hand of trade to our Hispanic neighbors in Central America?

This is good for America and our workers, this is good for Central America, and this will help us defeat China in the war in textiles; and later this week I look forward to the House of Representatives joining the Senate in engagement, in jobs, rather than isolationism and turning our back on a region so close to us.

CAFTA IS BAD FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield to my colleague from the Ways and Means Committee, the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. POMEROY), as much time as he shall consume.

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleagues who have just completed their hour discussing on the House floor tonight why we should enact CAFTA.

Clearly, they were sincere, yet the arguments discussed essentially have been the same arguments advanced for why these negotiations even began now 2 years, 18 months ago, certainly being concluded well over a year ago.

It is an enormous privilege to serve on the Ways and Means Committee, the

committee of jurisdiction on trade matters. And during the period of time, the extended period of time this has been before the Congress, it has given us a chance to look at this agreement pretty closely.

I could spend my time tonight going into the whats, and the whereases and the what-fors, but I think it might be more fruitful to discuss this in the broader perspective, perspective first of all involving the track we are on relative to our trade agreements and our Nation's economy.

Then, secondly, a particular for instance in terms of where this is just more of the same, in terms of our loss of jobs, loss of economic opportunity here at home, and then finally to discuss the process, a process that I think raises serious questions about this trade agreement.

Well, let us start with the broad pattern. We have been on a track of these trade deals, part of our participation in the global economy, for some years now. A recent commentator contrasted the approach taken by the United States with that of most other nations. It would just seem natural that as you stroll to the table and negotiate on behalf of the country you represent, that you advocate the nation's interests, the nation's jobs, the nation's opportunity to sell more under these agreements. And most nations do precisely that.

But this commentator contrasted the United States, where it is not just local interests that are represented by the big multinational corporations based in this country, it may be a U.S. corporation, but may be jobs all across the world.

Whether or not the interests of the multinational corporations have been advanced, the record is clear. The interest of the American worker and American opportunities have not been advanced. Just look at the trade numbers. Could you possibly have a clearer indicator as to whether this is working or not than the trade numbers? And what do they tell us? They tell us that our trade deficit, the amount we buy more than we sell, has never been greater in the history of our country.

Now, we have been at this awhile, these trade deals. A friend of mine says there is not a trade deal ever negotiated that our silk-shirted Ivy League-educated negotiators could not lose in half an hour. You certainly seem to think there might be truth in that when you look at the job loss that has just wrecked the economies of important parts of our country and led us to a net position, again, where we are buying more than we are selling to a dimension never before seen in the history of the United States.

I represent an agriculture State, North Dakota. We had, growing up when I was a kid in school, we thought of ourselves as North Dakota, bread basket to the world. We were very proud of the role we played in feeding the world. So let us just break out this

agriculture component of our economy, take a look at that one. This year, 2005, we are on the brink of importing more food than we export.

The United States of America as a net food importer. Can you imagine something more screwed up than that? Clearly, this trade path that we are on is not working, and quite clearly CAFTA is more of the same.

You know, my friends that just took the preceding hour, they took about the 44 million new customers, the 44 million new customers. You know, we did not just learn of these places down there; heck, we have been dealing with them for years and years and years.

We have got about 94 percent of their wheat market, just to reference a commodity important in North Dakota. How much more are we going to get? They are not 44 million new customers. These are long-established trading partners of the United States. But what is at issue is what we are going to do relative to opening the flood gates to their production, to the further displacement of our workers and our opportunities.

And let me give you a for instance, because it is an industry I represent, the sugar industry. Of all of the commodities of agriculture, sugar is one of the higher value opportunities for the American farmer. And I represent people, third generation, fourth generation on the land, families that broke the prairie under the Homestead Act to begin their family's farming experience and now making a go of it because they raise sugar beets in the Red River Valley.

This is an industry that they have grown by blood, sweat and toil and risks, enormous financial risk. They had farmers not just raising the sugar beets, but when they had an opportunity, they acquired the processing neck of the business. So as a cooperative, farmers joining together, they actually bought the sugar refinery.

□ 2145

That is the place that makes the refined sugar. They put it into the market. Now they control the marketing of it as well.

This entire sugar industry from the Red River Valley sugar beet growers, from the workers in the plants today, to the sugar cane growers down in the South Central and Southeastern part of country, to the sugar beet growers out in the Northwestern United States, significant areas of the country broadly affected by the threat to sugar. Because what is at stake in CAFTA is opening up the border for yet an additional allotment for sugar to come pouring in from the CAFTA countries, countries whose labor wages have no relation to ours, whose environmental protections in their plants are no relation to ours, whose costs are often subsidized to get them down to global dump price.

And I have seen the context of the CAFTA debate argument that what the

United States needs is to resort to the global dump price at the end of domestic production of sugar in this country. When will it end? When we decide are U.S. jobs worth fighting for, and the economic hopes and dreams of our families are what we ought to be representing? If it is not good for us, why are we doing it? And when it comes to sugar, believe you me, just look right across the opinion of the United Sugar Industry in this country. They do not believe this is good for us. They believe it is the beginning of an end to domestic production of sugar in this country.

What that means in the Red River Valley, we are talking Fargo, Grand Forks, North Dakota, not large places, is a direct and indirect economic impact of up to 2- to \$3 billion, direct jobs 2,500, indirect jobs maybe 30,000 in the area I represent. Just another chapter in this global trade path we are on that has cost us so much and brought us the deepest deficit in the history of the country.

Now, you might say, well, those are interesting arguments, but these other guys say something quite different. And so who do we believe? I would just say look at how this bill CAFTA is being handled. It was negotiated in the spring of 2004 and concluded in late spring, early summer. If this was such a point of pride for our trade negotiators who brought this agreement home, why in the world did President Bush not, as an achievement of his administration, put it front and center in the election campaign and run it up to Congress for a vote?

They ran the Australia trade agreement for a vote. That was negotiated after CAFTA. Why did they keep CAFTA like a dark family secret in the back room, out of the way, out of public view after the election? I believe it is because they knew that the American people knew this was another raw deal, another trade deal that was a raw deal; and, therefore, out of sight, out of mind. Let us get the votes. Let us win the election. We will bring it up and run it through later. That is a pretty callous way, I think, to deal with something so important to the people of this country, but that is what they have done.

Now, here we are 7 months into the new year, and just now they are running up for a vote. What has delayed them now that the election is so long past? Very simple. They do not have the votes. Why do they not have the votes? Because the American people understand that we have the deepest trade deficit in the history of the country. They understand that their jobs are not safe. They understand that their friends have lost jobs. They understand that industries are being dislocated. And as a result they do not have much time or attention for this CAFTA.

