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WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2005

No. 155

Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, December 12, 2005, at 2 p.m.

House of Representatives

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2005

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 6, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN BOOZMAN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord our God, as the 109th Congress meets during these December days, be present to each of the Members of the House of Representatives.

Move within them and among them to grant great resolve, powerful direction, and a deep sense of accomplishment.

May their communal decisions and the laws enacted assure justice for Your people and lead this Nation with the whole world in the ways of peace.

For You, O Lord, will in the end be the ultimate judge of motivations and know the total effect of all our actions both 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 Colorado (Mr. UDALL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado 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.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 22, 2005.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on November 22, 2005, at 1:47 pm:

That the Senate passed without amendment H. Con. Res. 308.

That the Senate agreed to Conference Report H.R. 3058.

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 1815.

That the Senate passed S. 1042.

That the Senate passed S. 1043.

That the Senate passed S. 1044.

That the Senate passed S. 1045.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the Speaker signed the following enrolled bill on Friday, November 18, 2005:

H.R. 4133, to temporarily increase the borrowing authority of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for carrying out the national flood insurance program;

And Speaker pro tempore WOLF signed the following enrolled bills on Monday, November 28, 2005:

H.R. 680, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land held in trust for the Paiute Indian tribe of Utah to the City of Richfield, Utah, and for other purposes;

H.R. 2062, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 57 West Street in Newville, Pennsylvania, as the "Randall D. Shughart Post Office";

H.R. 2183, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 567 Tompkins Avenue in Staten Island, New York, as the "Vincent Palladino Post Office";

H.R. 2528, making appropriations for military quality of life functions of the Department of Defense, Military Construction, the Department of Veterans

□ 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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Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes;

H.R. 3058, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes;

H.R. 3853, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 208 South Main Street in Parkdale, Arkansas, as the Willie Vaughn Post Office;

H.R. 4145, to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to obtain a statue of Rosa Parks and to place the statue in the United States Capitol in National Statuary Hall, and for other purposes.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 1, 2005.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: It is with a heavy heart that I submit to you my resignation as a Member of the United States House of Representatives, effective close of business on Thursday, December 1, 2005. I am forwarding to you a copy of my letter of resignation to Governor Schwarzenegger.

I am resigning from the House of Representatives because I have discredited my high office and the party that I love. Not only have I compromised the trust of my constituents, I have misled my family, friends, and colleagues, staff and even myself. Mr. Speaker, I have the utmost respect for you and our colleagues and I am deeply sorry that I have shamed our great institution in this way.

Please accept my resignation as one of the many steps I now take to atone for my crimes.

Sincerely,
RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM,
U.S. Representative.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from California, the whole number of the House is 433.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHIEF OF STAFF OF HON. TOM DAVIS OF VIRGINIA, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from David Thomas, Chief of Staff of the Honorable TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Member of Congress:

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 28, 2005.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a subpoena for documents, issued by the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

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

Sincerely,

DAVID THOMAS,
Chief of Staff.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had the honor and privilege to host President George W. Bush in North Carolina's Fifth Congressional District. The President spoke about our country's impressive economic growth at the John Deere-Hitachi manufacturing plant in Kernersville.

We all have a lot to be grateful to our President for. Under his leadership, our economy is flourishing and getting stronger. In a report issued last week by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, our economy created 250,000 new jobs during the month of November. Over 4.4 million jobs have been created since May 2003.

Unemployment is down to 5 percent, which is lower than the average of the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. This is due to the hard work of the American people, lower taxes, legal reform, and less government interference into the lives of entrepreneurs and small business owners.

I am proud of President Bush's leadership and agenda for a strong economy. I will continue to work with him and the rest of my colleagues in the Congress to make tax relief permanent and exercise spending restraint.

UNWAVERING RESOLVE FOR FREEDOM

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, when the American Revolution arrived, Thomas Paine published these words in "The Crisis." In 1776 he talked about the Americans who go to war, the causes for which they fight, the conditions under which they wage war. He exhorted the soldiers and all Americans with these words: "These are the times that try men's souls: the summer soldier, the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of this country. But he that stands it now deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict the more glorious the triumph.

What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly. Heaven knows how to set a proper price on its goods; and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as freedom should not be highly rated."

So to America, we must have this unwavering resolve to finish the task before us. And to our troops, stand firm. Stand tall. Stand for freedom. Because we over here support you over there. And come home victorious for freedom when it's over over there. That's just the way it is.

ECONOMIC NUMBERS

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the third-quarter economic numbers released last week are worth noting. When you consider the total devastation inflicted on our gulf coast region, combined with the temporary spike in petroleum prices, the fact that our economy remains robust is a strong testament to our free-market policies and commitment to reducing the tax burden on all Americans.

The overall growth of the economy, measured in total gross domestic product, was even better than expected, growing at a rate of 4.3 percent, the 10th consecutive quarter of GDP growth above 3 percent. Heading into the Christmas shopping season, the consumer confidence index rose to 98.9 in November, up 14 points from the previous month.

In November alone, we added 215,000 jobs to our Nation's payrolls, a total of more than 4.4 million new jobs added since May. These numbers, along with the other positive indicators, should provide strong incentive to us this week as we take up legislation to extend expiring tax cuts.

PROGRESS IN IRAQ

(Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, since the defeat of Saddam Hussein in Iraq, we have seen political, security, and economic progress in a country that has suffered under tyranny for decades. In January, 8.5 million Iraqis voted in Iraq's first democratically elected government.

In October, the constitutional referendum, the turnout neared nearly 10 million; and since April 2003, Iraq has registered more than 30,000 new businesses.

Mr. Speaker, no war is without challenges, and the war on terror is no different. But to cut and run, as many of our colleagues are suggesting, would not only encourage our enemies; it will disillusion the Iraqi people, our allies, and the brave men and women in uniform risking their lives for this country every day.

The security of our Nation should be bigger than inside-the-Beltway partisan politics. We need to learn from the mistake of the past, stop talking about exit strategies, and keep talking about freedom, democracy, and victory.

DEMOCRATIC STRATEGY FOR IRAQ

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the Democrats' plan for Iraq. Last week, following the Thanksgiving holiday, I spent a considerable amount of my time with constituents listening to their concerns and discussing a whole array of issues from gas prices, to the new prescription drug benefit, to the war in Iraq.

However, Mr. Speaker, some on the other side of the aisle used their time parading on comedy shows decrying the current operation in Iraq and scoring big laughs at the expense of our troops. I believe this further undermines the argument of those who would claim that an immediate withdrawal from Iraq is a noble course of action.

During her big debut on "Comedy Central," the minority leader bragged that "60 percent of the House Democrats voted against the war to begin with," and compared to other Democrats, were "way ahead of the issue."

I imagine that statement probably does not sit well with our troops in the field. And, Mr. Speaker, for the other 40 percent of my Democratic colleagues who might also take exception to this statement, I recommend that they discuss their concern with the minority leader.

IRAQI PROGRESS

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, during August of 2003, I was with a bipartisan CODEL in Iraq. We were in one of Saddam Hussein's old bunkers and had a briefing from members of the Coalition Provisional Authority. United States State Department, General Sanchez, was there. They outlined their plan for reconstituting the Government of Iraq and civil society in Iraq.

This plan involved selecting Iraqi citizens to form an interim constitution leading to the institution of a provisional government, which would then set the stage for selecting representatives to the Transitional National Assembly, who would write the final Iraqi constitution which, after ratification, would culminate with the election of the new Iraqi government. All but the last step have now been accomplished, basically adhering to the time line set up by the administration, the only deviation being a somewhat condensing

of the timeline at the request of cleric al-Sistani.

There is no question that there are those in the country of Iraq who feel they would be better served by continued chaos in the region. This is not the position of most of the people who live in the country of Iraq. The insurgency, the terrorists, hold no tactical advantage. They hold no territory. This is a fight that they know they cannot win on tactical grounds.

The only way for us to lose this fight is to lose our political will at home. Our soldiers have done everything which we have asked. Congress should not desert them now.

□ 1415

PRESIDENT SETS TONE ON WAR IN IRAQ

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, some say the U.S. will not win in Iraq, but in the American political debate, we can do better than that.

Last week at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, the President of the United States did just that. President Bush delivered a forceful and effective defense of our strategy and the stakes facing our Nation in Iraq.

Along with thousands of other midshipmen, I had the privilege of joining the President that day, and I have to tell you, from inside the arena, it appeared that the President was both at ease and determined. He pounded the facts about enemy, their aims and our progress in Iraq into the American debate.

From the outset, the President set the tone defining the first war of the 21st Century with the declaration that the enemy must be defeated. He cited their war against humanity, while he released a recently declassified national strategy for victory, which Americans can read at WhiteHouse.gov.

For me, the central message came when the President said, "We will stay as long as necessary to complete the mission." This clarion call and the continued determination of the American people was timely and meaningful, and an important challenge to a Nation that believes in freedom and has always demonstrated throughout our history that when the mission is just and the mission is clear, Americans complete the mission.

SECURE BORDERS NOW

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, while home over the past 2 weeks, constituents kept asking me, when are we going to do something about illegal im-

migration? When are we going to take this problem seriously?

Congress should act now, and one thing is critically clear: Our borders must be secure. Before we do anything else, we must stop the flow of illegal immigrants, and this must be done now.

A hard deadline is important, a date after which we will tolerate no violation of the border, and that is exactly what H.R. 3693 does. It ought not be too much to ask to bring accountability to the prevention of illegal immigration.

For that is what it is all about, is it not? Accountability. Those who break our immigration laws should be held accountable. Those who hire illegal aliens should be held accountable. Those who turn the other way and claim there is no problem should be held accountable.

Mr. Speaker, we have a large and a growing crisis in our country. It is our responsibility to act on behalf of our constituents and our Nation. Simply put, if our borders are not secure, then our Nation is not secure. The time to act is now.

SUPPORTING HOPE FOR VISION

(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 in support of Hope for Vision, a dynamic new organization dedicated to raising awareness of retinal degenerative and other blinding diseases, to providing information to help those coping with vision loss and to developing the tools required to support funding for research.

The organization was founded by my dear friends and constituents, the Lidski family. The premise of Hope for Vision is that the American people can help speed the pace of development of treatments so that those losing sight will see again.

Each of the tens of millions of afflicted individuals in our great country has a community of friends and families and colleagues. Hope for Vision seeks to reach those communities and to enlist their support for their mission of vision.

I urge my colleagues to join me in spreading the uplifting mission of Hope for Vision until sight is a reality for all.

PROGRESS IN IRAQ

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, while President Bush clearly outlined his strategy for victory in Iraq last week, soldiers of the Second Iraqi Army Brigade were finishing their first day of independently conducting military activities in Hillah, Iraq. After undergoing extensive training and testing by coalition forces,

these soldiers have proven that they are capable of protecting and securing their country.

Each day, Iraqis are playing a larger role in ensuring that democracy and freedom prevail in their Nation. On December 15, over 225,000 Iraqi soldiers will be responsible for conducting security operations during Iraq's nationwide election.

The constant progress in Iraq could not be possible without the tremendous dedication of the men and women who wear the uniform of the United States military. Our troops understand the necessity of victory in the war on terrorism to protect American families.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). 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.

GATEWAY COMMUNITIES COOPERATION ACT

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 585) to require Federal land managers to support, and to communicate, coordinate, and cooperate with, designated gateway communities, to improve the ability of gateway communities to participate in Federal land management planning conducted by the Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior, and to respond to the impacts of the public use of the Federal lands administered by these agencies, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 585

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 "Gateway Communities Cooperation Act".

SEC. 2. IMPROVED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FEDERAL LAND MANAGERS AND GATEWAY COMMUNITIES TO SUP- PORT COMPATIBLE LAND MANAGE- MENT OF BOTH FEDERAL AND ADJA- CENT LANDS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Many communities that abut or are near Federal lands, including units of the National Park System, units of the National Wildlife Refuge System, units of the National Forest System, and lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management, are vitally impacted by the management and public use of these Federal lands.

(2) Some of these communities, commonly known as gateway communities, fulfill an integral part in the mission of the Federal lands by providing necessary services, such

as schools, roads, search and rescue, emergency service, medical support, logistical support, living quarters, and drinking water and sanitary systems for visitors to the Federal lands and employees of Federal land management agencies.

(3) Provision of these vital services by gateway communities is an essential ingredient for a meaningful and enjoyable experience by visitors to the Federal lands because Federal land management agencies are unable to provide, or are prevented from providing, these services.

(4) Many gateway communities serve as an entry point for persons who visit the Federal lands and are ideal for establishment of visitor services, including lodging, food service, fuel, auto repairs, emergency services, and visitor information.

(5) Development in some gateway communities may impact the management and protection of these Federal lands.

(6) The planning and management decisions of Federal land managers can have unintended consequences for gateway communities and the Federal lands when the decisions are not adequately communicated to, or coordinated with, the elected officials and residents of gateway communities.

(7) Experts in land management planning are available to Federal land managers, but persons with technical planning skills are often not readily available to gateway communities, particularly small gateway communities.

(8) Gateway communities are often affected by the policies and actions of several Federal land management agencies and the communities and the agencies would benefit from greater interagency coordination of those policies and actions.

(9) Persuading gateway communities to make decisions and undertake actions in their communities that would also be in the best interest of the Federal lands is most likely to occur when such decisionmaking and actions are built upon a foundation of cooperation and coordination.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to require Federal land managers to communicate, coordinate, and cooperate with gateway communities in order to—

(1) improve the relationships among Federal land managers, elected officials, and residents of gateway communities;

(2) enhance the facilities and services in gateway communities available to visitors to Federal lands when compatible with the management of these lands, including the availability of historical and cultural resources; and

(3) result in better local land use planning in gateway communities and decisions by the relevant Secretary.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—For the purpose of this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) GATEWAY COMMUNITY.—The term "gateway community" means a county, city, town, village, or other subdivision of a State, a federally recognized Indian tribe, or Alaska Native village, that—

(A) is incorporated or recognized in a county or regional land use plan or within tribal jurisdictional boundaries; and

(B) the relevant Secretary (or the head of the tourism office for the State) determines is significantly affected economically, socially, or environmentally by planning and management decisions regarding Federal lands administered by the relevant Secretary.

(2) RELEVANT SECRETARY.—The term "relevant Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture, as appropriate.

(d) PARTICIPATION IN FEDERAL PLANNING AND LAND USE.—

(1) PARTICIPATION IN PLANNING.—At the earliest possible time, the relevant Secretary shall solicit the involvement of elected and appointed officials of governments of gateway communities in the development of land use plans, programs, land use regulations, land use decisions, transportation plans, general management plans, and any other plans, decisions, projects, or policies for Federal lands under the jurisdiction of these Federal agencies that are likely to have a significant impact on these gateway communities.

(2) INFORMATION PROVIDED.—To facilitate such involvement, the relevant Secretary shall provide the appropriate officials, at the earliest possible time but not later than the scoping process, with the following:

(A) A summary, in nontechnical language, of the assumptions, purposes, goals, and objectives of the plan, decision, project, or policy.

(B) A description of any anticipated significant impact of the plan, decision, project, or policy on gateway communities.

(C) Information regarding the technical assistance and training available to the gateway community.

(3) TRAINING SESSIONS.—At the request of a gateway community, the relevant Secretary shall offer training sessions for elected and appointed officials of gateway communities at which such officials can obtain a better understanding of—

(A) the agency planning processes; and

(B) the methods by which they can participate most meaningfully in the development of the agency plans, decisions, and policies referred to in paragraph (1).

(4) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—At the request of a gateway community, the relevant Secretary shall make available personnel, on a temporary basis, to assist gateway communities in development of mutually compatible land use or management plans.

(5) COORDINATION OF LAND USE.—The relevant Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with gateway communities to coordinate the management of—

(A) the land use inventory, planning, and management activities for the Federal lands administered by the relevant Secretary; and

(B) the land use planning and management activities of other Federal agencies, agencies of the State in which the Federal lands are located, and local and tribal governments in the vicinity of the Federal lands.

(6) INTERAGENCY COOPERATION AND COORDINATION.—To the extent practicable, when the plans and activities of 2 or more Federal agencies are anticipated to have a significant impact on a gateway community, the Federal agencies involved shall consolidate and coordinate their plans and planning processes to facilitate the participation of affected gateway communities in the planning processes.

(7) TREATMENT AS COOPERATING AGENCIES.—To the earliest extent practicable, but not later than the scoping process, when a proposed action is determined to require an environmental impact statement, the relevant Secretary shall allow any affected gateway communities the opportunity to be recognized as cooperating agencies under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

SEC. 3. SUNSET.

The authority of the Secretary to carry out any provisions of this title shall terminate 10 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days 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 gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 585, the Gateway Communities Cooperation Act, introduced by me and amended by the Resources Committee, would facilitate better communication between and among the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture and those designated communities located adjacent to our Federal lands, which are commonly known as gateway communities.

These gateway communities are impacted by decisions made by managers of our public lands. The people in these communities fulfill an integral part in the mission of Federal lands by providing necessary services, such as schools, roads, search and rescue, emergency and medical support, drinking water and sanitary systems.

H.R. 585, as amended, would improve the relationship among Federal land managers, elected officials and residents of gateway communities, as well as enhance facilities and service available to visitors of our Federal lands. Additionally, the measure will improve the coordination of land use planning and decisions made by Federal land managers.

As the representative of Yosemite National Park here in Congress, I know how important coordination and communication is between Federal managers and the people living in the communities surrounding our national parks, forests and other Federal lands. This bill helps achieve a better relationship between these parties.

I urge adoption of the bill.

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

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. UDALL of Colorado asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, through four Congresses now, we have worked with outside groups and the agencies to address the flaws in this legislation as it was originally introduced. As in the previous Congress, we do not intend to impose this legislation.

However, the majority is amending H.R. 585 to remove authorize station for funding to assist these local gateway communities. It is unfortunate that as we are making available new information and technical assistance, we are not providing these commu-

nities the funding they will need to take advantage of these new opportunities.

As I have said, Mr. Speaker, we do not oppose H.R. 585.

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

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and 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. RADANOVICH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 585, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING FEASIBILITY STUDY WITH RESPECT TO MOKELUMNE RIVER

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3812) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to prepare a feasibility study with respect to the Mokelumne River, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3812

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

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF MOKELUMNE RIVER REGIONAL WATER STORAGE AND CONJUNCTIVE USE PROJECT STUDY.

Pursuant to the Reclamation Act of 1902 (32 Stat. 388) and Acts amendatory thereof and supplemental thereto, not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary"), through the Bureau of Reclamation, and in consultation and cooperation with the Mokelumne River Water and Power Authority, shall complete and submit to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate copies of a study to determine the feasibility of constructing a project to provide additional water supply and improve water management reliability through the development of new water storage and conjunctive use programs.

SEC. 2. USE OF REPORTS AND OTHER INFORMATION.

In developing the study under section 1, the Secretary shall use, as appropriate, reports and any other relevant information supplied by the Mokelumne River Water and Power Authority, the East Bay Municipal Utility District, and other Mokelumne River Forum stakeholders.

SEC. 3. COST SHARES.

(a) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the costs of the study conducted under this Act shall not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of the study.

(b) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—The Secretary shall accept, as appropriate, such in-kind contributions of goods or services from the Mokelumne River Water and Power Authority as the Secretary determines will contribute to the conduct and completion of the

study conducted under this Act. Goods and services accepted under this section shall be counted as part of the non-Federal cost share for the study.

SEC. 4. WATER RIGHTS.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to invalidate, preempt, or create any exception to State water law, State water rights, or Federal or State permitted activities or agreements.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$3,300,000 for the Federal cost share of the study conducted under this Act.

SEC. 6. SUNSET.

The authority of the Secretary to carry out any provisions of this Act shall terminate 10 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days 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 gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3812, introduced by the distinguished chairman of the Resources Committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO), authorizes a Federal feasibility study on creating more water storage.

Rapid population growth and salt intrusion into the underlying aquifer have prompted officials in San Joaquin County, California, to seek a more dependable and reliable water supply for the region. The study in this legislation will examine ways to capture flood flows from an area river in order to develop 65,000 acre feet of potential water supplies.

This water storage study will thoroughly examine all the issues surrounding the development of this new water resource, and expressly protects State water law and current permits and agreements. Above all, this legislation serves as the first step towards the development of much-needed water supplies.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

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

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. UDALL of Colorado asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, this bill would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to work with local interests to study possible

projects to stabilize groundwater levels in San Joaquin County, California.

I appreciate the efforts made by Chairman POMBO, the author of this bill, to accommodate the concerns of neighboring water users. Specifically, language in Section 2 of H.R. 3812 was carried forward from the 108th Congress to allow the participation of the East Bay Municipal Utility District and other stakeholders as this project moves forward.

Mr. Speaker, we have no objection to passage of this legislation.

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in favor of H.R. 3812, a bill authored because in San Joaquin County, California, water supplies are being depleted. The region suffers from highly significant groundwater overdraft and saline intrusion, affecting agricultural, residential and commercial water users. This bill provides a much needed solution to a growing problem. H.R. 3812 authorizes \$3.3 million in Federal funding to complete studies that will examine additional surface water supplies, and improve water supply reliability and environmental protection for the Bay-Delta Region. Led by the Bureau of Reclamation, the project's multi-year evaluation would involve the participation and cooperation of a wide range of regional stakeholders and would provide information important to statewide water resource and environmental protection efforts. Areas aided by this bill include Stockton, Lodi, Lockeford, Clements, Waterloo, Farmington, Linden, Wallace, Camp Seco and Valley Springs. A clean, safe water supply is essential to sustain our growing communities. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

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

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and 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. RADANOVICH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3812, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SOUTHERN OREGON BUREAU OF RECLAMATION REPAYMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4195) to authorize early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within Rogue River Valley Irrigation District or within Medford Irrigation District.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4195

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 "Southern Oregon Bureau of Reclamation Repayment Act of 2005".

SEC. 2. EARLY REPAYMENT.

Notwithstanding the provisions of section 213 of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (43 U.S.C. 390mm), any landowner within Rogue River Valley Irrigation District or within Medford Irrigation District, in Oregon, may repay, at any time, the construction costs of the project facilities allocated to that landowner's lands within the district in question. Upon discharge, in full, of the obligation for repayment of the construction costs allocated to all lands the landowner owns in the district in question, those lands shall not be subject to the ownership and full-cost pricing limitations of the Act of June 17, 1902 (43 U.S.C. 371 et seq.), and Acts supplemental to and amendatory of that Act, including the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (43 U.S.C. 390aa et seq.).

SEC. 3. LIMITATION.

Nothing herein modifies contractual rights that may exist between Rogue River Valley Irrigation District and Medford Irrigation District and the United States under their respective Reclamation contracts, or amends or reopens those contracts; nor does it modify any rights, obligations or relationships that may exist between the districts and their landowners as may be provided or governed by Oregon State law.

SEC. 4. CERTIFICATION.

Upon the request of a landowner who has repaid, in full, the construction costs of the project facilities allocated to that landowner's lands owned within the district, the Secretary of the Interior shall provide the certification provided for in subsection (b)(1) of section 213 of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 (43 U.S.C. 390mm(b)(1)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days 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 gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4195, sponsored by our colleague from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) allows for the early capital repayment costs of a Federal water project.

Under current law, two of the three irrigation districts receiving water from the Federal Rogue River project cannot repay the capital costs that they owe to the Federal Government. This bill gives the Bureau of Reclamation the ability to accept prepayment from these two water districts. This legislation benefits the American taxpayer because it allows early revenue to flow to the U.S. Treasury and helps the local landholders by reducing their debt and onerous paperwork requirements.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense bill.

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

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. UDALL of Colorado asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4195 will allow any landowner within the Rogue River Valley Irrigation District or the Medford Irrigation District to repay at any time the construction costs of the Federal Bureau of Reclamation project, from which the landholder receives irrigation water.

□ 1430

By prepaying their share of the remaining repayment obligation, landowners will be exempted from the acreage limitation and reporting requirements of reclamation law.

We on this side of the aisle have no objection to enactment of H.R. 4195.

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

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I have no speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4195.

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.

BEAVER COUNTY, UTAH REAL PROPERTY CONVEYANCE

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 52) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey a parcel of real property to Beaver County, Utah.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 52

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

SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE TO BEAVER COUNTY, UTAH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall, without consideration and subject to valid existing rights, convey to Beaver County, Utah (referred to in this Act as the "County"), all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the approximately 200 acres depicted as "Minersville State Park" on the map entitled "S. 2285, Minersville State Park" and dated April 30, 2004, for use for public recreation.

(b) RECONVEYANCE BY BEAVER COUNTY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), Beaver County may sell, for not less than fair market value, a portion of the property conveyed to the County under this section, if the proceeds of such sale are used by the County solely for maintenance of public recreation facilities located on the remainder of the property conveyed to the County under this section.

(2) LIMITATION.—If the County does not comply with the requirements of paragraph

(1) in the conveyance of the property under that paragraph—

(A) the County shall pay to the United States the proceeds of the conveyance; and

(B) the Secretary of the Interior may require that all property conveyed under subsection (a) (other than the property sold by the County under paragraph (1)) revert to the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days 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 gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 52, introduced by Senator HATCH, would convey the Minersville State Park to Beaver County, Utah. Representative CHRIS CANNON introduced the companion legislation in the House of Representatives, which has been approved by the Resources Committee.

Minersville State Park is currently owned by the Bureau of Land Management, but leased by the State of Utah for recreation. However, due to budgetary constraints and the park's loss of revenue, the State can no longer afford to manage the park. Considering its importance to the local community, Beaver County indicated its desire to own the park and, with title to the park, would have the flexibility to manage it in an economically feasible manner.

The State of Utah, the Bureau of Land Management, and Beaver County all strongly support this bill; and I urge passage of this noncontroversial measure.

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

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. UDALL of Colorado asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, normally, a proposal to turn over parkland free of charge would raise serious concerns, particularly when the proposal would also allow the new owner to sell off some of the land.

However, in this instance, we are convinced that Beaver County must have a revenue stream if they are to continue operating this local park. This is compromise legislation that will allow the county to sell some acreage in order to maintain the remainder as public open space.

Mr. Speaker, we do not oppose Senate bill 52.

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of S. 52, the Senate companion bill to an identical bill I introduced earlier this year. This legislation is important to my constituents, it would allow Beaver County, Utah to obtain and maintain the former Minersville State Park without restrictions.

This legislation would permit county officials to sell a small portion of this land to offset funding needed to operate and maintain the park.

In 1963, the BLM first granted a patent to Beaver County, Utah for the lands that are now part of Minersville State Park, and in 1964, title was transferred to the State of Utah Division of Parks and Recreation.

However, under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, Utah did not have authority to transfer title. Over the years, the State of Utah has made significant improvements to the Park, including building restrooms, campgrounds, a boat launch ramp, an entrance station, a pavilion and a maintenance building.

Under S. 52, Beaver County would be authorized to sell, at fair market value, portions of the property solely for maintenance and development of the recreational site.

Allowing the county this authority is vital to provide for adequate park maintenance. Currently, the park estimates that it is losing approximately \$90,000 annually.

This legislation gives Beaver County the necessary flexibility to generate revenue for continued use, without which Utah will be forced to close the park.

Minersville State Park is a beautiful recreational site and extremely important to the residents, my constituents, in the surrounding area. Passage of this bill will prevent the park from closing by enabling the county to maintain and operate the park.

S. 52 is important legislation to both Beaver County and to my state of Utah. This legislation passed the Senate unanimously both in the 108th Congress and in late July of this year.

I urge passage of this legislation, it will benefit Utahns and all those who wish to visit this park.

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

Mr. RADANOVICH. 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. RADANOVICH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 52.

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.

VALLES CALDERA PRESERVATION ACT OF 2005

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 212) to amend the Valles Caldera Preservation Act to improve the preservation of the Valles Caldera, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 212

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 "Valles Caldera Preservation Act of 2005".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE VALLES CALDERA PRESERVATION ACT.

(a) ACQUISITION OF OUTSTANDING MINERAL INTERESTS.—Section 104(e) of the Valles Caldera Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 698v-2(e)) is amended—

(1) by striking "The acquisition" and inserting the following:

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The acquisition";

(2) by striking "The Secretary" and inserting the following:

"(2) ACQUISITION.—The Secretary";

(3) by striking "on a willing seller basis";

(4) by striking "Any such" and inserting the following:

"(3) ADMINISTRATION.—Any such"; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

"(4) AVAILABLE FUNDS.—Any such interests shall be acquired with available funds.

"(5) DECLARATION OF TAKING.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—If negotiations to acquire the interests are unsuccessful by the date that is 60 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary shall acquire the interests pursuant to section 3114 of title 40, United States Code.

"(B) SOURCE OF FUNDS.—Any difference between the sum of money estimated to be just compensation by the Secretary and the amount awarded shall be paid from the permanent judgment appropriation under section 1304 of title 31, United States Code."

(b) OBLIGATIONS AND EXPENDITURES.—Section 106(e) of the Valles Caldera Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 698v-4(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(4) OBLIGATIONS AND EXPENDITURES.—Subject to the laws applicable to Government corporations, the Trust shall determine—

"(A) the character of, and the necessity for, any obligations and expenditures of the Trust; and

"(B) the manner in which obligations and expenditures shall be incurred, allowed, and paid."