The House of Representatives is a very imperfect place, but there is one thing that this place captures, and that is what the American people are think-

ing. And that is why, beginning this last week before the August recess, the majority, the majority who have dictated so much in terms of vote outcomes, did not know whether they have the votes to pass CAFTA. And I believe they do not or we would have had it up for a vote this afternoon.

The Members of this body know that CAFTA is a loser for the American people. And so what are we hearing in these final hours before the CAFTA vote? I want the American people to understand what is at stake just as I discuss it with my colleagues. They have directly linked China to CAFTA. There is no linkage to China and CAFTA. We are upset about China. We are worried about the trade imbalance with China. CAFTA gives us a deeper trade imbalance, in my view, with CAFTA countries. It has nothing to do with China. They are trying cross-linkages, anything to try and get votes. Even more insidious.

There is a highway bill in conference committee. One of the things each and every Member represents is thousands and thousands of miles of roads back in their home districts. It is very important for each of us, Republican and Democrat alike, from every corner of the country, that we get our local needs attended to in the highway bill.

Now, do you think the highway bill is being held up because there is a problem with the highway bill? Absolutely not. The highway bill is being held up to leverage votes for CAFTA. This trade deal, so important for American jobs, is being bartered for highway projects in far-flung congressional districts.

This is no way for us to look at the future of U.S. trade. We can do better than that. It is just wrong to link Federal highway appropriations to preferred votes on trade deals. It is absolutely wrong.

Now we are hearing that it is going to be brought up for a vote late at night, in the early morning hours of the last minutes before we break for August recess. I fully expect that you might see this up for a vote between 2 and 3 in the morning maybe, or 4 and 5 in the morning if they have not corralled the votes before we leave town.

Can you imagine this body acting any more disgracefully than to hold the debate, run it when people are not watching, try and break the arms required to pass the deal, and then leave town under cloak of darkness for a month to hope the heat cools down because we have passed another bad deal for the American people?

I would hope and I would urge those who really determine the outcome of this fight, those who tonight find themselves caught between standing for their constituents and what their constituents want and what their leadership tells them they have to do, I would urge them to do the thing that you could never lose by doing: Stand with your constituents. They are the ones that sent you here. They are the

ones we pledged to support. They are the ones who are counting on you tonight.

I was as a freshman in a Democrat majority. We have been in the minority for more than 10 years. And I believe we are in the minority in part because our leaders thought there were times when we had to vote for the majority instead of voting for those who sent us here.

I urge my Republican colleagues who are on the fence on this trade deal, getting tremendous pressure from the leadership, I urge you to stand your ground, stand with your constituents. They need you. They need you badly on this vote.

To the Democrat and Republican Members who have already signaled that we are opposed to this deal, we are opposed to another sell-out of our economy, we are opposed to another rolling over of the concerns about American workers, I urge you to dig down and work harder than we have ever worked before.

We are on the brink of winning this important vote. What happens if we do? It is not like relations end, for heaven's sake, with our near neighbors. We go back to the table and we get a deal we can all be proud of, one that has some fundamental protections for our country. That is all that happens if we defeat this deal. So let us stand together and win one, by golly. The American economy and the American workers deserve no less.

I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for his excellent statement.

It is now my pleasure to yield to another colleague who comes across the country from the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. POMEROY), about as far east as you can get from the Dakotas, I think, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD).

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this evening we heard an hour debate of why Congress and the American people should support CAFTA. And to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) I would like to say, as Paul Harvey would say, Now the rest of the story.

I want to thank my good friend, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), a distinguished member of the Committee on Ways and Means. He has been a remarkable advocate for issues affecting working families. This week the House is expected to vote on a trade agreement that only promises job losses and devastation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight in strong opposition to CAFTA. I rise tonight for all Mainers who have lost their jobs. I rise for all working Americans and their families, many who are still working at this late hour to help make ends meet. And I know what it is like myself. For almost 30 years I worked at Great Northern Paper Company in East

Millinocket, Maine, where my father worked for 43 years, my grandfather before him for 40 years. And that is the way it is in a lot of mill towns in Maine and all across the country.

Two days after I was sworn in as a Member of Congress in January of 2003, I learned that the mill where I worked filed bankruptcy and was shutting its doors. The mill was closed largely due to the pressure created by unfair trade agreements, years of poorly thought-out trade deals that placed manufacturing industries at a huge disadvantage. And one would only have to look at the huge trade deficits that are continuing to grow ever since NAFTA went into effect.

I know firsthand, as many Mainers do, that with these layoffs and closures, when these businesses go under because of unfair trade deals, so does the heart and souls of these communities. In Maine alone, since 1998 and to late 2004, the Federal Government had documented 11,724 workers who lost their job due to trade. Although the real undocumented number is much higher, it has been estimated that 24,000 Mainers have lost their jobs due to NAFTA alone.

The number serves to demonstrate yet again what people in Maine already know through our own tough experience. The economy continues to struggle and our workers see fewer good prospects. Maine has lost 23 percent of our manufacturing base over the last 3 years alone.

Now, I heard my colleague who supported CAFTA earlier talk about the unemployment going down. Well, I can say my first year in Congress we had labor market areas in Maine whose unemployment rate was over 35 percent. And the reason why the number is lower today is not because they have found jobs, it is because this Congress, the previous Congress, has failed to extend the unemployment benefits, so they are no longer counted as being unemployed. They just drop off the list.

We are sick of watching our jobs get shipped overseas as our workers stand waving good-bye to them. It is time to get off the fast track of lost jobs and shattered dreams and on to the right track for fair trade agreements.

When it comes to CAFTA, the benefit is pretty hard to find. Despite having 44 million inhabitants, the CAFTA nations' total purchasing power is the same as New Haven, Connecticut. More than 40 percent of the Central American workers work for less than \$2 a day. CAFTA outsources our jobs to cheap labor markets with almost non-existing environmental or labor standards.

□ 2200

How could such a bad deal for our workers pass?

In recent days, the administration authorized House leadership to secure votes with whatever is at hand, from extra funding, as you heard earlier, for individual Members' districts in the

highway projects and energy bill, to the still incomplete appropriations bills. Members are being asked to trade away their votes for agreements that trade American jobs away. This is just unbelievable.

Tomorrow, the House is expected to vote on H.R. 3283, the so-called United States Trade Rights Enforcement Act. This bill does nothing to effectively address China's unfair trade practices and their adverse impact on U.S. workers and manufacturers and the Nation's economy. In fact, it makes it harder to stop unfair Chinese trade practices. But it has a good-sounding title.

This bill is an effort to sway votes for CAFTA, giving Members a fig leaf to hide behind so they can say they are standing up against unfair trade agreements. It is nothing but smoke and mirrors. Smoke and mirrors.