(c) SOLICITATION OF DONATIONS.—Section 106(g) of the Valles Caldera Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 698v-4(g)) is amended by striking "The Trust may solicit" and inserting "The members of the Board of Trustees, the executive director, and 1 additional employee of the Trust in an executive position designated by the Board of Trustees or the executive director may solicit".

(d) USE OF PROCEEDS.—Section 106(h)(1) of the Valles Caldera Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 698v-4(h)(1)) is amended by striking "subsection (g)" and inserting "subsection (g), from claims, judgments, or settlements arising from activities occurring on the Baca Ranch or the Preserve after October 27, 1999."

SEC. 3. BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

Section 107(e) of the Valles Caldera Preservation Act (U.S.C. 698v-5(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking "Trustees" and inserting "Except as provided in paragraph (3), trustees"; and

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by striking "Trustees" and inserting the following:

"(A) SELECTION.—Trustees"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(B) COMPENSATION.—On request of the chair, the chair may be compensated at a rate determined by the Board of Trustees, but not to exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of pay for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (including travel time) in which the chair is engaged in the performance of duties of the Board of Trustees.

"(C) MAXIMUM RATE OF PAY.—The total amount of compensation paid to the chair

for a fiscal year under subparagraph (B) shall not exceed 25 percent of the annual rate of pay for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code.”.

SEC. 4. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT.

(a) PROPERTY DISPOSAL LIMITATIONS.—Section 108(c)(3) of the Valles Caldera Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 698v-6(c)(3)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by striking “The Trust may not dispose” and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Trust may not dispose”;

(2) in the second sentence, by striking “The Trust” and inserting the following:

“(B) MAXIMUM DURATION.—The Trust”;

(3) in the last sentence, by striking “Any such” and inserting the following:

“(C) TERMINATION.—The”;

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) EXCLUSIONS.—For the purposes of this paragraph, the disposal of real property does not include the sale or other disposal of forage, forest products, or marketable renewable resources.”.

(b) LAW ENFORCEMENT AND FIRE MANAGEMENT.—Section 108(g) of the Valles Caldera Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 698v-6(g)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by striking “The Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(1) LAW ENFORCEMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”;

(2) in the second sentence, by striking “The Trust” and inserting the following:

“(B) FEDERAL AGENCY.—The Trust”;

(3) by striking “At the request of the Trust” and all that follows through the end of the paragraph and inserting the following:

“(2) FIRE MANAGEMENT.—

“(A) NON-REIMBURSABLE SERVICES.—

“(i) DEVELOPMENT OF PLAN.—The Secretary shall, in consultation with the Trust, develop a plan to carry out fire preparedness, suppression, and emergency rehabilitation services on the Preserve.

“(ii) CONSISTENCY WITH MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.—The plan shall be consistent with the management program developed pursuant to subsection (d).

“(iii) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—To the extent generally authorized at other units of the National Forest System, the Secretary shall provide the services to be carried out pursuant to the plan under a cooperative agreement entered into between the Secretary and the Trust.

“(B) REIMBURSABLE SERVICES.—To the extent generally authorized at other units of the National Forest System, the Secretary may provide presuppression and non-emergency rehabilitation and restoration services for the Trust at any time on a reimbursable basis.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days 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 gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

S. 212 was introduced by Senators DOMENICI and BINGAMAN to improve the management of the Valles Caldera National Preserve. In 2000, Congress passed the Valles Caldera Preservation Act, which acquired the Baca Ranch and directed the Secretary of Agriculture to manage it as a preserve.

While mostly successful, there have been some challenges to implementing the law. As a result, S. 212 was introduced to address these challenges and clarify the original intent of the act. Furthermore, it will ensure that the act is fully implemented in a cost-efficient manner.

I support this important legislation.

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

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. UDALL of Colorado asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, my good friend from California has already explained the purpose of Senate bill 212, which is a Senate-passed measure dealing with a conservation unit located in the district of the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), my colleague and cousin.

The Valles Caldera National Preserve, formerly known as the Baca Ranch, was authorized by Congress in 2000 to preserve certain natural, cultural, and recreational resources through a unique management arrangement. Since its establishment, the preserve has undergone some growing pains, which the provisions of S. 212 are intended to help address.

I want to commend the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) for his work and active support in helping to see that the Valles Caldera National Preserve achieves the purposes for which it was established.

Mr. Speaker, we support Senate bill 212 and urge adoption of the legislation by the House today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield so much time as he may consume to the gentleman from the great State of New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), my cousin.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Colorado yielding.

I rise today in support of the Valles Caldera Preservation Act of 2005. The original Valles Caldera Preservation Act was enacted in the 106th Congress and was signed into law on July 25, 2000.

This act directed the Forest Service to acquire the private Baca Ranch in northern New Mexico, which comprises nearly 95,000 acres. The United States acquired the entire surface estate and an undivided 87½ percent of the mineral estate. Third parties currently hold the outstanding 12½ percent of the mineral interest.

The original act directed the Forest Service to negotiate with the outstanding mineral interest owners for the acquisition of their interests. Un-

fortunately, there is a sizeable difference in what the Forest Service and the mineral rights owners believe to be the fair market value of the outstanding mineral interests; and for the past 5 years, there has been no significant effort to resolve the problem.

I believe that Senate bill 212, sponsored by Senators DOMENICI and BINGAMAN, and passed by the other Chamber on July 26, 2005, provides a reasonable method for resolving the differences in a timely fashion through a condemnation process. The outstanding mineral interest owners have advised each of us that they are in full support of the Senate bill.

The Senate bill, in addition to addressing the outstanding mineral interests, also addresses several issues that have been raised with respect to the administration of the trust. It is my belief that the bill appropriately provides for concerns of the Valles Caldera trust and the administration of the Baca Ranch in furthering the purposes for which these lands were acquired 4 years ago.

I urge my colleagues to support Senate bill 212, the Valles Caldera Preservation Act of 2005.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RADANOVICH. 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. RADANOVICH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 212.

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.

INDIAN PUEBLO LAND ACT AMENDMENTS

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 279) to amend the Act of June 7, 1924, to provide for the exercise of criminal jurisdiction.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 279

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

SECTION 1. INDIAN PUEBLO LAND ACT AMENDMENTS.

The Act of June 7, 1924 (43 Stat. 636, chapter 331), is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 20. CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided by Congress, jurisdiction over offenses committed anywhere within the exterior boundaries of any grant from a prior sovereign, as confirmed by Congress or the Court of Private Land Claims to a Pueblo Indian tribe of New Mexico, shall be as provided in this section.

“(b) JURISDICTION OF THE PUEBLO.—The Pueblo has jurisdiction, as an act of the Pueblos’ inherent power as an Indian tribe,

over any offense committed by a member of the Pueblo or an Indian as defined in title 25, sections 1301(2) and 1301(4), or by any other Indian-owned entity.

“(c) JURISDICTION OF THE UNITED STATES.—The United States has jurisdiction over any offense described in chapter 53 of title 18, United States Code, committed by or against an Indian as defined in title 25, sections 1301(2) and 1301(4) or any Indian-owned entity, or that involves any Indian property or interest.

“(d) JURISDICTION OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO.—The State of New Mexico shall have jurisdiction over any offense committed by a person who is not a member of a Pueblo or an Indian as defined in title 25, sections 1301(2) and 1301(4), which offense is not subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days 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 gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. RADANOVICH. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 279, a bill sponsored by Senator DOMENICI, clarifies the uncertainty and potential law enforcement jurisdiction problems on all 19 Indian Pueblo reservations in the State of New Mexico.

From 1913 to 2001, the United States Government prosecuted crimes committed by or against the New Mexico Pueblo Indians within the exterior boundaries of their reservation lands in the State of New Mexico. However, in 2001, a Federal judge, relying on a case about tribal jurisdiction in the State of Alaska, ruled that felonies committed by Indians on private lands within the boundaries of New Mexico Pueblos are not subject to Federal jurisdiction. The U.S. Attorney for New Mexico did not appeal the decision and, therefore, has failed to prosecute any felonies by or against Indians on these lands.

At the same time that the Federal Government was declining to prosecute any felonies on Indian Pueblo lands, a New Mexico State court ruled that the State of New Mexico lacked jurisdiction to prosecute felonies committed by an Indian defendant against a non-Indian on private lands within the Pueblos. As a result, there is currently a large void in criminal jurisdiction at the Federal, State, and tribal levels.

S. 279 corrects this void of jurisdiction by clarifying that, one, the United States will have jurisdiction over crimes defined under the Major Crimes Act committed by or against any Indian; two, the State of New Mexico will have jurisdiction clarified as to non-

member Indians or non-Indians for all non-Major Crimes Act offenses; and, three, the New Mexico Pueblo governments will have jurisdiction over their individual members or other Indians for other offenses.

S. 279 enjoys bipartisan support and has the support of the entire New Mexico delegation. I look forward to passing this necessary legislation and urge its timely enactment in this session.

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

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. UDALL of Colorado asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation and to pay particular tribute to our colleague from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL). Mr. UDALL introduced a companion bill as H.R. 600, and he has been a true champion for passage of this important legislation. He has worked tirelessly to impress upon us the urgency and the timeliness of these provisions.

Once enacted, as my good friend from California pointed out, this language will clarify the boundaries of criminal jurisdiction among the State, county, and tribal governments for lands on and near the New Mexico Pueblos.

As a result of some recent court decisions in New Mexico, certain Indian lands have gone without any government protection from criminal acts. As the former Attorney General of New Mexico, Mr. UDALL understands fully that this put Native Americans in his district in a very perilous position.

I congratulate the gentleman from New Mexico for his tenacity in getting this issue to the forefront and commend him on the humility he showed in insisting the Senate bill be moved, rather than his own, in order to more quickly enact the legislation. Knowing him as I do, I am not surprised that he put doing the right thing for the Pueblos of New Mexico far ahead of scoring political points.

I strongly support this bill and urge all of our colleagues to support passage of Senate bill 279.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL).

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Senate bill 279, legislation that amends the Indian Pueblo Land Act of June 7, 1924, to provide for the exercise of criminal jurisdiction within the exterior boundaries of Pueblo lands. Earlier this session, I introduced a companion to this bill on behalf of myself and cosponsors HEATHER WILSON and STEVAN PEARCE.

This legislation addresses confusion over criminal jurisdiction on Pueblo lands in New Mexico that arose out of the holding in *United States v. Jose Gutierrez*, an unreported decision of a Federal district court judge in the district of New Mexico that overturned

prior precedent regarding the jurisdictional status of the lands within the exterior boundaries of Pueblo grants.

The Gutierrez decision created uncertainty and the potential for a void in criminal jurisdiction on Pueblo lands. Some call these prosecution-free zones. Because of the risk to public safety and law enforcement arising out of this uncertainty, it is important that we clarify the scope of criminal jurisdiction on Pueblo lands.

Nothing in this legislative clarification is intended to diminish the scope of Pueblo civil jurisdiction within the exterior boundaries of Pueblo grants, which is defined by Federal and tribal laws and court decisions.

□ 1445

This legislation also does not, in any way, diminish the exterior boundaries of these grants. The All-Indian Pueblo Council of the 19 Pueblo Governors has agreed to the language included in this legislation. The governors recognize the urgency of this matter and have come to Congress asking that we do everything in our power to avoid the unfathomable situation of creating places in New Mexico where someone could literally get away with murder. We here in Congress must also recognize the urgency of this situation and take action to address it.

By closing the criminal jurisdictional loophole, we have opened the doors to justice for victims and their families. The Pueblo members and victims who fought for this legislation have demonstrated an unrelenting dedication to change the system for the better, and in doing so, they have ensured that others will never face the same scary situation.

I want to thank all the New Mexicans who fought for this legislation. I also sincerely appreciate the work of my colleagues Representatives HEATHER WILSON and STEVAN PEARCE in the House and Senators DOMENICI and BINGAMAN.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 279.

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.

PITKIN COUNTY LAND EXCHANGE ACT OF 2005

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1129) to authorize the exchange of certain land in the State of Colorado, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1129

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 "Pitkin County Land Exchange Act of 2005".

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to authorize, direct, expedite, and facilitate the exchange of land between the United States, Pitkin County, Colorado, and the Aspen Valley Land Trust.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ASPEN VALLEY LAND TRUST.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "Aspen Valley Land Trust" means the Aspen Valley Land Trust, a nonprofit organization as described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term "Aspen Valley Land Trust" includes any successor, heir, or assign of the Aspen Valley Land Trust.

(2) COUNTY.—The term "County" means Pitkin County, a political subdivision of the State of Colorado.

(3) FEDERAL LAND.—The term "Federal land" means the land directed for exchange between the United States Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and Pitkin County under this Act that is comprised of the following parcels:

(A) The approximately 5.5 acres of National Forest System land located in the County, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Ryan Land Exchange-Wildwood Parcel Conveyance to Pitkin County" and dated August 2004.

(B) The 12 parcels of National Forest System land located in the County totaling approximately 5.92 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Ryan Land Exchange-Smuggler Mountain Patent Remnants Conveyance to Pitkin County" and dated August 2004.

(C) The approximately 40 acres of Bureau of Land Management land located in the County, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Ryan Land Exchange-Crystal River Parcel Conveyance to Pitkin County" and dated August 2004.

(4) NON-FEDERAL LAND.—The term "non-Federal land" means the land directed for exchange between Pitkin County and the United States Forest Service under this Act that is comprised of the following parcels:

(A) The approximately 35 acres of non-Federal land in the County, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Ryan Land Exchange-Ryan Property Conveyance to Forest Service" and dated August 2004.

(B) The approximately 18.2 acres of non-Federal land located on Smuggler Mountain in the County, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Ryan Land Exchange-Smuggler Mountain-Grand Turk and Pontiac Claims Conveyance to Forest Service".

(5) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture.

SEC. 4. LAND EXCHANGE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—If the County offers to convey to the United States title to the non-Federal land that is acceptable to the Secretary, the Secretary and the Secretary of the Interior shall—

(1) accept the offer; and

(2) on receipt of acceptable title to the non-Federal land, simultaneously convey to the County, or at the request of the County, to the Aspen Valley Land Trust, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Federal land, subject to all valid existing rights and encumbrances.

(b) TIMING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), it is the intent of Congress that the land exchange directed by this Act shall be completed not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary, the Secretary of the Interior, and the County may agree to extend the deadline specified in paragraph (1).

SEC. 5. EXCHANGE TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

(a) EQUAL VALUE EXCHANGE.—The value of the Federal land and non-Federal land directed to be exchanged under this Act—

(1) shall be equal; or

(2) shall be made equal in accordance with subsection (c).

(b) APPRAISALS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The value of the Federal land and non-Federal land shall be determined by the Secretary through appraisals conducted in accordance with—

(A) the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions;

(B) the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice; and

(C) Forest Service appraisal instructions.

(2) VALUE OF CERTAIN FEDERAL LAND.—In conducting the appraisal of the parcel of Federal land described in section 3(3)(C), the appraiser shall not consider the easement required for that parcel under subsection (d)(1) for purposes of determining the value of that parcel.

(c) EQUALIZATION OF VALUES.—

(1) SURPLUS OF NON-FEDERAL LAND.—If the final appraised value of the non-Federal land exceeds the final appraised value of the Federal land, the County shall donate to the United States the excess value of the non-Federal land, which shall be considered to be a donation for all purposes of law.

(2) SURPLUS OF FEDERAL LAND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If the final appraised value of the Federal land exceeds the final appraised value of the non-Federal land, the value of the Federal land and non-Federal land may be equalized by the County—

(i) making a cash equalization payment to the Secretary;

(ii) conveying to the Secretary certain land located in the County, comprising approximately 160 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled "Sellar Park Parcel" and dated August 2004; or

(iii) using a combination of the methods described in clauses (i) and (ii), as the Secretary and the County determine to be appropriate.

(B) DISPOSITION AND USE OF PROCEEDS.—

(i) DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS.—Any cash equalization payment received by the Secretary under subparagraph (A)(i) shall be deposited in the fund established by Public Law 90-171 (commonly known as the "Sisk Act") (16 U.S.C. 484a).

(ii) USE OF PROCEEDS.—Amounts deposited under clause (i) shall be available to the Secretary, without further appropriation, for the acquisition of land or interests in lands in Colorado for addition to the National Forest System.

(d) CONDITIONS ON CERTAIN CONVEYANCES.—

(1) CONDITIONS ON CONVEYANCE OF CRYSTAL RIVER PARCEL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall not convey to the County the parcel of land described in section 3(3)(C) until the County grants to the Aspen Valley Land Trust, the Roaring Fork Conservancy, or any other entity acceptable to the Secretary of the Interior and the County, a permanent conservation easement to the parcel, the terms of which—

(i)(I) provide public access to the parcel; and

(II) require that the parcel shall be used only for recreational, fish and wildlife conservation, and open space purposes; and

(ii) are acceptable to the Secretary of the Interior.

(B) REVERSION.—In the deed of conveyance that conveys the parcel of land described in section 3(3)(C) to the County, the Secretary of the Interior shall provide that title to the parcel shall, at the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior, revert to the United States at no cost to the United States if—

(i) the parcel is used for a purpose other than that described in subparagraph (A)(i)(II); or

(ii) the County or the entity holding the conservation easement elect to discontinue administering the parcel.

(2) CONDITIONS ON CONVEYANCE OF WILDWOOD PARCEL.—In the deed of conveyance of the parcel described in section 3(3)(A) to the County, or at the request of the County, to the Aspen Valley Land Trust, the Secretary shall, as determined appropriate by the Secretary in consultation with the County, reserve to the United States a permanent easement to the parcel for the location, construction and public use of the East of Aspen Trail.

SEC. 6. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

(a) INCORPORATION, MANAGEMENT, AND STATUS OF ACQUIRED LAND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Land acquired by the Secretary under this Act shall become part of the White River National Forest.

(2) MANAGEMENT.—On acquisition, land acquired by the Secretary under this Act shall be administered in accordance with the laws (including rules and regulations) generally applicable to the National Forest System.

(3) LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND.—For purposes of section 7 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601-9), the boundaries of the White River National Forest shall be deemed to be the boundaries of the White River National Forest as of January 1, 1965.

(b) REVOCATION OF ORDERS AND WITHDRAWAL.—

(1) REVOCATION OF ORDERS.—Any public orders withdrawing any of the Federal land from appropriation or disposal under the public land laws are revoked to the extent necessary to permit disposal of the Federal land.

(2) WITHDRAWAL OF FEDERAL LAND.—On the date of enactment of this Act, if not already withdrawn or segregated from entry and appropriation under the public land laws (including the mining and mineral leasing laws) and the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), the Federal land is withdrawn, subject to valid existing rights, until the date of the conveyance of the Federal land to the County.

(3) WITHDRAWAL OF NON-FEDERAL LAND.—On acquisition of the non-Federal land by the Secretary, the non-Federal land is permanently withdrawn from all forms of appropriation and disposition under the public land laws (including the mining and mineral leasing laws) and the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.).

(c) BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS.—The Secretary with jurisdiction over the land and the County may agree to—

(1) minor adjustments to the boundaries of the Federal land and non-Federal land parcels; and

(2) modifications or deletions of parcels and mining claim remnants of Federal land or non-Federal land to be exchanged on Smuggler Mountain.

(d) MAP.—If there is a discrepancy between a map, acreage estimate, and legal or other description of the land to be exchanged under this Act, the map shall prevail unless the Secretary with jurisdiction over the land and the County agree otherwise.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1129, introduced by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL), would authorize a small land exchange in Pitkin County, Colorado, between the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, and Pitkin County. The bill would transfer 35 acres, once a part of the Ryan Ranch, in White River National Forest, to the Forest Service. This property is nearly surrounded by public land and valued by the communities as open space. In exchange, the county would acquire 5.5 acres known as the Wildwood parcel from the Forest Service and a total of 45.92 acres from the Bureau of Land Management consisting of mining claims and land along the Crystal River. The BLM parcels about county land, and the Crystal River land will be subject to permanent conservation easement for public access.

The exchange is strongly supported by local officials and would help consolidate public and private ownership of Pitkin County.

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

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I obviously rise in support of this bill which I introduced, and which is cosponsored by my colleague from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR). I want to thank Chairman POMBO and Ranking Member RAHALL, as well as Subcommittee Chairman WALDEN and Ranking Member TOM UDALL for making it possible for this bill to be on the floor today.

The bill provides for completion of the land exchange that involves Pitkin County, Colorado, on the one hand and two Federal agencies, the Forest Service and the BLM, on the other.

Under the exchange, the County will transfer two parcels to the Forest Service, a 5-acre tract known as the Ryan property, near the ghost town of Ashcroft; and in addition, about 18.2 acres on Smuggler Mountain near Aspen, Colorado. These acquisitions will complete the Ashcroft Preservation Project, which was initiated by the Forest Service in 1980 to consolidate its National Forest land ownership in and around the historic ghost town of Ashcroft.

They will also help the Forest Service better manage its lands on Smuggler Mountain, a heavily used recreational area directly above the City of Aspen.

In return, the Federal Government will transfer to the County; first, a 5.5 acre tract south of Aspen known as the Wildwood parcel, which the county in turn will transfer to private ownership after reserving a permanent public easement for a trail.

Second, nearly 6 acres, spread over 12 scattered locations on Smuggler Mountain that abut or are near lands owned by the county.

And, finally, a 40-acre tract of BLM land along the Crystal River, which will be subject to a permanent conservation easement limiting future use to recreational, fish and wildlife, and open-space purposes.

The bill, Mr. Speaker, requires standard appraisals of all properties involved. It provides that if the lands going to the county are worth less than what the county is giving to the Federal Government, the county will waive additional payment. On the other hand, if the lands provided by the county are worth less than those the county is to receive, the county will either pay cash to equalize or convey an additional tract of about 160 acres in the Sellers' Meadow area near Hagerman Pass to make up the difference.

A similar measure, Senate bill 100, has been introduced by Colorado's Senators. I think the bill is fair and balanced, and I am not aware of any controversy connected with it. I urge its passage.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, it is clear that the leadership and energy of my colleague from the west slope of Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR), who represents this beautiful part of our State, are a key part of why this bill is in front us today, and I want to commend him for his involvement and ask the other body to take this up with dispatch.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1129, the "Pitkin County Land Exchange Act", is a good bill that will bring an end to a longstanding land exchange issue.

The proposed exchange will transfer to Pitkin County a key scenic parcel along the Crystal River.

This key parcel is one of the scenic gems of the Roaring Fork Valley and deserves to be protected in its natural state.

Pitkin County, Colorado is an area of intense development and this exchange will help ensure their popular open space preservation efforts can continue.

Not only does this bill have the support of the Pitkin County Commissioners, but also many other community groups.

This land exchange is also in the best interest of the public to help ensure some of the most beautiful pristine areas stay undeveloped.

This is a good bill and I ask my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1129, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 136) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide supplemental funding and other services that are necessary to assist certain local school districts in the State of California in providing educational services for students attending schools located within Yosemite National Park, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to adjust the boundaries of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, to adjust the boundaries of Redwood National Park, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 136

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

SECTION 1. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Table of contents.

TITLE I—YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK AUTHORIZED PAYMENTS

Sec. 102. Payments for educational services.

Sec. 103. Authorization for park facilities to be located outside the boundaries of Yosemite National Park.

TITLE II—RANCHO CORRAL DE TIERRA GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT

Sec. 201. Short title.

Sec. 202. Golden Gate National Recreation Area, California.

TITLE III—REDWOOD NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT

Sec. 301. Short title.

Sec. 302. Redwood National Park boundary adjustment.

TITLE I—YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK AUTHORIZED PAYMENTS

SEC. 101. PAYMENTS FOR EDUCATIONAL SERVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) For fiscal years 2006 through 2009, the Secretary of the Interior may provide funds to the Bass Lake Joint Union Elementary School District and the Mariposa Unified School District in the State of California for educational services to students—

(A) who are dependents of persons engaged in the administration, operation, and maintenance of Yosemite National Park; or

(B) who live within or near the park upon real property owned by the United States.

(2) The Secretary's authority to make payments under this section shall terminate if the State of California or local education agencies do not continue to provide funding to the schools referred to in subsection (a) at per student levels that are no less than the amount provided in fiscal year 2005.

(b) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.—Payments made under this section shall only be used to pay public employees for educational services provided in accordance with subsection (a). Payments may not be used for construction, construction contracts, or major capital improvements.

(c) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT OF FUNDS.—Payments made under this section shall not exceed the lesser of—

(1) \$400,000 in any fiscal year; or

(2) the amount necessary to provide students described in subsection (a) with educational services that are normally provided and generally available to students who attend public schools elsewhere in the State of California.

(d) SOURCE OF PAYMENTS.—(1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the Secretary may use funds available to the National Park Service from appropriations, donations, or fees.

(2) Funds from the following sources shall not be used to make payments under this section:

(A) Any law authorizing the collection or expenditure of entrance or use fees at units of the National Park System, including—

(i) the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601-4 et seq.); and

(ii) the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801 et seq.).

(B) Any unexpended receipts collected through—

(i) the recreational fee demonstration program established under section 315 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996 (16 U.S.C. 4601-6a note; Public Law 104-134); or

(ii) the national park passport program established under section 602 of the National Parks Omnibus Management Act of 1998 (16 U.S.C. 5992).

(C) Emergency appropriations for flood recovery at Yosemite National Park.

(3)(A) The Secretary may use an authorized funding source to make payments under this section only if the funding available to Yosemite National Park from such source (after subtracting any payments to the school districts authorized under this section) is greater than or equal to the amount made available to the park for the prior fiscal year, or in fiscal year 2005, whichever is greater.

(B) It is the sense of Congress that any payments made under this section should not result in a reduction of funds to Yosemite National Park from any specific funding source, and that with respect to appropriated funds, funding levels should reflect annual increases in the park's operating base funds that are generally made to units of the National Park System.

SEC. 102. AUTHORIZATION FOR PARK FACILITIES TO BE LOCATED OUTSIDE THE BOUNDARIES OF YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK.

(a) FUNDING AUTHORITY FOR TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS AND EXTERNAL FACILITIES.—Section 814(c) of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (16 U.S.C. 346e) is amended—

(1) in the heading by inserting “AND YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK” after “ZION NATIONAL PARK”;

(2) in the first sentence—

(A) by inserting “and Yosemite National Park” after “Zion National Park”; and

(B) by inserting “for transportation systems or” after “appropriated funds”; and

(3) in the second sentence by striking “facilities” and inserting “systems or facilities”.

(b) CLARIFYING AMENDMENT FOR TRANSPORTATION FEE AUTHORITY.—Section 501 of the National Parks Omnibus Management Act of 1998 (16 U.S.C. 5981) is amended in the first sentence by striking “service contract” and inserting “service contract, cooperative agreement, or other contractual arrangement”.

TITLE II—RANCHO CORRAL DE TIERRA GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Rancho Corral de Tierra Golden Gate National Recreation Area Boundary Adjustment Act”.

SEC. 202. GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA, CALIFORNIA.

Section 2(a) of Public Law 92-589 (16 U.S.C. 460bb-1(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking “The recreation area shall comprise” and inserting the following:

“(1) INITIAL LANDS.—The recreation area shall comprise”; and

(2) by striking “The following additional lands are also” and all that follows through the period at the end of the subsection and inserting the following new paragraphs:

“(2) ADDITIONAL LANDS.—In addition to the lands described in paragraph (1), the recreation area shall include the following:

“(A) The parcels numbered by the Assessor of Marin County, California, 119-040-04, 119-040-05, 119-040-18, 166-202-03, 166-010-06, 166-010-07, 166-010-24, 166-010-25, 119-240-19, 166-010-10, 166-010-22, 119-240-03, 119-240-51, 119-240-52, 119-240-54, 166-010-12, 166-010-13, and 119-235-10.

“(B) Lands and waters in San Mateo County generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Sweeney Ridge Addition, Golden Gate National Recreation Area’, numbered NRA GG-80,000-A, and dated May 1980.

“(C) Lands acquired under the Golden Gate National Recreation Area Addition Act of 1992 (16 U.S.C. 460bb-1 note; Public Law 102-299).

“(D) Lands generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Additions to Golden Gate National Recreation Area’, numbered NPS-80-076, and dated July 2000/PWR-PLRPC.

“(E) Lands generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Rancho Corral de Tierra Additions to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area’, numbered NPS-80,079E, and dated March 2004.

“(3) ACQUISITION LIMITATION.—The Secretary may acquire land described in paragraph (2)(E) only from a willing seller.”.

TITLE III—REDWOOD NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Redwood National Park Boundary Adjustment Act of 2005”.

SEC. 302. REDWOOD NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.

Section 2(a) of the Act of Public Law 90-545 (16 U.S.C. 79b(a)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by striking “(a) The area” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following:

“(a)(1) The Redwood National Park consists of the land generally depicted on the map entitled ‘Redwood National Park, Revised Boundary’, numbered 167/60502, and dated February, 2003.”;

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) (as designated by paragraph (1)) the following:

“(2) The map referred to in paragraph (1) shall be—

“(A) on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service; and

“(B) provided by the Secretary of the Interior to the appropriate officers of Del Norte and Humboldt Counties, California.”; and

(3) in the second sentence—

(A) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(3) The Secretary;” and

(B) by striking “one hundred and six thousand acres” and inserting “133,000 acres”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Mem-

bers may have 5 legislative days 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 gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, S. 136, introduced by Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN of California, would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to adjust the southern boundary of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and adjust the boundary of the Redwood National State Park to include new lands acquired by the State of California. In addition, S. 136 contains a provision providing supplemental funding and other services necessary to assist three schools in my congressional district located within Yosemite National Park.