Two years ago, these tactics worked to pass the deeply flawed Medicare bill by one vote. Leadership held open a 15-minute vote for 3 hours while they twisted arms in order to ensure passage. It is expected the same will happen with the CAFTA vote. Is this the way the people of the House should be acting? Is this in the best interest of our Nation?

What message does this send the American people and our workforce and our businesses? And why must these votes always happen in the dark of night? It is because while working Americans sleep, their jobs are being traded away.

Mr. Speaker, all Americans who are watching tonight should check for themselves. They should pay close attention to what time the CAFTA vote happens. They should ask themselves why under such cover of darkness should we be voting. It is said that midnight is the witching hour. Americans should wonder what kind of witchcraft is being passed on the House floor as we consider CAFTA in the dead of night.

The administration may want this deal to pass as quickly as possible before more opposition mounts, but the people who have suffered the most under our trade policies, including many of my neighbors, my coworkers and my family, and many of the good people in Maine have earned the right to ask a simple question about what a new trade deal will mean to their families and get some real answers before we move forward.

One of the things I hear a lot of people say is that large stable companies, like Great Northern was, where I worked for over 30 years, will never move overseas because it is too costly. I can tell my colleagues firsthand that the mill I worked at had six paper machines. They uplifted four of them and shipped them overseas. The mill in Millinocket, the Great Northern Paper Company's other mill, did the same thing. It is nothing for large corporations to unbolt their machines and ship them overseas so they can get that cheap labor.

We heard earlier that in some of these CAFTA countries labor is less than \$2 a day. That is exploiting workers. It is not to benefit the CAFTA nations. It definitely will not benefit the United States of America. So I hope Members on both sides of the aisle will take a good hard look at this trade policy because we cannot sell-out the American workers. We cannot sell out the American Dream that we have.

We must reverse these trade policies to once again put the United States of America on the path of growth. The only way we are going to be a secure country, the only way we are going to be able to be respected among other nations, like we have in the past, is to make sure that we have a strong economy.

When we look at what happened during World War II, what made this country the greatest country in the world, with our Greatest Generation, was the ability for Americans back home to work in our manufacturing industry, to work hand in hand. But what are we going to do if we continue to ship these jobs overseas? It is going to weaken the United States' ability to be the number one leader as far as our national defense.

We must vote this CAFTA deal down, regardless of what time in the morning it comes up and regardless of how long the leadership holds the vote open. We must do what is right, and what is right is fair trade agreements.

So I thank the gentleman for yielding to me, and I will be with him voting against CAFTA.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for his eloquent statement.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the opportunity tonight to listen to an hour that was presided over by my colleague on the Committee on Ways and Means on the majority side, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER), and his fellow Republicans and the statements of my colleagues on the Democratic side. It has been refreshing in this sense, that we have talked about the issues. I very much disagree with the statements of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER) and others, and I will get to that; but at least we have been talking about issues.

In the last few days, when it comes to CAFTA, that is not what the administration or the Republican majority have been doing. Instead, we have learned about a number of deals that have been cut, one of them relating to dams and locks in return for a vote; or if not in return, that being taken into account if the vote was cast.

We have heard the administration make statements regarding fabrics, regarding apparel and textiles. They have made commitments that they cannot on their own keep. And if history is any judge, they are unlikely to do so. They have made a commitment, for example, regarding pockets and linings, essentially reopening the agreement, saying that they are going to secure

that change. However, the truth of the matter is it would take action by this Congress to do that, and not under Fast Track; and also there would have to be agreement by the six DR-CAFTA countries.

Regarding a provision of concern to Nicaragua, the administration has made some statement that Nicaragua will more or less back off. However, it is only for Nicaragua to make that statement.

And then there has been the same process regarding sugar in order to try to win some votes from people who object to the provisions on sugar. There have been statements about some adjustments that will be made or some further actions that will be taken. Again, they are not in the agreement. There is nothing that this administration can really say that it can be assured of producing.

Oh, and then I guess it was today I read about discussions relating to agricultural shipments to Cuba and some bargaining back and forth between some of the Members of this Congress and the administration regarding that.

So while I very much disagree with the statements in almost every case made by the majority regarding CAFTA, in a way they were talking about issues and they were not talking about bait being offered for people to cast their vote.

I want to talk about what is really, as I see it, and my colleagues in so many cases see it, as the overriding issue. Why are so many of us who have worked for expanded trade, who have helped to shape trade agreements opposed to this agreement? There are economic aspects, and one can argue them various ways. I suggest that they be kept to the economic data in perspective. One estimate is that in terms of GDP, the impact of CAFTA on the U.S. would be less than one-fifth of 1 percent. As to Central American countries, there is evidence on all sides of the issue, including dislocation, that would occur.

But, again, I want to talk about the larger issue, and that is where globalization is today and where it is going. Because here at CAFTA, globalization is at a crossroads, and that is why so many of us who have worked for expanded trade feel that we needed to take a hard look to judge whether this agreement was going to shape globalization so, as was put by President Clinton some years ago, it would level up, not level down.

I think the basic assumption of many proponents of CAFTA is, well, that does not really matter because trade is win-win; that there is no possible loss; that trade inevitably works out for everybody's benefit. But for those of us who, I say, have worked and often worked very hard and successfully to shape expanded trade the right way, we believe this does it the wrong way; that you need to shape trade agreements so it is not a race to the bottom.

And that is why the issues relating to worker rights are so important. That is

what this basic issue is really all about. This is why Central America, Dominican Republic and CAFTA, matter so much in terms of where trade is going. Regarding the CAFTA countries, we are now talking about countries in a region that has, Latin America, the worst income distribution of any region in the world. We are talking about within most of the countries immense maldistribution of income. We are talking about immense poverty. There is a weak middle class in most of the countries.

It was interesting to read a Wall Street Journal article just a week ago. The headline was: "In Latin America, Rich-Poor Chasm Stifles Growth," and I quote: "Because of an abundance of natural resources and a large indigenous population, Latin American nations group up relying on raw materials, cheap manual labor to exploit them, and low government taxation. The system concentrated land ownership and wealth in a few hands, deprived governments of money to spend on education and other incentives, and essentially ordered the incentives for the elite to invest not in human capital or technology. Latin America has also historically relied on monopolies and franchises, leaving few opportunities for entrepreneurs to advance through hard work and innovation."

If you look at the history of trade agreements, there has been an effort to begin to have them relate to workers, to take into account the capital of workers as well as financial capital. And so in recent years, we had agreements, Jordan, Cambodia, which essentially said to countries: look, take steps to make sure that workers have their basic rights.