These three schools serve the children of Yosemite National Park, the Park Service, and concession employees, and the schools are located a significant distance from other public schools in Mariposa and Madera counties. Because the schools are small, and California bases its State funding on the number of students, the schools do not receive sufficient State funds to operate.

S. 136 addresses this problem by giving the Yosemite National Park superintendent the authority to use a portion of its existing budget to help provide funds for the education of these children whose parents work in the Park. As the author of the House version of this language, I know firsthand that it will mean a great deal to the lives of the families in Yosemite National Park.

Also with respect to S. 136, I would like to extend my appreciation to Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN for her commitment and assistance in helping pass this bill in the Senate, and I do urge adoption of the bill.

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

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. UDALL of Colorado asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, my good friend, the gentleman from California, has already explained the purpose of Senate bill 136, which passed the Senate on July 26, 2005, and includes two measures that were sponsored in the House by my Democratic colleagues from California, Congressman TOM LANTOS and Congressman MIKE THOMPSON.

The boundary adjustment at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area has involved considerable time and effort. I want to commend my colleague from California (Mr. LANTOS) for his leadership and persistence in making

this important boundary addition a reality, and also note the help and support Leader PELOSI and the other members of the Bay Area delegation.

Likewise, I would commend my colleague from California (Mr. THOMPSON) for his efforts on behalf of that portion of the legislation involving Redwood National Park. Mr. Speaker, we support Senate bill 136 and urge adoption of the legislation by the House today.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege to yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS).

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, first I want to thank my distinguished colleague and good friend from Colorado for yielding and for his extraordinary work on all environmental and similar issues.

I rise in strong support of S. 136 and its provisions for the Rancho Corral de Tierra Golden Gate National Recreation Area Boundary Adjustment Act. Our bill adds approximately 4,700 acres to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and it also has provisions for the Redwood National Park and Yosemite National Park.

Mr. Speaker, I first introduced the GGNRA bill in the 107th Congress with the support of my friends, Senators FEINSTEIN and BOXER, and the entire Bay Area Congressional delegation.

One of the Nation's most visited national parks, GGNRA, includes well-known places like Alcatraz, the Marin Headlands, Fort Funston, Fort Mason, the Muir Woods National Monument, the Fort Point National Historic Site, and, of course, the Presidio of San Francisco.

Our Rancho Corral de Tierra addition includes one of the largest undeveloped parcels of the San Mateo County coast south of the City of San Francisco. It is spectacularly beautiful territory.

Our permanent protection will preserve unique coastal habitats of threatened, rare, and endangered plant and animal species. It will curb future disruptive development along the Pacific coast. It will provide important scenic and recreational opportunities for millions of our residents and visitors from all across the globe.

The Rancho Corral de Tierra parcel, with its relatively untouched upper elevations, preserves habitat for several threatened and endangered plant and animal species. It contains four important coastal watersheds that provide riparian corridors for steel head trout, coho salmon, and other aquatic species.

□ 1500

The owner of Rancho Corral de Tierra is the Peninsula Open Space Trust, or POST, a remarkable organization which paid \$29.75 million to save the site from development. POST is a land conservancy trust with a remarkable track record of protecting open space in the Bay Area. POST will help preserve the area by donating from public and private contributions a substantial

amount of the Federal acquisition costs of Rancho Corral de Tierra.

Our bill also authorizes the National Park Service to include over 500 acres of land in the Devil's Slide section of our coastal highway, the scenic highway that winds along the entire California coast.

It will include approximately 300 acres of the Martini Creek-Devil's Slide Bypass right-of-way originally purchased by Caltrans to build a highway across Montara Mountain. When San Mateo County voters overwhelmingly decided to build the Devil's Slide Tunnel rather than the bypass in 1996, the right-of-way became obsolete. This property contains approximately 300 acres that Caltrans will now be able to donate to the National Park Service.

Preserving our unique natural areas for our children, and in my case our grandchildren, is one of the highest priorities that I have as a Member of Congress. I would like to thank all those who have helped bring this important legislation to the House for consideration today: my dear friend and distinguished colleague, Senator FEINSTEIN, has been and continues to be an unfailing advocate and leader for protecting valuable land in our State. She has been a tremendous partner for me to work with on this matter. The Bay Area congressional delegation has been united and unwavering in their support, including the Democratic leader, Ms. PELOSI, Senator BOXER, and my colleagues Ms. ESHOO, Mr. HONDA, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN, Mr. STARK, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Ms. LEE, Mr. GEORGE MILLER, Ms. WOOLSEY, and Mr. THOMPSON.

I would also like to thank the Committee on Resources for their long efforts on this legislation, including Chairman POMBO and the ranking member, Mr. RAHALL. On the National Parks Subcommittee, the former chairman, Mr. RADANOVICH, and the current chairman, Mr. PEARCE, and the ranking member, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, have been enormously helpful.

I would like to extend a special thank you to Audrey Rust, president of the Peninsula Open Space Trust, a prominent leader on preservation issues in the Bay Area and across the Nation. Without her leadership and her accomplishments, we certainly would not be in a position to be here today to protect this property.

I also want to thank the many government officials who have actively participated in support of this work including the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, the California Department of Transportation, the National Park Service and Brian O'Neill General Superintendent at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Many members of the professional staff have also dedicated their expertise to bringing us here today and I want to acknowledge and thank Rick Healey and Rob Howarth of the House Resources Committee, David Brooks of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Nicole Brownlee and John Watts of Mrs. Feinstein's staff, Chris Walker of my

staff, Daphne Muehle of the Peninsula Open Space Trust, and Chris Powell of the National Park Service.

And most importantly, in conclusion, I want to thank my friends and neighbors of the Bay Area, particularly those in the 12th Congressional District, who envision a future that includes the protection of the park for generations yet unborn. Without their enlightened support for preservation, we would be unable to accomplish this incredible success that we have achieved here today.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 136, the Rancho Corral de Tierra Golden Gate National Recreation Area Boundary Adjustment Act, which will add approximately 4,700 acres to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, also known as the GGNRA.

There has been a long journey in the effort to secure the passage of this bill. I was proud to cosponsor the legislation when Congressman LANTOS first introduced it in May of 2001 and testified in the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks in support of the bill 5 long years ago.

The bill sets aside precious environmental spaces for the benefit of the broader community. It has undergone changes over the years to safeguard local agriculture in San Mateo County, and as a result, there is broad local support for this legislation.

These efforts don't just happen, it takes people of vision at the local level to recognize the need, to develop a response, and rally support. We have the best, Audrey Rust, the President of the Peninsula Open Space Trust, POST.

Ms. Rust has demonstrated great determination and flexibility in the many years of working on this bill, and she and POST deserve our thanks, recognition, and gratitude.

Acquiring this land is an environmental victory because it is habitat for several rare, threatened, endangered species. Future generations will respect and enjoy the fruits of our efforts and that's why I urge all my colleagues to vote for this critical legislation.

I salute Representative LANTOS for his work and thank Senator FEINSTEIN and Representative RADANOVICH for their efforts to see this legislation through.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 136.

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.

RECOGNIZING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 273)

recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery bus boycott.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 273

Whereas on December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks, an African American seamstress in Montgomery, Alabama, was arrested for refusing to obey a busdriver's order to give up her seat on a city bus for a White passenger boarding the bus, as required by city ordinance;

Whereas outrage over the arrest of Rosa Parks initiated a meeting that weekend between the Reverend Ralph Abernathy, the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., Jo Ann Robinson, who was the head of the Women's Political Council, and E.D. Nixon, who was the Montgomery official for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, also known as the NAACP;

Whereas this meeting resulted in the announcement of a large-scale boycott against Montgomery city buslines;

Whereas ministers voiced the communal outrage over Rosa Parks's arrest during Sunday services, unifying the African American community in Montgomery as the ministers conveyed the message of the boycott;

Whereas members of the community continued to spread the news of the boycott by disseminating leaflets encouraging participation in the boycott;

Whereas through nonviolent means and the support of ministers and African American and White citizens alike, the Montgomery bus boycott and the beginning of the civil rights movement gained national attention;

Whereas Rosa Parks became and remains an icon of pride and dignity, establishing a standard that has continued through the civil rights movement;

Whereas Martin Luther King, Jr., became the president of the Montgomery Improvement Association, also known as the MIA, and helped organize the boycott with other civil rights leaders, such as Ralph Abernathy; and

Whereas the Montgomery bus boycott ended after the United States Supreme Court, on November 13, 1956, upheld a Federal district court ruling declaring segregation on buses unconstitutional: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) recognizes and honors the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery bus boycott; and

(2) recognizes the historical significance of the Montgomery bus boycott to the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 273, introduced by the distinguished gentleman from Alabama

(Mr. ROGERS). This bill would recognize the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery bus boycott.

On December 1, 1955, a young woman named Rosa Parks took a small act of defiance and sparked a massive response that changed our society forever. The history bears retelling: Montgomery, Alabama enforced a policy of racial segregation on its public transit system, black passengers in the back, whites in the front. When the front of the bus reached full capacity, the driver could instruct African American passengers to yield their seats to white riders.

On that fateful day, Rosa Parks refused to yield. She was physically and emotionally drained of the decades of intimidation, harassment, and discrimination of Alabama's African American population.

From that moment on, encouraged by Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., a city-wide boycott of the public transit system erupted. The boycott was extremely effective, drastically reducing ridership on the transit system. Instead of riding buses, boycotters walked, rode bicycles, or joined car pools to get to work and to other destinations. Across the Nation, African American churches raised money to buy new shoes to replace the tattered footwear of boycotters helping to fuel the fight against Jim Crow laws.

Finally, the United States Supreme Court ruled that Alabama's racial segregation laws for public transit were unconstitutional, a clear victory for the boycotters. This led to a new city ordinance that allowed African American bus passengers to sit anywhere they pleased on any bus in the city.

Rev. Martin Luther King capped off the news with a speech to encourage acceptance of the decision. The boycott resulted in the U.S. civil rights movement receiving one of its first accomplishments and gave Martin Luther King the national attention that would make him one of the prime civil rights leaders in our history.

I urge all Members to come together and recognize this momentous event in our Nation's history by adopting H. Con. Res. 273.

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 Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join with my colleague in consideration of H. Con. Res. 273, which recognizes the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery bus boycott. This measure, sponsored by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS), has the support and cosponsorship of 73 Members of Congress.

Rosa Parks is a great American and hero of the civil rights movement in this country. Rosa Parks symbolizes the triumph of civility over aggression, as was represented in her act of civil disobedience on December 1, 1955.

On that day, Mrs. Rosa Parks and other African American bus riders sat in the fifth row of a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. According to the law in Montgomery, blacks had to sit in the back of the bus if a white person wanted a seat in the front. The three people Rosa Parks was with complied with the request of the bus driver, but she refused. Mrs. Parks knew full well that this act could lead to arrest or even worse had she drawn the ire of white bus patrons. Armed with this knowledge she took a stand that would prove to inspire the African American community to rally behind her example and begin a movement that would change the course of history in our country.

This simple act of refusing to give her seat in the front of the bus to a white patron, an act that led to her arrest and incarceration, was the spark that ignited a movement. Word of her act of defiance spread through the African American community in Alabama like wildfire. Civil rights leaders like the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., the Reverend Ralph Abernathy, and Ann Robinson, president of the Women's Political Council, and members of the NAACP convened to discuss the significance of this act of civil disobedience. They quickly decided to boycott the buses in Montgomery, Alabama.

The boycott that followed was ultimately successful when in November 1956 the United States Supreme Court upheld a Federal court ruling that stated that segregation on buses is unconstitutional. More important than desegregating the buses in Montgomery, the boycott signified the beginning of the civil rights movement in the United States.

Years later, civil rights leaders would invoke the memory of the bus boycott as the critical event that galvanized the movement. The bus boycott, and the action of Mrs. Rosa Parks, was the critical event that galvanized that movement, inspired countless future acts of civil disobedience and peaceful protest against racial injustice.

I would like to recognize the actions, as all of us do, of Mrs. Rosa Parks, who passed away on Monday, October 24, 2005, and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery bus boycott. I urge my colleagues to join in recognition of this amazing moment in the history of all America and of all Americans.

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS).

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 273.

As we all know, it was 50 years ago last week that the Montgomery bus boycott had its humble beginnings in Montgomery, Alabama.

On that first day of December 1955, a quiet seamstress named Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on the city

bus. In doing so, she broke the law. But that did not stop Rosa Parks from doing what she knew was right that day. She remained in her seat even as police came to arrest her.

Her quiet protest, which was nothing short of a challenge to the status quo, led to the event which started the Montgomery bus boycott.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply honored by the House's attention to these events today, and I am pleased to have another chance to honor one of Alabama's great civil rights leader, a woman whose recent passing has caused us all to mourn.

But this resolution also helps honor those who, along with Rosa Parks, helped make the Montgomery bus boycott a success. Leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., for example, ultimately helped provide the leadership necessary for the boycott to continue.

Countless other Alabamians, as well as Americans from across the country, also came to help with this effort; and they continued with their protest until the Supreme Court ultimately ruled in their favor in 1956.

Mr. Speaker, we all have much to learn from the events of 1955 and 1956. I was in Montgomery last week and toured the parsonage where Dr. King helped coordinate many of the boycott's initiatives. It is my hope that this resolution will help pay tribute to those events. It is also my hope that this resolution will honor all those who participated in the boycott and provide our Nation another opportunity to learn from its past.

I appreciate the strong support for this resolution here in the House and thank my colleagues from Alabama in particular for their support. Rosa Parks may not be with us today to witness this resolution, but I am comforted in knowing her legacy and that all of those who helped make the boycott a success will live on for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask the House's continued support for this resolution.

□ 1515

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I certainly commend the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS) for his introduction of this resolution. And it is my pleasure now to yield such time as he might consume to the other distinguished gentleman from Alabama (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for yielding. Let me thank my colleague from the State of Alabama (Mr. ROGERS) for introducing this resolution and for his comments on the floor today. And let me thank the leadership for bringing the resolution to the floor in such a timely and expeditious fashion.

We have just finished a month-long commemorative period around Rosa Parks. Mr. Speaker, we started with the events after her death and we, in

effect, culminate, at least the Congress's part of this culmination today with this resolution. And between last week, the President signed a resolution that will allow Rosa Parks to take her rightful place in Statuary Hall. And as we end this commemorative period, I simply want to make a couple of observations about what it is that we honor. The first is that we honor a community today.