We are not talking about the laws of the United States; we are talking about the five core internationally recognized rights: no child labor, also no forced labor, no discrimination in the workplace, and also, so importantly, the rights of workers to associate and to organize.

And what has happened is that this agreement is a step backwards from where we were going, a step backwards from Jordan, a step backwards from the Cambodia experiment, and also a step backwards from CBI and the second CBI, and what is called the "generalized system of preferences." What this agreement says to a country when it comes to these basic rights of workers is, enforce your own laws, no matter what they are, no matter how bad they are. That is the standard: enforce your own laws.

That standard is not used in any other part of the agreement, whether it is intellectual properties or investments or tariffs or subsidies. Here it is: enforce your own laws.

□ 2215

There has been an effort to obscure what the reality is on the ground in Central America, but State Department reports make it clear, the ILO reports make it also very clear. There is

a recent report of USTR itself that it was required to give to Congress. That report also makes it clear.

In reality, workers do not have the ability to exercise internationally recognized rights. When they want to associate, essentially there can be action by the employer with impunity. In some cases all they have to do, if they fire workers who want to form a union, all they have to do is pay severance pay. That is the reality on the ground, and there are so many cases that prove it. In a Special Order that I took on some weeks ago, I spelled out one example in El Salvador.

Why does this matter? Why is it important that workers in Central America have their basic internationally recognized rights? Here is why it matters.

In these countries with immense poverty, in these countries with terrible maldistribution of income, in these countries with weak middle classes, if workers cannot exercise their rights, they are going to remain poor. Their countries are going to remain without the middle classes that they so badly need. Our workers are going to have to compete with workers whose rights are suppressed, and our workers are saying, no, they do not want to do that. And our companies and their workers are not going to have middles classes in Central America that can buy their goods.

So I want to say a few more words about the implications of all this. There has been talk about security and stability. I want to say to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, what undermines stability and security is when people are impoverished, when people have no opportunity to climb up the ladder to the middle class.

This was also in the Wall Street Journal, I read a letter to the editor by Rutilio Martinez, who is a professor in Colorado, and he was responding to an article about Chavez in Venezuela, and he is very much opposed to the Chavez regime. He concluded, "The rest of Latin America, from Mexico to Argentina, should take notice what is happening in Venezuela and do something to improve their horrible distribution of wealth, otherwise soon there will be very many Venezuelas in this poverty-ridden but resource-rich region."

A major threat to security in Central American countries is terrible income distribution. It is also the absence of strong middle classes and the presence of immense poverty. There was talk about certain groups in Central America opposing this agreement.

I just urge everybody to listen also to bishops who are there with their flock in Central America. I read from a recent joint statement concerning the Central American Free Trade Agreement by the Bishops' Secretariat of Central America and the chairman of the Domestic and International Policy Committees of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. "In light of a recent visit to Washington, D.C., 23-24 June,

2004, by a delegation of six bishops representing the Church in Central America, the Bishops' Secretariat of Central America and the chairman of Domestic and International Policy Committees of the United States Conference of Bishops wish to express with one voice our observations and concerns about the U.S.-Central American Free Trade Agreement."

I quote from just one of their concerns. This is in subsection 3. "Many have claimed that CAFTA will lead to a significant increase in jobs. However, these jobs could principally be in assembly plants, maquilas, which mainly employ women, and which offer an unstable form of employment. Without proper worker protections, we know from our own experience that this type of employment will not foster authentic human development."

It is said by some defenders of this agreement that the problem is not in the laws, it is enforcement. First of all, that is not true about the laws. No matter how much you put into enforcement, if the laws are inadequate, it will not work.

But also this administration is really not candid about its claims about money for enforcement. It cut moneys for the entity within the Department of Labor that deals with capacity-building of labor departments of other countries. It proposed cuts of 87 percent, and now it is being suggested that some of that money be put back. The record of this administration in terms of trying to bolster enforcement is abysmal. They are now coming forth and saying, well, we will reform, so support CAFTA.

The laws do not measure up to international standards. As I saw a few years ago in Central America in the maquilas in three of the countries, there are no rights of workers on the ground in reality. They are working for 75 cents an hour, maybe a buck, mostly young women in the maquilas, many with children, sole supporter of their children. As soon as they tried to have a voice in the workplace, a voice at work, that voice is kicked out, is snuffed out by their discharge.

Let me make just a few comments. Someone said, well, there are 44 million people, and they cannot buy high-end goods. That is not the issue at all. Let me just read quickly from an article that is going to be published in the Sister City News, "Dos Pueblos: The New York-Tipitapa Nicaragua Sister City Project." Dos Pueblos is a non-profit organization that began way back in 1987. They went to Nicaragua just recently and reported back, "The salaries they receive, however, are covering fewer and fewer of their families' basic needs. While the minimum salary in 2003 covered 49.2 percent of the basic food basket, 53 products identified as necessary to feed a family of four for a month, the minimum pay in 2005 is only covering 26 percent of these costs." So it is not a question of buying a Cadillac, it is a question of buying food.

Mr. Speaker, it is tragic that this administration has handled trade and shattered the bipartisan foundation for trade that is so necessary, that is so vital that a number of us have wanted to help reestablish in this country. They have shattered that foundation.

Now they are going to come here on this floor in just a few days, and what they are apparently going to try to do once again, instead of getting 250 to 300 votes on a truly bipartisan basis, they are going to essentially, headstrong, I think head-in-the-sand in terms of good trade policy, see if they can squeeze out a victory by one or two votes.

That will not happen. If it did, it would be a defeat for the bipartisan foundation so essential for trade policy. It would be a defeat for the people of Central America, the workers there, for their countries that so badly need the development of a middle class, people moving up the ladder. It will be bad for our workers who refuse to compete against workers whose rights are so badly suppressed, and it will be bad for our companies who need middle classes to sell to.

In closing, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER) said at the very end that people supported Morocco, people supported Jordan, I did, because in those countries the rights, the internationally recognized rights of workers were in place, so enforce your own laws, there were laws to implement. There were conditions that were worthy of international respect. That is not true in CAFTA. It is not true in Central America.

We need to renegotiate. I am in favor of a CAFTA. So are others of my colleagues who have worked with me and who are leading this effort to make sure that CAFTA is defeated and we go back to the table and address these basic issues. Globalization is here to stay. The question is whether globalization is going to have its benefits spread, or essentially they are going to be distributed only to a minority.

If that continues to happen in Latin America, we are going to see more people voting with their feet, or voting at the ballot box as they have been doing. People want a share of globalization. They want a stake in globalization. In order to have that, they have to have a voice in the workplace. So that is what this is all about. There are other issues, but there is this larger issue. There is a test here, a test presented by the CAFTA agreement. This administration flunked the test, and now they are just charging ahead hoping to capture a narrow victory. It will not happen. It will be a defeat.