The countless anonymous number of African Americans who lived in Montgomery in 1955 included my mother and grandmother, included numerous other people who made their statement to history, and it is a statement that has lasted and will last for all time by the very act of perseverance.

My grandmother used to always tell the story that the hardest time of the boycott was in the summer, because in Montgomery it never gets very cold, but it can get very hot. And in the summer, a lot of black people in 1955 did not have a lot of money and they could not afford air conditioning in the car. They could not afford to fix the air conditioning, so the carpools could be very uncomfortable.

Another thing that made the summer uncomfortable was that the boys were out of school, so the little boys who wanted to stand on the side of the road and jeer the boycotters and the blacks of that community, they had nothing else to do during June and July and August. So she always said the summer was the worst time.

But what made that community so special is that it persevered, and that community chose dignity over comfort. The comfortable thing would have been to end the boycott after making a symbolic statement. The comfortable thing would have been to end the boycott because of the strain of carrying it forward. The dignified thing was to keep going and to keep asserting their rights. So we honor their community today.

And we do one other thing that is worth noting. We recognize that this history is not simply a story of black people of one race triumphing in this country as a story of us triumphing together, because in 1955, a white person in Montgomery, Alabama was not free either because a white person in Montgomery, Alabama had to build a code of conduct around not what was in his or her heart, but around what was written in the city ordinance. A white person in the south was not free in 1955 because he or she was bound by the color code of prejudice and the legal code of segregation.

Well, all of a sudden, after this assertion of dignity, white people became free too, to have a mindset, to have a sentiment that was not simply based on prejudice. So here we stand 50 years later with an appropriately uncontroversial resolution, with southern Democrats and southern Republicans standing together to offer it.

But the final thing that I say today, Mr. Speaker, is as we end this com-

memorative period and we put the statute in the hall and we pass the resolutions and we close this year down, we close the 50th anniversary down, it is not enough to honor this legacy by passing resolutions. And as we move into the second half of the 109th Congress, may we honor it by being true to this spirit. May we honor it by being true to the notion that there are no marginalized people in this country. If we marginalize and leave behind people, we somehow sacrifice all of our dignity. May we honor Rosa Parks by remembering that all of us have a place. If we are to have a country that is true, there is an agenda and there is a space for every one of God's children. If we can honor that, then Rosa Parks will have left a legacy that will endure for the ages and one that will lift the spirits and the imaginations of all kind of people all over this globe.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers at the moment and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. DAVIS) for his very eloquent characterization of the meaning of this resolution and the meaning of the life of Rosa Parks.

I yield such time as she might consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON).

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS) for introducing H. Con. Res. 273 which recognizes the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery bus boycott.

The 1955 Montgomery bus boycott lasted for 381 days. It was a defining moment in our Nation's history. The heroic and nonviolent actions of many people, and in particular, those of Rosa Parks, who was arrested on December 1, 1955, for refusing to give up her seat to a white man led ultimately to a historic U.S. Supreme Court ruling that outlawed segregated public transportation.

The catalyst for the success of Montgomery bus boycott is the fact that some 40,000 Black citizens of Montgomery decided not to ride the bus. Their nonviolent boycott ultimately drained the city financially. Perhaps for the first time in history, black residents of Alabama had used their economic power to gain social success.

Social justice and economic equality are two sides of the same coin. 50 years after the Montgomery bus boycott, our Nation has made great strides in social justice and in increasing economic opportunities for all Americans. But much remains to be done.

Fifty years later, the unemployment rate for African Americans is almost double that for the whole of America. Fifty years later, almost 1 in 4 African Americans live in poverty. Fifty years later, America's African American children are twice as likely as white children to die before their first birthday. And 50 years later, poverty in America still holds a tight grip on too many of our Nation's citizens.

As this body honors and recalls a truly historic event in our Nation, let us also not forget that much still remains to be done to ultimately fulfill the legacy and the dreams of those thousands of Americans who participated in the Montgomery bus boycott.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 273, which recognizes and honors the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott and the historical significance of the boycott to the United States.

On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks, a seamstress and wife, boarded a Montgomery bus to begin her usual journey home. Nothing was particularly different about this day, except that she wanted to sit after a long day's work. When ordered by the white bus driver to give up her seat to a white passenger, she simply refused, and her action led to a boycott of the city's bus system. This event was the straw that broke the back of segregation in the South.

This was a stunning moment in time, not just a step along the way. It ultimately resulted in two of our nation's landmark pieces of legislation, the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act.

The bus boycott was a memorable example of how Dr. Martin Luther King's tradition of nonviolent protests have brought about important policy changes in our world.

In our nation's ongoing struggle for civil rights, this boycott was a watershed event, and it is appropriate to be honoring it here today on the House floor.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Montgomery bus boycott. The boycott was a pivotal moment that turned the tide in this Nation's history, and it was initiated by the simplest of actions, undertaken by the most unimposing of individuals—the late Rosa Parks, whose death on October 24 we continue to mourn.

In the United States, we are born and raised to believe in individual freedom and equality. We read of it in our founding documents, we live and breathe it, we are surrounded by it and immersed in it. Confronted, then, by the denial of individual freedom and equality, Ms. Parks put the nation to a test of its principles, without knowing that her simple act of defiance would reverberate around the world. What followed, as we all know, was nothing short of the transformation of the nation.

And so I rise today to again honor Rosa Parks, and to commemorate the Montgomery bus boycott, but also to acknowledge—I am saddened to say—that we seem to have a very long way to go yet in the United States to ensure racial and ethnic equality. We must honor those who struggled in the Montgomery bus boycott, those who worked for the passage of the Civil Rights Act, and the passage of the Voting Rights Act, by ensuring today that all America are entitled to vote, are not intimidated to vote, and that their votes are accurately counted.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Rosa Parks, and Martin Luther King, Jr., and all those who launched the Montgomery bus boycott, resulting in the end of segregation on buses and commencing the transformation of the Nation. I call on my colleagues to continue the unending struggle to make the United States the shining example of freedom, democracy and equality for all that the founding fathers in-

tended it to be and the civil rights movement brought into fruition.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time and urge passage of this resolution. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I urge all members to support the adoption of H. Con. Res. 273. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 273.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NAVAL VESSELS TRANSFER ACT OF 2005

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1886) to authorize the transfer of naval vessels to certain foreign recipients.

The Clerk read as follows:
S. 1886

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 "Naval Vessels Transfer Act of 2005".

SEC. 2. TRANSFERS BY GRANT.

The President is authorized to transfer vessels to foreign recipients on a grant basis under section 516 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j), as follows:

(1) GREECE.—To the Government of Greece, the OSPREY class minehunter coastal ship PELICAN (MHC-53).

(2) EGYPT.—To the Government of Egypt, the OSPREY class minehunter coastal ships CARDINAL (MHC-60) and RAVEN (MHC-61).

(3) PAKISTAN.—To the Government of Pakistan, the SPRUANCE class destroyer ship FLETCHER (DD-992).

(4) TURKEY.—To the Government of Turkey, the SPRUANCE class destroyer ship CUSHING (DD-985).

SEC. 3. TRANSFERS BY SALE.

The President is authorized to transfer vessels to foreign recipients on a sale basis under section 21 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2761), as follows:

(1) INDIA.—To the Government of India, the AUSTIN class amphibious transport dock ship TRENTON (LPD-14).

(2) GREECE.—To the Government of Greece, the OSPREY class minehunter coastal ship HERON (MHC-52).

(3) TURKEY.—To the Government of Turkey, the SPRUANCE class destroyer ship O'BANNON (DD-987).

SEC. 4. GRANTS NOT COUNTED IN ANNUAL TOTAL OF TRANSFERRED EXCESS DEFENSE ARTICLES.

The value of a vessel transferred to another country on a grant basis pursuant to authority provided by section 2 shall not be counted against the aggregate value of excess defense articles transferred to countries in any fiscal year under section 516 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

SEC. 5. COSTS OF CERTAIN TRANSFERS.

Notwithstanding section 516(e)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C.

2321j(e)(1)), any expense incurred by the United States in connection with a transfer authorized under section 2 shall be charged to the recipient.

SEC. 6. REPAIR AND REFURBISHMENT IN UNITED STATES SHIPYARDS.

To the maximum extent practicable, the President shall require, as a condition of the transfer of a vessel under this section, that the country to which the vessel is transferred have such repair or refurbishment of the vessel as is needed before the vessel joins the naval forces of that country be performed at a shipyard located in the United States, including a United States Navy shipyard.

SEC. 7. EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY.

The authority to transfer a vessel under this section shall expire at the end of the 2-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEACH. 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 S. 1886.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1886, the Naval Vessels Transfer Act of 2005, which the Senate passed by unanimous consent on October 18, 2005. S. 1886 would authorize the transfers of eight decommissioned United States Naval vessels to other countries. Two ships would be transferred by grant to Egypt and one each to Greece, Pakistan and Turkey. Three would be transferred by sale, one to India, one to Greece and one to Turkey.

The bill's provisions are nearly identical to those contained in section 751 of H.R. 2601, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, which would also authorize transfer of eight vessels to the same countries and on the same terms. H.R. 2601 passed the House on July 20 by recorded vote of 351 to 78.

The Senate has not yet completed floor consideration in this session of a Foreign Relations Authorization Act. It passed a stand-alone bill, S. 1886, authorizing the transfer of these eight vessels. Since timely action was necessary to ensure the smooth operation and effective use of the decommissioned ship assets of the United States Navy, this limited purpose bill is before us. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting the bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation. Mr. Speaker, the legislation before us accomplishes a simple

and straightforward task. It gives the Navy the authority to transfer excess U.S. Naval vessels to India, Greece, Turkey, Pakistan and Egypt.

With these transfers our military will have greater interoperability with the armed forces of these nations, all of which are either key allies of the United States or are located in strategically important regions of the world.

It is my strong hope that these transfers will encourage these countries to expand their cooperation with the United States in our mutual struggle against terrorism in all its virulent and demented forms.

I would also note that our legislation has already been approved by the House as part of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act which has, unfortunately, languished in the other body.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

Mr. LEACH. 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 Iowa (Mr. LEACH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1886.

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.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IMMUNITIES ACT AMENDMENT

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3269) to amend the International Organizations Immunities Act to provide for the applicability of that Act to the Bank for International Settlements.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3269

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF THE BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENTS UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IMMUNITIES ACT.

The International Organizations Immunities Act (22 U.S.C. 288 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 17. The provisions of this title may be extended to the Bank for International Settlements in the same manner, to the same extent, and subject to the same conditions, as they may be extended to a public international organization in which the United States participates pursuant to any treaty or under the authority of any Act of Congress authorizing such participation or making an appropriation for such participation.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEACH. 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.R. 3269.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and rise in support of this bill which would designate the Bank For International Settlements, otherwise known as the BIS, as an international organization under the International Organizations Immunity Act, otherwise known as IOIA, thus allowing the President to extend appropriate immunities to the BIS.

I should note at the outset that this legislation was requested by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and it is also strongly supported by the Department of State and the Department of the Treasury.

As Members may be aware, the BIS is an international organization that functions as a bank for central banks and is owned exclusively by central banks. Following consultation with the Executive Branch and Congressional leadership, the Federal Reserve formally joined the BIS Board of Directors in 1994.

□ 1530

The Federal Reserve currently holds two seats on the BIS board and participates actively in the important work of the BIS to promote international financial stability.

Because the BIS is indirectly owned by more than one foreign government, the immunities granted by the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act are not available to the BIS absent legislative action by the Congress under the framework provided by the IOIA for international organizations. I concur with the Federal Reserve as well as the Departments of State and Treasury in concluding that providing appropriate immunities to the BIS has significant merit at this time.

The BIS plays a critical role in financing large volumes of U.S. dollar transactions in the United States daily for its central bank customers. It has also been integral to international efforts to promote global financial stability in the face of emerging market financial crises, such as those that hallmarked much of the last decade. Without extending immunities to the BIS, these transactions could be disrupted by mischievous lawsuits. This may create disincentives to conduct international transactions in dollars.

Moreover, an extension of immunity to the BIS in accordance with the provisions of the IOIA would provide protection of its assets held in the United States equivalent to the protection currently enjoyed by the European Central Bank and other international financial institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Indeed, Congress addressed a parallel situation in 2002 when it passed legisla-

tion allowing for the President to extend immunities under the IOIA to the European Central Bank.

As I noted previously, the Federal Reserve and the Departments of State and Treasury strongly support this legislative initiative to designate the BIS as an international organization under the IOIA. I urge its adoption.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3269. At the outset, I want to congratulate my good friend from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) for introducing this thoughtful legislation.

The Bank of International Settlements is the world's oldest international financial institution and plays a little-known, but key, role as the central bank to central banks. It also provides technical assistance to central banks of developing countries.

Although the U.S. Federal Reserve has two members on the board, because of recent restructuring, the bank is now owned by those central banks that have deposits in it and therefore technically does not satisfy the requirements of the International Organizations Immunities Act, which extends immunity to organizations in which the United States is a member.

Our legislation applies these immunities to the bank, helping it to maintain its important role and providing an incentive to keep these reserves in the United States.

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

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

I thank the gentleman for his thoughtful comments, and I would only add that the BIS plays a critical role in attempting to combat money laundering and to block the transfer of terrorist financing. It is a critical institution, although little known to the public; but it clearly deserves the immunities that are established for other international organizations and other foreign governments.

I urge adoption of this piece of legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3269.

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.

TORTURE VICTIMS RELIEF REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules

and pass the bill (H.R. 2017) to amend the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 to authorize appropriations to provide assistance for domestic and foreign programs and centers for the treatment of victims of torture, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2017

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 "Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2005".

SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to ensure that, in its support abroad for programs and centers for the treatment of victims of torture, particular incentives and support should be given to establishing and supporting such programs and centers in emerging democracies, in post-conflict environments, and, with a view to providing services to refugees and internally displaced persons, in areas as close to ongoing conflict as safely as possible; and

(2) to ensure that, in its support for domestic programs and centers for the treatment of victims of torture, particular attention should be given to regions with significant immigrant or refugee populations.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR DOMESTIC TREATMENT CENTERS FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE.

Section 5(b)(1) of the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 2152 note) is amended to read as follows:

"(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Health and Human Services for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, there are authorized to be appropriated to carry out subsection (a) \$25,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2006 and 2007."

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR FOREIGN TREATMENT CENTERS FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE.

Section 4(b)(1) of the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 2152 note) is amended to read as follows:

"(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years 2006 and 2007 pursuant to chapter 1 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, there are authorized to be appropriated to the President to carry out section 130 of such Act \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2006 and \$13,000,000 for fiscal year 2007."