I urge we defeat CAFTA as negotiated and return to the table, which we can do, and refinish this agreement in about a month. In that way we can proudly say we met the challenges of globalization in this case in the year 2005.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BECERRA (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal business.

Mr. ORTIZ (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. REYES (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. HOBSON (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of being unable to travel due to bad weather.

Mr. LINDER (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of official business.

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.

Mr. WYNN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. OWENS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HINCHEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. NADLER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CAPUANO for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HONDA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WATSON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. CARSON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PAYNE, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PRICE of Georgia) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for 5 minutes, today and July 26, 27, and 28.

Mr. OSBORNE, for 5 minutes, today and July 26, 27, 28, and 29.

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, today and July 26.

Mr. RAMSTAD, for 5 minutes, July 26.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and July 26, 27, 28, and 29.

Mr. FORTUÑO, for 5 minutes, July 27.

Ms. FOXX, for 5 minutes, July 26 and 27.

Mrs. BLACKBURN, for 5 minutes, today and July 26.

Mr. BURGESS, for 5 minutes, today and July 26 and 28.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 29 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, July 26, 2005, at 9 a.m., for morning hour debates.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3148. A letter from the Acting Administrator, AMS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Irish Potatoes Grown in Washington; Order Amending Marketing Order No. 946 [Docket No. AO-F&V-946-3; FV03-946-01 FR] received July 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3149. A letter from the Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Tuberculosis; Reduction in Timeframe for Movement of Cattle and Bison from Modified Accredited and Accreditation Preparatory States or Zones Without an Individual Tuberculin Test [Docket No. 04-065-1] received May 24, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3150. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Disclosure to Shareholders; Accounting and Reporting Requirements; Federal Agriculture Mortgage Corporation General Provisions; Federal Agriculture Mortgage Corporation Governance; Federal Agriculture Mortgage Corporation Funding and Fiscal Affairs; Federal Agriculture Mortgage Corporation Disclosure and Reporting Requirements (RIN: 3052-AC18) received July 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3151. A letter from the Architect of the Capitol, transmitting the report of expenditures of appropriations during the period April 1, 2004 through September 30, 2004, pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 162b; to the Committee on Appropriations.

3152. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting the National Defense Stockpile (NDS) Annual Materials Plan (AMP) for FY 2006 along with revisions to the FY 05 Annual Materials Plan and AMPs for the succeeding four years, FY 07 through FY 10, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 98h-5; to the Committee on Armed Services.

3153. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a financial plan for the U.S. participation in and support of Operation Unified Assistance (Tsunami Disaster Relief Effort), pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 127a; to the Committee on Armed Services.

3154. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter discharging the Department of Defense of responsibilities concerning termination of the Panama Canal Commission Office of Transition Administration; to the Committee on Armed Services.

3155. A letter from the Inspector General, Department of Defense, transmitting an audit report entitled, "Defense Infrastructure; DoD Workforce Employed to Conduct Public-Private Competitions Under the DoD Competitive Sourcing Program," pursuant to Public Law 108-375, section 328(1); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3156. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter

on the approved retirement of General Gregory S. Martin, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

3157. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting a report on Contractual Offset Arrangements, Memoranda of Understanding, and Procurement Waivers, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2534(d)(3); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3158. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Multiyear Contracting [DFARS Case 2004-DO24] received May 11, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3159. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice, transmitting the 2004 Annual Report regarding the Department's enforcement activities under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1691f; to the Committee on Financial Services.

3160. A letter from the Under Secretary for Domestic Finance, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the annual report on the Resolution Funding Corporation for calendar year 2004, pursuant to Public Law 101-73, section 501(a) (103 Stat. 387); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3161. A letter from the General Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket No. FEMA-7875] received May 9, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3162. A letter from the Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, OH, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Up-Front Mortgage Insurance Premiums for Loans Insured Under Sections 203(k) and 234(c) of the National Housing Act [Docket No. FR-4749-F-02] (RIN: 2502-AH82) received July 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3163. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation to amend title II of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11311 et seq.); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3164. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, DCF, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Securities Offering Reform (RIN: 3235-A111) received July 20, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3165. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, DMR, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Removal from Listing and Registration of Securities Pursuant to Section 12(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 [Release No. 34-52029; File No. S7-25-04] (RIN: 3235-AJ04) received July 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3166. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, DMR, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Commission Guidance Regarding Prohibited Conduct in Connection with IPO Allocations [Release Nos. 33-8565; 34-51500; IC-26828; File No. S7-03-05] received April 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3167. A letter from the Director, Executive Secretariat, BIA, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final

rule — Conforming Amendments to Implement the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (RIN: 1076-AE54) received April 21, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

3168. A letter from the Asst. Gen. Counsel for Regulatory Services, OSERS, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research — Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program — Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects — received July 20, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

3169. A letter from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting a draft bill, "To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to make full-time Federal defender attorneys eligible for cancellation of loans for certain public service, and for other purposes"; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

3170. A letter from the Administrator, Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting the annual uranium marketing report for 2004, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 2296b-5; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3171. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's FY 2004 annual financial report to Congress required by the Prescription Drug User Fee Act of 1992 (PDUFA), pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 379g note; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3172. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Mgmt. Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Food Additives Permitted for Direct Addition to Food for Human Consumption; Vitamin D3 [Docket No. 2003F-0370] received July 13, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3173. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Mgmt. Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Food Additives Permitted for Direct Addition to Food for Human Consumption, Vitamin D3 [Docket No. 2002F-0160] received July 13, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3174. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Mgmt. Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Color Additive Certification; Increase in Fees for Certification Services [Docket No. 2005N-0077] received April 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3175. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the second annual report, pursuant to section 302(d) of the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3176. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, ODC, DEA, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of Zopiclone Into Schedule IV [Docket No. DEA-262F] received April 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3177. A letter from the Deputy Bureau Chief, CGB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Rules and Regulations Implementing the Controlling the Assault of Non-Solicited Pornography and Marketing Act of 2003 [CG Docket No. 04-53]; Rules and Regulations Implementing the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991 [CG Docket No. 02-278]

received June 20, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3178. A letter from the Deputy Bureau Chief, CGB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Rules and Regulations Implementing the Controlling the Assault of Non-Solicited Pornography and Marketing Act of 2003; [CG Docket No. 04-53]; Rules and Regulations Implementing the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991 [CG Docket No. 02-278] received June 20, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3179. A letter from the Chief, Policy and Rules Division, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Requirements for Digital Receiving Capability [ET Docket No. 05-24] received June 20, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3180. A letter from the Assistant Bureau Chief for Management, IB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Mandatory Electronic Filing for International Telecommunications Services and Other International Filings [IB Docket No. 04-226] received June 20, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3181. A letter from the Acting Division Chief, WCB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — IP-Enabled Services [WC Docket No. 04-36]; E911 Requirements for IP-Enabled Service Providers [WC Docket No. 05-196] received June 20, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3182. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Interconnection for Wind Energy [Docket No. RM05-4-000 — Order No. 661] received June 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3183. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Revision of FERC Form No. 73, Oil Pipeline Data Filing Instructions RM05-14-000 — received July 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3184. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Export and Import of Radioactive Materials: Security Policies (RIN: 3150-AH44) received June 30, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3185. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: VSC-24 Revision (RIN: 3150-AH70) received July 13, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3186. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Export and Import of Nuclear Equipment and Material: Nuclear Grade Graphite (RIN: 3150-AH51) received July 21, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on International Relations.

3187. A letter from the Chairman of the Board, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the semiannual report on activities of the Inspector General of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation for

the period October 1, 2004 through March 31, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 8G(h)(2); to the Committee on Government Reform.

3188. A letter from the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Potomac Electric Power Company, transmitting a copy of the Balance Sheet of Potomac Electric Power Company as of December 31, 2004, pursuant to D.C. Code section 43-513; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3189. A letter from the EEO Programs Director, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the first annual report pursuant to Section 203(a) of the No Fear Act, Pub. L. 107-174, including data from fiscal years 1999 through 2004; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3190. A letter from the Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, (OIG), Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Office of Inspector General (OIG) Subpoenas and Production in Response to Subpoenas or Demands of Courts or Other Authorities [Docket No. FR-4942-F-02] (RIN: 2508-AA14) received July 7, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

3191. A letter from the Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting a report on the National Archives and Records Administration's (NARA) category rating for calendar year 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3319(d); to the Committee on Government Reform.

3192. A letter from the Executive Director, National Council on Disability, transmitting the Council's Annual Performance Report to the President and Congress Fiscal Year 2004, as required by the Government Performance and Results Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1116; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3193. A letter from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting a Presidential appointment reduction plan, pursuant to section 8403(c) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3194. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Chief Human Capital Officers (CHCO) Council's Report to Congress covering FY 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 1401 note Public Law 107-296 section 1303(d); to the Committee on Government Reform.

3195. A letter from the Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2004; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3196. A letter from the Chairman, U.S. International Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's annual report on category rating for 2004; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3197. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Oil and Gas and Sulphur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) — Fixed and Floating Platforms and Structures and Documents Incorporated by Reference (RIN: 1010-AC85) received July 19, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

3198. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for *Astragalus jaegerianus* (Lane Mountain milk-vetch) (RIN: 1018-AI78) received April 5, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

3199. A letter from the Deputy Asst. Admin. for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Emergency Fishery Closure Due to the Presence of the Toxin that Causes Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) [Docket No. 050613158-5158-01; I.D. 061305B] (RIN: 0648-AT48) received July 13, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

3200. A letter from the Deputy Asst. Admin. for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Total Allowable Catches for Georges Bank Cod, Haddock, and Yellowtail Flounder in the U.S./Canada Management Area for Fishing Year 2005 [Docket No. 050331089-5172-02; I.D. 031005A] (RIN: 0648-AS74) received July 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

3201. A letter from the Deputy Asst. Admin. for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Herring Fishery [Docket No. 050112008-5102-02; I.D. 010605E] (RIN: 0648-AS23) received July 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

3202. A letter from the Federal Liason Officer, PTO, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes to Implement the Patent Fee Related Provisions of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005 [Docket No.: 2003-P-026] (RIN: 0651-AB54) received February 1, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

3203. A letter from the Chairman, United States Parole Commission, Department of Justice, transmitting a copy of the Commission's Annual Report covering the period October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2004; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

3204. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting a report on the Workplace Effects from Violence Against Women, pursuant to Section 1207 of the Violence Against Women Act of 2000; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

3205. A letter from the Rules Administrator, BOP, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Bureau of Prisons Emergencies [BOP Docket No. 1117-F] (RIN: 1120-AB17) received June 1, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

3206. A letter from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting a copy of a draft bill entitled, "To provide for the appointment of additional Federal circuit and district judges, and for other purposes"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

3207. A letter from the Chairman, National Prison Rape Elimination Commission, transmitting a request for additional time for the submission of the National Rape Elimination Commission's report; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

3208. A letter from the Congressional Medal of Honor Society of the United States of America, transmitting the annual financial report of the Society for calendar year 2004, pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 1101(19) and 1103; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

3209. 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 Im-

pact of the Western Sarpy/Clear Creek, Nebraska flood reduction study; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3210. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a report on the Revised Deepwater Implementation Plan for 2005, pursuant to Public Law 108-334; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3211. A letter from the General Counsel/FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determination [Docket No. FEMA-B-7452] received July 11, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3212. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; New York Marine Inspection Zone and Captain of the Port Zone, New York Harbor [CGD01-05-025] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received May 26, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3213. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Anchorage Grounds; Anacortes General Anchorage and Cap Sante and Hat Island Tug and Barge General Anchorages, Anacortes, WA [CGD13-05-001] (RIN: 1625-AA01) received June 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3214. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulated Navigation Area, Security Zone and Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Port Everglades, FL [CGD07-05-031] (RIN: 1625-AA11, 1625-AA87, and 1625-AA09) received June 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3215. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone: Portland Rose Festival on Willamette River [CGD13-05-007] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received June 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3216. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Standards; Bird Ingestion; Correction [Docket No. FAA-1998-4815; Amendment No. 23-54 and 33-20] (RIN: 2120-AF84) received May 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3217. A letter from the Associate Deputy Administrator for Government Contracting and Business Development, Small Business Administration, transmitting a report on the Minority Small Business and Capital Ownership program, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 636(j)(16)(B); to the Committee on Small Business.

3218. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting a draft of proposed legislative changes to 38 U.S.C. 8110(a); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

3219. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs and Under Secretary for Benefits, Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs, transmitting an interim report on the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs' pilot program on separation physicals, pursuant to Public Law 107-107, section 734; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

3220. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's eleventh report on the impact of the Andean Trade Preference Act on U.S. trade and employment from 2002 to 2003, pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 3205; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3221. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Defense, transmitting proposals of legislation as part of the National Defense Authorization Bill for Fiscal Year 2006; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and International Relations.

3222. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting a proposal of legislation to amend section 161k of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 to provide executive protection authorities for the Department of Energy Federal protective force; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and the Judiciary.

3223. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report on timeframes for completion of site profiles of Department of Energy and Atomic Weapons Employer facilities, pursuant to Public Law 108-375; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Education and the Workforce.