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE UNITED STATES CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY FUND FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE.

Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years 2006 and 2007 pursuant to chapter 3 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, there are authorized to be appropriated to the President for a voluntary contribution to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture \$7,000,000 for fiscal year 2006 and \$8,000,000 for fiscal year 2007.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. 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 gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, nationwide there are an estimated 400,000 torture survivors, most of whom came to the United States as refugees. Worldwide, it is impossible to count the numbers. As witnesses have repeatedly testified before our committee and before the Congress, the paralyzing scars from the physical and psychological wounds of torture can remain for years. Torture impacts not only the individual victim but their families and society as well.

Yesterday, the first witnesses testified in the trial of Saddam Hussein. Demonstrating heroic courage, they described torture on a scale that is almost beyond belief and which is simply too grisly to be repeated here. Although these events described happened many years ago, their testimony painfully illustrates the lasting impact torture has on those who survive it, their families and communities. There can be no doubt that Hussein's systematic torture was intended not only to punish specific victims but to coerce an entire population into silence and into subservience. As we try to bring democracy to Iraq and to other parts around the globe, we must try to heal the victims of torture that was used to prevent democracy from taking hold in the past.

In 1998, Mr. Speaker, Congress took a historic step towards repairing the broken lives of torture victims with the passage of the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998. I sponsored that legislation, and I was joined by my good friend and colleague (Mr. LANTOS), who has also been a hero in this battle to help torture victims. We also sponsored the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 1999 and the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2003. As important as these congressional measures have been, there continues to be an enormous need for us to reach out to the victims of torture who oftentimes have no other recourse for their suffering. Therefore, I strongly urge my colleagues to join us today in supporting H.R. 2017, the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2005.

The domestic aspect of this legislation, Mr. Speaker, is designed to ensure that particular attention is given to torture victims in regions with significant immigrant and refugee populations. The measure authorizes \$25 million for fiscal year 2006 and \$25 million for fiscal year 2007 to the Department of Health and Human Services to assist domestic treatment centers. This maintains the current \$25 million authorization funding level for fiscal year 2005 for such centers.

Currently, 27 programs in 16 States are assisted by the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement. In addition to direct assistance, many of these cen-

ters are also engaged in training mainstream organizations and personnel in the specialized treatment of torture victims.

The number of survivors seeking treatment at U.S. centers funded through the Torture Victims Relief and Reauthorization acts has steadily increased throughout the years. The client base at just 14 such centers increased from 935 in 1999 to 1,550 in 2000 to 2,579 in 2001. A subsequent survey showed that during 2002, 23 Torture Victim Relief Act-funded centers treated over 3,600 clients. With the additional funding, it is estimated the U.S. centers would have the capacity and the capability to serve an additional 2,800 survivors per year.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2017 also authorizes \$12 million in 2006 and \$13 million in 2007 for foreign treatment centers and programs administered through USAID's Victims of Torture fund. This authorization would maintain the current fiscal year 2005 authorization for 2006 and increase it by \$1 million for fiscal year 2007.

The bill gives particular emphasis to supporting centers and programs abroad in emerging democracies and postconflict environments. Nongovernmental organizations that receive this funding provide direct services to survivors, their families, and their communities. They also strengthen institutions on the ground and the indigenous capacity of these institutions to deliver services to survivors. In addition to providing treatment, many of these programs advocate for the elimination of torture itself in these countries.

Lastly, the measure maintains current authorization levels of \$7 million for fiscal year 2006 for the U.N. Voluntary Fund for the Victims of Torture. It would increase this funding to \$8 million in fiscal year 2007. In 2001, in just that one year alone, the U.N. fund assisted some 77,000 victims of torture. This type of humanitarian assistance provided by organizations which receive grants from the fund consists mainly of psychological, medical, social, legal, and economic assistance.

Again, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I attach for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an exchange of letters between Chairman HYDE and Chairman BARTON on the bill H.R. 2017 "The Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2005."

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,

Washington, DC, November 29, 2005.

Hon. JOE BARTON,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,
Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On June 30, 2005, the Committee on International Relations authorized me to seek consideration of H.R. 2017, the "Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2005," under suspension of the

rules. As you are aware, H.R. 2017 was additionally referred to your Committee. The bill contains language which falls within the Rule X jurisdiction of your Committee. Your Committee's subject matter jurisdiction relates to the authorization for domestic treatment centers for victims of torture.

I write to ask that the Committee on Energy and Commerce waive its opportunity to mark up provisions referred to it. Timely action by the Energy and Commerce Committee would allow this Committee to proceed expeditiously to the House floor. By waiving the opportunity to mark up the bill, I understand that your Committee does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over this or similar measures. In addition, in the event of a conference with the Senate on this matter, I will recommend that your Committee have the right to seek the appointment of conferees.

A copy of this letter and your reply will be placed in the Congressional Record when the bill is considered on the floor.

Sincerely,

HENRY J. HYDE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, December 1, 2005.

Hon. HENRY J. HYDE,
Chairman, Committee on International Relations, House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HYDE: Thank you for your November 29, 2005 letter concerning H.R. 2017, the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2005. As you know, the Committee on Energy and Commerce was named as an additional Committee of jurisdiction upon the bill's introduction.

I recognize your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner. Accordingly, I will not exercise my Committee's right to a full referral on the bill. By agreeing to waive its consideration of the bill, however, the Committee on Energy and Commerce does not waive its jurisdiction over H.R. 2017. In addition, the Committee on Energy and Commerce reserves its right to seek conferees on any provisions of the bill that are within its jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this legislation. I thank you for your commitment to support any request by the Committee on Energy and Commerce for conferees on H.R. 2017 or similar legislation.

Thank you for your attention to these matters, and I look forward to working with you as this legislation moves forward.

Sincerely,

JOE BARTON,
Chairman.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong and enthusiastic support for this legislation.

As the principal Democratic cosponsor of the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2005, I would like to thank my good friend and distinguished colleague from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for his longstanding leadership on human rights in general and on issues relating to the despicable practice of torture in particular. No one, Mr. Speaker, in this body has done as much to fight for victims of torture as has my friend from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

The Torture Victims Relief Act is an important expression of our out-

standing commitment to combat the effects of the most despicable of all human rights violations, the increasing use of torture around the world.

Of course, exact figures are difficult to come by, but well over 100 countries worldwide still engage in torture as we meet here today. For that reason, Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the McCain amendment, which was overwhelmingly adopted by the other body. The McCain amendment prohibits any torture or any cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment by the United States of detainees wherever they are held; and its adoption into law will send a strong signal that the United States will not tolerate this despicable practice.

Mr. Speaker, over 400,000 survivors of overseas torture reside in the United States. Some 100 million may exist worldwide. More than 250 treatment centers operate globally with the sole purpose of providing crucial services to torture survivors.

In the United States, the Center for Victims of Torture in Minnesota was the first of its kind in our country and the third torture victims center in the world.

The ramifications of torture practices are beyond the realm of comprehension. Torture leaves no victim unscarred. It shapes the remainder of his life. While physical wounds may ultimately heal, torture survivors need ongoing psychosocial services and therapy to cope with the post-traumatic stress that afflicts them daily. Recovering from torture is a long-term process. It can take years before torture survivors can once again feel emotionally stable and comfortable in society.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply troubled by the worsening financial situation facing many well-established centers in the United States. Many of these centers had just developed enough expertise and capacity to make a real impact in the treatment of survivors only to learn that their Federal funds were eliminated or reduced significantly.

□ 1545

In my own congressional district, the 12th District of California, Federal funds to several torture survivor centers were cut severely, despite the fact that they established themselves as outstanding institutions in the field.

This development happened despite the fact that the San Francisco area is one of the main ports of entry for survivors of torture, particularly from Asia.

I am therefore delighted that the findings section of the legislation before us makes it clear that particular attention must be given to regions such as Northern California with significant immigrant and refugee populations.

The legislation before the House will have a positive impact on the provision of assistance to the victims of torture. Mr. Speaker, I fully support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA).

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), who has been like a consistent drum beat on these issues of humanity and preservation of life throughout this world. I want to again thank him for championing another cause that will help, unfortunately thousands, at least in this country, of individuals when we know that there are millions throughout the world. But at least here in this country, this act, if we are able to reauthorize it, will continue to help many people who are trying to get themselves back on their feet.

To the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), we want to say thank you for constantly being the light of the vigil and certainly the voices for many people who otherwise would not have that opportunity to have their life restored.

Mr. Speaker, we know that torture exists. We know that despicable acts continue throughout the world, and we know that there are people who actually survive some of the most heinous types of crimes that can be committed on any adults and children. And when that happens and some of those people are able to somehow make it to the land that we call the "land of the freedom," it is sometimes very difficult for us to find them if they do not speak out.

And many of those folks will not speak out because the last thing they want to do is let anyone know that they, in fact, were tortured, or let the people that tortured them know that they are still alive. But these folks deserve some assistance.

It is not only fitting that we try to reauthorize this act, which will provide some assistance to some of the centers here in the United States but also abroad that are providing some noble work to those who need it, but they are doing this in a way that coordinates services that otherwise would have to be used by some of these victims of torture who are here in this country.

As the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) said, there are some 400,000 people in this country today who are the victims and survivors of torture. In the county of Los Angeles alone, there are over 10,000 people that we can document that are the survivors of torture.

If it were not for the coordination that these treatment centers provide in terms of health care, psychological services and the like, many of these would continue on in a cycle that I unfortunately think would be a cycle of dead-end roads, where they would not know where to go, principally because many come from other parts of the world, and also because they would not know how to navigate throughout this country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2017.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, we have no additional requests for time and yield back the balance of our time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 3 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friends and colleagues for their very kind remarks. This is bipartisan legislation. We worked very closely with the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) to come up with what I think is a bill that will make a significant difference to help those who have suffered the cruelty of despotic regimes all over the world.

I just returned from a trip to Vietnam. I was in Hanoi, Hue, and finished the trip in Ho Chi Minh City; and during the course of more than 24 comprehensive meetings with religious and political people, many of whom are under house arrest, or pagoda arrest, including that of Thich Quang Do, the venerable leader of the Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam, Father Li, Father Loy and many others, in each and every one of those circumstances, the more the conversation went on, the more you saw, while they suffered much in prison, especially for Father Li and others, they were subjected to torture and other inhumane treatment.

Their faith helps them get through it. But for most beyond a facade of coping, the mental pain is overwhelming. They and so many others like them all over the world need what this kind of legislation can provide in the foreign treatment centers as well as our domestic centers. We have learned much about post-traumatic stress disorder. We have learned much of it through our work in this country through the VA and the fine work that the psychologists have done and the psychiatrists in mitigating the pain of our GIs who served in Vietnam and in other conflicts.

But for other people who have suffered so cruelly, being put into coffin-like boxes for days and weeks on end, leaves scars. Father Calciu, I will never forget, a great leader in Romania who spent years in Communist prisons, used to be put in these small boxes where he would suffer beyond words. It was his faith that got him through it, but he carries those scars.

There are people like Armand Valadaries who wrote a book that should be read by everyone as a primer as to what the Castro regime does to its people, "Against All Hope." Valadaries talks about the torture that he and so many others in Cuba have suffered. And he is one of the brave ones who endured and overcame. But so many others retreat and slide into despair, clinical depression, and then sometimes even to suicide.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this. In like manner, I urge the appropriators to ensure that we meet the authorized levels. Torture victims are the walking wounded and they are on our streets. As both the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and I said, 400,000 is the estimation of tor-

ture survivors living in the United States.

Many of them came here as asylum seekers. Thank God they got the asylum status. Many others survive throughout the world and need the kind of services this legislation can provide.

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

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 2017, the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2005, to reauthorize and increase funding for the treatment of torture victims. As the ranking member of the Helsinki Commission I was pleased to be an original co-sponsor of this legislation, which was introduced by Chairman CHRIS SMITH.

The international community must aggressively address the issue of torture. The U.S. Government estimates that about 400,000 survivors of torture live in the United States, oftentimes after escaping persecution abroad for their political or religious beliefs.

This bill would help provide funding for 27 treatment centers in the United States and almost 200 treatment centers in other countries through the U.S. Agency for International Development, USAID. The bill authorizes \$90 million for fiscal years 2006 and 2007 for the Department of Health and Human Services, USAID, and the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture.

In my congressional district in Maryland, the Advocates for Survivors of Torture and Trauma, ASTT, organization is one of the 27 nationwide treatment centers that is supported by this legislation. The Baltimore-based group was formed in 1994, and consists of physicians, psychologists, social workers, and human rights advocates who assist in supporting the victims of torture from all over the world. The center treats patients from Maryland, Washington DC, Pennsylvania and Delaware. Over the past 5 years this group has seen its client base increase from 25 patients to 181 patients. The vast majority of their patients are from Africa, although they also serve clients from Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East. These individuals have been subjected to a horrifying range of physical and psychological torture. ASTT provides crucial psychological assessment and counseling to victims, works with other organizations to provide legal assistance to asylum seekers, and seeks to educate physicians and health care workers on how to identify and distinguish torture victims from other victims of violence. I congratulate and commend ASTT on their efforts.

Torture victims require specialized treatment and counseling, and therefore it is critical that today we reauthorize the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998, TVRA, in order to meet the growing demand for treatment services provided by U.S. centers. U.S. centers have witnessed a significant increase in patients since the TVRA was enacted: from 935 in 1999 to 3,664 in 2002.

The reauthorization of this legislation would ensure that victims continue to receive the treatment that they so desperately need and that centers will be able to expand their existing programs to treat more survivors. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the important work that is being done to aid victims of torture, and to reempha-

size my support for the reauthorization of the Torture Victims Relief Act, TVRA.

The enacted fiscal year 2006 Foreign Operations Appropriations Act provides \$6.583 million for the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and fully funds foreign treatment centers through the United States Agency for International Development. Both the House and Senate versions of the Labor HHS Appropriations bill provide \$9.915 million for domestic torture treatment centers. We must continue to support a strong congressional commitment for programs under the Torture Victims Relief Act.

Minneapolis, MN is home to the United States first comprehensive torture treatment center, the Center for Victims of Torture, CVT. When CVT opened in 1985 they were the first center in the United States and only the third in the entire world.

Freedom from torture is a universal and fundamental human right. Yet torture continues to take place in more than 120 countries worldwide. It is estimated that one-third of the world's 12 million refugees are victims of torture. Politicians, journalists, teachers, students, religious leaders, trade union and human rights activists are all targets. The aim of torture is not to kill the victim, but to break down the victim's personality. Crippled, traumatized, and humiliated, the victims are returned to their communities as a warning to others.