3224. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, CMS, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medicare Program; Competitive Acquisition of Outpatient Drugs and Biologicals Under Part B [CMS-1325-IFC] (RIN: 0938-AN58) received July 7, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

3225. A letter from the Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting a proposed amendment to the Iran Nonproliferation Act of 2000, Pub. L. 106-178; jointly to the Committees on International Relations and Science.

3226. A letter from the Chairman, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's annual report for calendar year 2004, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 2277a-13; jointly to the Committees on Government Reform and Agriculture.

3227. A letter from the General Accounting Office, transmitting a report entitled, "Capitol Power Plant: Actions Needed to Improve Operating Efficiency"; jointly to the Committees on House Administration and Appropriations.

3228. A letter from the Director, Office of Electricity and Energy Assurance, Department of Energy, transmitting a report containing the status of the programs and the progress toward meeting the goal in providing sufficient electricity to the Navajo Nation, pursuant to Public Law 106-511, section 602 (d) (114 Stat. 2377); jointly to the Committees on Resources and Energy and Commerce.

3229. A letter from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting a draft bill entitled, "Federal Courts Improvement Act of 2005"; jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary and Government Reform.

3230. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report entitled, "The Use of Specific Claims Payment Error Rates to Improve Effectiveness and Performance of Medicare Contractor Provider Education and Outreach Programs" in response to Section 921(b) of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003, Pub. L. 108-173; jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

3231. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the report entitled "Coordinating Care for Medicare Beneficiaries: Early Experiences of 15 Demonstration Programs, their

Patients, and Providers' in response to the requirements Section 4016(c) of Public Law 105-33, the Balanced Budget Act of 1997; jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

3232. A letter from the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, National Oceanographic Partnership Program, transmitting an annual report from the National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP) for 2005, pursuant to Public Law 104-201; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services, Resources, and Science.

3233. A letter from the Executive Office of the President, transmitting an interim report on the National Synthetic Drugs Action Plan; jointly to the Committees on Government Reform, the Judiciary, and Energy and Commerce.

3234. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Election Commission, transmitting the Commission's FY 2006 budget request, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 437d(d)(1); jointly to the Committees on House Administration, Appropriations, and Government Reform.

3235. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Election Commission, transmitting 16 recommendations for legislative action, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 438(a)(9); jointly to the Committees on House Administration, the Judiciary, Ways and Means, and Government Reform.

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. THOMAS: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 3045. A bill to implement the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement (Rept. 109-182). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 379. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 525) to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to improve access and choice for entrepreneurs with small businesses with respect to medical care for their employees (Rept. 109-183). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. SESSIONS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 380. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 22) to reform the postal laws of the United States (Rept. 109-184). 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. BOEHLERT:

H.R. 3413. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California:

H.R. 3414. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain refracting and reflecting telescopes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BAIRD:

H.R. 3415. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on mixture of magnesium peroxide and magnesium oxide containing 35 percent magnesium peroxide; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WELLER:

H.R. 3416. A bill to prohibit the application of the foreign affairs exemption to the rule making requirements under the Administra-

tive Procedure Act with respect to actions of the Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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 Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida (for herself, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, and Mr. SNYDER):

H.R. 3417. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to increase the maximum amount of education loans that may be repaid on behalf of officers in the Selected Reserve who possess professional qualifications, or are enrolled in programs of education leading to professional qualifications, in health professions that are needed critically to meet wartime combat medical skill shortages; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. EDWARDS:

H.R. 3418. A bill to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in the Central Texas Water Recycling and Reuse Project, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. GIBBONS:

H.R. 3419. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to dispose of certain public lands that are subject to mining operations in Pershing County, Nevada, to support sustainable development opportunities for the community in which the mining operations occur through privatization of the lands allowing for productive post-mining land use that provides for economic development opportunities and local government revenues, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. LEACH (for himself, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. HONDA, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. WEINER, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. OLVER, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. LANTOS, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. DELAUNO, Mr. SHAYS, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. LEE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. OWENS, Mr. CONYERS, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. FILNER, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. WYNN, Mr. HOLT, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. KUCINICH):

H.R. 3420. A bill to save taxpayers money, reduce the deficit, cut corporate welfare, protect communities from wildfires, encourage Federal land management agency reform and accountability, and protect and restore America's natural heritage by eliminating the fiscally wasteful and ecologically destructive commercial logging program on Federal public lands, restoring native biodiversity in our Federal public forests, and facilitating the economic recovery and diversification of communities affected by the Federal logging program; to the Committee on Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and Education and the Workforce, 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. MORAN of Kansas:

H.R. 3421. A bill to reauthorize the United States Grain Standards Act, to facilitate the official inspection at export port locations of grain required or authorized to be inspected under such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. NEUGEBAUER:

H.R. 3422. A bill to amend the United States Housing Act of 1937 to exempt small public housing agencies from the requirement of preparing an annual public housing agency plan; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. PITTS (for himself, Ms. ESHOO, Mrs. BONO, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. UPTON, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. STRICKLAND, and Mr. DAVIS of Florida):

H.R. 3423. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to medical device user fees; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SESSIONS:

H.R. 3424. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to interfering with the operation of an aircraft; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TANCREDO:

H.R. 3425. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require mandatory HIV testing of potential sources in the event of possible occupational exposure to HIV in a Department of Veterans Affairs medical facility; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER (for himself, Mr. HOYER, Mr. OWENS, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. HYDE, Mr. COBLE, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, and Mr. REYNOLDS):

H. Res. 378. A resolution recognizing and honoring the 15th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Energy and Commerce, 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. BLUMENAUER (for himself, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. NADLER, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. BAGCHUS, Mr. PETRI, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. SNYDER, Ms. LEE, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. ISSA, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. HIGGINS, and Mrs. MALONEY):

H. Res. 381. A resolution congratulating Lance Armstrong on his exceptional career upon his victory in the 2005 Tour de France and retiring from professional cycling; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mrs. CAPPS (for herself and Mr. NADLER):

H. Res. 382. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the enforcement of restraining orders; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

31. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of California, relative to Senate Joint Resolution No. 1 relative to the Lemoore Military Operations Area (MOA) Initiative; to the Committee on Armed Services.

32. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Maine, relative to H.P.1157 Joint Resolution memorializing Congress to continue funding for the Community Development Block Grant program; to the Committee on Financial Services.

33. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of California, relative to Senate Joint Resolution 7 relative to Equal Pay Day; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

34. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Nevada, relative to Assembly Joint Resolution No. 14, urging the Nevada Congressional Delegation to introduce and to support federal legislation mandating the reporting of results of all clinical trials and the collection and analysis of the data by the appropriate federal agencies; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

35. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Michigan, relative to House Resolution No. 75 memorializing the Congress of the United States and the United States Department of Health and Human Services to move forward with the creation of a national cord blood stem cell bank; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS TO PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 5: Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. RENZI, Mr. PITTS, Mr. DREIER, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. PORTER, Ms. HART, Mr. HAYES, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. DENT, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. GILLMOR, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. HULSHOF, Mr. AKIN, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mrs. NORTHUP, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. TURNER, Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, Mr. NEY, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. PENCE, Mr. OTTER, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, Mr. NUSSLE, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. EVERETT, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. KLINE, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. LAHOOD.

H.R. 23: Mr. CAMP and Mr. TANCREDO.
H.R. 95: Ms. HERSETH.
H.R. 97: Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey.
H.R. 98: Ms. HARRIS and Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey.

H.R. 176: Ms. Velázquez.
H.R. 269: Mr. EHLERS and Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.

H.R. 303: Mr. TERRY.
H.R. 408: Mr. GIBBONS.
H.R. 515: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER and Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 543: Mr. BAKER.
H.R. 557: Mr. CALVERT and Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida.
H.R. 560: Mr. WATT.

H.R. 581: Mr. THOMPSON of California and Mr. PALLONE.

H.R. 602: Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. TANCREDO, and Mr. KUCINICH.

H.R. 687: Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida.

H.R. 713: Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 745: Mr. BOUSTANY.

H.R. 764: Ms. CARSON.

H.R. 783: Mr. OLVER and Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.

H.R. 801: Mr. LANTOS.

H.R. 827: Mr. CANTOR.

H.R. 839: Ms. LEE, Mr. STARK, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 896: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. LANTOS, and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.

H.R. 995: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 997: Mr. POMBO and Mr. REGULA.

H.R. 1002: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 1070: Mr. OTTER.

H.R. 1079: Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. GOODE, Mr. GUTKNECHT, and Mr. GOHMERT.

H.R. 1120: Mr. FOLEY and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 1175: Mr. ANDREWS.

H.R. 1188: Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 1219: Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina.

H.R. 1240: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 1242: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 1245: Mr. BASS and Mr. INSLIEE.

H.R. 1259: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. BARROW, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. ROSS, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.

H.R. 1298: Mr. RAHALL, Mrs. BONO, and Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia.

H.R. 1329: Mr. RANGEL and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 1366: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 1409: Mr. BERMAN and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 1421: Mr. BOOZMAN.

H.R. 1502: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 1510: Mr. KLINE.

H.R. 1566: Mr. COOPER.

H.R. 1588: Mr. BERMAN and Mr. BOYD.

H.R. 1602: Mr. REICHERT and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 1636: Mr. FILNER.

H.R. 1652: Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. BECERRA, and Mr. MENENDEZ.

H.R. 1688: Mr. ROTHMAN.

H.R. 1770: Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California.

H.R. 1898: Mr. CARDIN.

H.R. 1912: Mr. MCCAUL of Texas.

H.R. 1951: Mr. HOLT and Mr. HERGER.

H.R. 2047: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 2052: Mr. HOYER.

H.R. 2053: Mr. HOYER.

H.R. 2076: Mr. KUHL of New York and Mr. WOLF.

H.R. 2090: Mr. CASE.

H.R. 2206: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota and Mr. ETHERIDGE.

H.R. 2229: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.

H.R. 2238: Mr. BERRY.

H.R. 2325: Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 2331: Mr. TIERNEY.

H.R. 2335: Mr. TERRY.

H.R. 2498: Mr. JONES of North Carolina and Mr. CAMP.

H.R. 2534: Mr. PAUL and Mr. RADANOVICH.

H.R. 2646: Mr. OSBORNE.

H.R. 2680: Mr. ROSS and Ms. DELAURA.

H.R. 2730: Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. WEXLER, and Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2794: Mr. LINDER, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. GONZALEZ, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. HOLDEN, and Mr. GINGREY.

H.R. 2803: Mr. KLINE, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. SWEENEY, and Mr. KOLBE.

H.R. 2830: Mr. PRICE of Georgia.

H.R. 2874: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 2961: Mr. MCINTYRE and Mr. SANDERS.

H.R. 2962: Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. HEFLEY, and Mr. PASTOR.

H.R. 2963: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MCINTYRE, and Mr. HOLT.

H.R. 3037: Ms. BALDWIN.

H.R. 3095: Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California.

H.R. 3128: Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. MORAN of Virginia.

H.R. 3132: Mr. SHAW, Ms. HART, Mr. GOODE, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. OSBORNE,

Mr. WOLFF and Mr. REICHERT.

H.R. 3135: Mr. PAUL, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. MANZULLO, and Mr. GOODE.

H.R. 3144: Mr. MCCAUL of Texas.

H.R. 3146: Mr. WEXLER, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. ROTHMAN, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 3150: Mr. BACHUS.

H.R. 3162: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H.R. 3195: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.

H.R. 3205: Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. EMANUEL, and Mr. PICKERING.

H.R. 3252: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Ms. HART, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 3263: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. GOODE, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. DELAURA, Mr. FARR, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, and Mr. DOGGETT.

H.R. 3267: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.

H.R. 3323: Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. HOLDEN, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. WAMP, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. RYUN of Kansas, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. JENKINS, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. DAVIS of Florida, and Mr. OWENS.

H.R. 3361: Mr. MCCOTTER, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.

H.R. 3381: Mr. LEVIN.

H.R. 3406: Mr. ENGEL.

H.J. Res. 59: Mr. FARR.

H. Con. Res. 59: Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. CROWLEY, and Mr. LEVIN.

H. Con. Res. 85: Mr. ROTHMAN.

H. Con. Res. 181: Mr. GERLACH, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, and Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey.

H. Con. Res. 195: Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. COSTA, Mr. BARROW, Mr. DOYLE, and Mr. CAPUANO.

H. Res. 17: Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. HALL, Mr. CANNON, Mr. BUYER, and Mr. GALLEGLY.

H. Res. 97: Mr. MCCAUL of Texas.

H. Res. 180: Mr. MICHAUD.

H. Res. 357: Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H. Res. 360: Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. HALL, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. WEXLER, and Mr. BACHUS.

H. Res. 363: Mr. SANDERS and Mr. GUTIERREZ.

H. Res. 368: Mr. PALLONE, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. HOLT, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H. Res. 371: Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, and Mrs. DRAKE.

H. Res. 374: Mr. SERRANO, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. JINDAL, Mr. BEAUPREZ, Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan, Mr. SODREL, Mr. FEENEY, and Mr. PETRI.

H. Res. 375: Mr. SANDERS and Mrs. JONES of Ohio.

H. Res. 376: Mr. PITTS.