There are more than 500,000 torture survivors in the United States alone—refugees and asylum seekers who have fled repressive regimes. In recent years, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of victims of torture seeking help at U.S. rehabilitation centers. In the U.S. there are 34 rehabilitation centers and programs joined together under the National Consortium of Torture Treatment Programs, which was started by the Center for Victims of Torture in Minnesota.

I have seen victims made whole after they received care at CVT. Restoring a torture survivor to full health has a lasting benefit for the entire community. Former clients of CVT are now public school teachers, small business owners, nurses, doctors and more. I commend CVT for their tireless work on behalf of torture victims in the U.S. and worldwide, and encourage my colleagues to support the reauthorization of the Torture Victims Relief Act.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I applaud the passage of the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act (H.R. 2017) and appreciate Representative SMITH's leadership on this important issue. This bill, if enacted into law and fully funded, will provide much needed assistance to victims of torture, both within the U.S. and internationally.

But I am deeply disheartened that the good intentions of H.R. 2017 will be undercut by the Administration's refusal to unequivocally reject the use of torture not only for the military but also for the intelligence community. I do not naively believe that al-Qaeda or other Foreign Terrorist Organizations have any respect for the U.N. Convention Against Torture. But, the United States immediately loses the moral battle against terrorists when U.S. policy makes acceptations for torture, and disregards due process and the rule of law. Most importantly, ambiguity about U.S. policy on torture puts into jeopardy the lives of captured U.S. citizens, both military and civilian.

It is time for the House of Representatives to embrace Senator MCCAIN's anti-torture language and move on.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2017, "The Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2005."

Torture can have devastating physical and psychological consequences for its victims. It is a worldwide health and human rights concern. The need for assistance for torture victims living in the United States is enormous. It is estimated that more than half a million survivors of torture, who fled persecution in their native countries, now live in the United States. Survivors of torture arriving in this country include students, academicians, religious leaders and political activists.

Programs funded through the Torture Victims Relief Act help torture victims heal and rebuild their lives. Because of this legislation, more than 30 organizations in more than 20 States are caring for refugees and asylum seekers who have been brutally tortured and traumatized in their countries of origin. Torture treatment programs funded by the Torture Victims Relief Act provide critical medical care, mental health care, and social services.

I am proud that one of the leading centers in the United States, the Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture, is located in my district. This program is jointly sponsored by Bellevue Hospital, the nation's oldest public hospital, and New York University School of Medicine, a leader in medical education and research. Since the Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture began in 1995, more than 1,800 men, women, and children (more than 600 in the last year alone) from more than 70 countries have received vital care. The Bellevue/NYU Program has established an international reputation for excellence in its clinical, educational and research activities.

One patient cared for through the Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture is Samten. He is a gifted painter and was a leading artist in Tibet. After being arrested and imprisoned for writing poetry critical of the government, he was brutally beaten. During an interrogation session, he was told that he "was causing nothing but trouble with his hands" which were then forced into a coal oven. The severe burns caused significant scarring and disfigurement of his hands. He could barely hold a paintbrush and when he did, he had terrifying flashbacks of his abuse. Nightmares interrupted what little sleep he got.

At the time of referral to the Bellevue/NYU Program he did not have a regular place to stay. Through the Bellevue/NYU Program, he received primary medical care including pain management, treatment for exposure to tuberculosis as well as referral to hand specialists and subsequent hand surgery. Social service staff assisted him in finding housing and a pro bono attorney to represent him in his asylum case. He also attended a support group for Tibetan survivors which helped him to restore important social connections. Following surgery, he had marked improvement in the use of his hands. Recently, he was granted asylum, and he is again drawing and able to support himself.

The Bellevue/NYU Program and other treatment centers try to help torture survivors by restoring their dignity and their sense of trust. The centers also help them heal physically and psychologically, and assist them in getting on with their lives. Patients who have received

care from the Bellevue/NYU Program and other torture treatment centers are now working, going to school, and again leading productive lives.

It is urgent that we continue to support torture treatment centers, both domestically and internationally, through the Torture Victims Relief Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2017.

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.

URGING MEMBER STATES OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO STOP SUPPORTING RESOLUTIONS THAT UNFAIRLY CASTIGATE ISRAEL

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 438) urging member states of the United Nations to stop supporting resolutions that unfairly castigate Israel and to promote within the United Nations General Assembly more balanced and constructive approaches to resolving conflict in the Middle East, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 438

Whereas the 60th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations is currently underway in New York City;

Whereas the State of Israel is a critical strategic ally of the United States in the Middle East and the only true democracy in the region;

Whereas 60 years ago the United Nations was founded, in part, to prevent another Holocaust from ever happening again;

Whereas three years after its founding, the United Nations passed General Assembly Resolution 181, which provided for the partition of Mandatory Palestine and the establishment on its territory of an independent Jewish state, which became the State of Israel;

Whereas in recent years, the General Assembly of the United Nations has engaged in a pattern of approving resolutions that unfairly criticize and condemn Israel;

Whereas during the 59th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the General Assembly adopted 21 resolutions criticizing Israel;

Whereas despite the myriad of challenges facing the world community, the General Assembly of the United Nations has devoted a vastly disproportionate amount of time and resources to castigating Israel;

Whereas for the past 30 years, the United Nations has funded three entities that support anti-Israel propaganda, including the Division for Palestinian Rights, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, and the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Human Rights Practices Affecting the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories;

Whereas the double standard against the State of Israel that is perpetrated at the United Nations is pervasive: of ten emergency special sessions called by the General

Assembly of the United Nations, six have been about Israel, and since 1997, at the annual meetings of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, only Israel has had its own agenda item (Item 8) dealing with its alleged human rights violations, whereas all other countries are dealt with in a separate agenda item (Item 9); and

Whereas as a founding member of the United Nations, the United States has a special responsibility to promote fair and equitable treatment of all member states of the United Nations: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives urges member states of the United Nations to—

(1) stop supporting resolutions that unfairly castigate Israel; and

(2) promote within the United Nations system a more balanced and constructive approach to resolving conflict in the Middle East.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 438, which I am proud to cosponsor.

Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by thanking the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ROTHMAN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) for their initiative in drafting this measure.

Let me also thank the chairman and the ranking member of the Committee on International Relations and the House leadership for moving this resolution to the floor so rapidly.

Mr. Speaker, as the current session of the General Assembly of the United Nations winds toward a close, there are still important decisions to be made. Will the United Nations reform itself along the lines suggested by the United States, indeed, by this House? Many of these reforms are supported widely among the member states of the U.N. and even in some parts of its bureaucracy. Or will it continue along its way, wasting money and political capital on what lawyers might call "larks and detours"?

Among the most wasteful of the activities of the U.N. is its incessant use of funds and time on Israel-bashing resolutions and institutions. While these were never good ideas, and have been opposed by all American administrations, any excuse for supporting them has simply disappeared with the changes in the situation on the ground in the Middle East.

The resolution carefully catalogs the abysmal record of the United Nations' one-sided criticism of Israel over the decades. I will not repeat the details that are covered in the resolution; but it is enough to say, enough is enough. It is time to bring this unacceptable behavior to an end.

The United Nation has legitimate work to do. It should not sully its hands further with this one-sided agenda which serves no useful purpose, but only prevents it from doing good where it might be able to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the administration which has been working on these issues energetically to increase its efforts to correct this situation, including through the elimination of Palestinian offices and commissions that serve to fuel the anti-Israel bias and the resolutions that they always consider.

I included such a mandate in the U.N. Reform Act, the Henry Hyde bill, and I look forward to working with the administration toward this goal.

When our current permanent representative to the United Nations, Ambassador John Bolton, was Assistant Secretary of State for organizational affairs during the administration of the first President Bush, he executed a masterful strategy aimed at the repeal of the infamous Zionism is Racism resolution of the General Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I have every confidence that given his energy and the backing of the Department, he will have success in carrying out the agenda outlined in this resolution before us.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to render their strong support for this resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this resolution. The primary pathology that infects the United Nations General Assembly is its continuing obsession with singling out and castigating the democratic nation of Israel by the passing of a series of outrageous resolutions.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud my good friend and colleague from New Jersey (Mr. ROTHMAN) for offering this measure which encourages the U.N. to confront this pathology.

Mr. Speaker, the U.N.'s obsessive focus on Israel is not just an obstacle to the promotion of peace between Israel and the Palestinian people. The massive amount of time and resources spent on this issue by the General Assembly and the so-called U.N. Human Rights Commission crowds out the consideration of truly critical problems such as the ongoing genocide in Darfur, the AIDS crisis in Africa, Mugabe's murderous campaign against his own citizens in Zimbabwe, and scores of other real issues.

The climate created by the repeated passage of anti-Israeli measures at the U.N. also emboldens the most hate-filled, ignorant, and pathological mem-

bers of the international community such as Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who recently declared that Israel should be wiped off the map.

The U.N.'s repeated official condemnation of Israel's efforts to provide basic security for its citizens also emboldens further violence and terrorism against innocent Israelis.

□ 1600

Just yesterday, five innocent Israeli civilians were killed by suicide bombers. Since Israel's population is 1/60th of ours, this would have amounted to mass murder had it occurred in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, several recent developments have provided the U.N. with an opportunity to move past its shameful legacy of bias and hatred for Israel. After decades of exclusion from positions of leadership at the U.N., Israel has gained a more normal status at the organization, culminating in the recent historic election of Israeli Ambassador Gillerman as vice president of the General Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, the U.N. currently has two bold and principled leaders who have committed themselves to confronting the U.N.'s lingering anti-Semitism. Secretary General Kofi Annan has made numerous statements on this issue and convened an historic commemorative session on the 60 anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi death camps earlier this year.

The new president of the General Assembly, Sweden's former distinguished ambassador here in Washington, my dear friend Jan Eliasson, pressed the General Assembly to adopt a U.N. date to memorialize the suffering of the Jewish people in the Holocaust as the first official act of the 60th session.

Mr. Speaker, the current U.N. reform effort also presents the organization with an opportunity to eliminate the three entities that support anti-Israel propaganda: The Division For Palestinian Rights, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, and the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Human Rights Practices Affecting the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories. That is quite a title for an organization, which is useless.

Mr. Speaker, I earnestly hope that the U.N. will take advantage of this moment and will begin to reverse its pattern of outrageous attacks on Israel. I urge all of my colleagues to support H. Res. 438.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to my good friend and distinguished colleague from New Jersey (Mr. ROTHMAN), the sponsor of the resolution.

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

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for his leadership on all these issues and for yielding me time. I would also like to thank the gentle-

woman from Florida (Ms. ROSELEHTINEN) for all of her support for reforms at the U.N., as well as support for the State of Israel, what is right, and my dear friend and colleague on the House Appropriations Committee, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), who has worked with me on a number of issues relating to reforms at the U.N. and various other issues that we hold very near and dear to our hearts.

Mr. Speaker, what if I were to ask you the following question? Maybe would you possibly guess what is the answer. As you know, the United Nations has about 190 countries in it, 190 countries in the United Nations. What if I told you that over the last 30 years, about on average one-third of each of the resolutions each year at the United Nations for the last 30 years, about one-third of the resolutions relate to criticizing one country, every year, one-third of the resolutions of the General Assembly of the U.N.

You would say, wow, one country gets one-third of the resolutions at the U.N.? What country deserves the attention, the energy, the money, the hot air of the U.N. and the condemnation of that world body? Well, you would say, maybe had to do with the slaughter in the Sudan, the genocide in Rwanda or Cambodia or Bosnia, or the actions of Saddam Hussein's Iraq. Maybe those nations. Well, we are only talking about one, so it cannot be all of them. Would one of those be the one that for 30 years has gotten one-third of the resolutions condemning a country?

What if I told you that the country that for the last 30 years was condemned with 30 percent of the resolutions at the U.N., the only country, was the State of Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East? They get one-third of the resolutions of the U.N. addressed to it, the State of Israel, condemning it.

You would say, wow, what did Israel do to deserve that? Is it because Israel is a democracy and the world does not like democracies? The U.N. is against democracies, so they attack the only democracy in the Middle East? Or maybe you are more cynical and you say, ah hah, the Arab world does not like the State of Israel, so since the Arab world has all the oil, maybe that is why the U.N. devotes one-third of its resolutions every year to criticizing Israel, because they have no oil and the Arabs do not like Israel. Or maybe it is because Israel is America's best friend in the Middle East, its most reliable and trusted ally in the Middle East, and maybe that is why the U.N. does not like Israel. Or maybe you might say maybe it is because Israel is the only Jewish state in the world. Maybe that is why the U.N., of the 190 nations, singles out Israel for one-third of its resolutions a year, every year, for the last 30 years.

The 5 million Jews in Israel deserve castigation and condemnation, out of the 6 billion people on the planet, and

we pay American taxpayer dollars to finance the U.N. to do that? It is absurd. It is immoral. It is shameful.

Yet just last week, the United Nations again passed six more resolutions condemning the State of Israel. And if it is on target for each of the last 30 years, this year the United Nations will expend one-third of its resolutions criticizing one nation in the world, the tiny state, the only democracy in the Middle East, the only Jewish state in the world, the State of Israel.

Something is terribly wrong, Mr. Speaker, and this resolution that the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) and I have put together, with the help and support of the leadership of both parties, on the IR Committee and in the House, simply says to the United Nations that they should stop supporting these resolutions, wasting their money attacking America's best friend, the only Jewish state in the world, and instead use their energy, if they want to focus on the Middle East, how about the slaughter going on in all the dictatorships in the Arab world?

Why does the U.N. not spend its money more constructively if they want to be a legitimate help in resolving issues in the Middle East? Maybe they want to introduce some pro-democracy movements in all of the Arab dictatorships in the Middle East, or maybe they want to introduce some resolutions about the torture in Arab nations around the world, or the genocide going on in every continent of the world.

But I must tell you this: The American taxpayers are sick and tired, as are the Members of this House of Representatives, of the United Nations wasting our taxpayer money to attack our best friend for no reason with double standards. It is shameful, it is fraudulent, it is slanderous. There is no way to describe their lies being offered up as truths. And we are paying for it as a member nation of the U.N.? That is wrong.

The U.N. must stop its double standard against the State of Israel, wasting one-third of its resolutions for the whole year attacking Israel, or they are going to have to deal with the consequences.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK).

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

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida for bringing this resolution forward, and especially a man that we all follow his leadership for the dignity of human rights and the individual, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS).

Mr. Speaker, we founded the United Nations 50 years ago with the promise of "never again." The Nazi Holocaust had just claimed 6 million Jewish lives, and we pledged to the civilized world that we would never again allow such a brutal genocide. Two years later, we

fulfilled the first step in that promise by passing a plan for Palestine, granting the Jewish people a homeland of their own in a world that had sought their destruction.

How 50 years can change things. Today, the very institution which recognized and helped create the Jewish state works almost daily to make it a pariah in the world. The U.N. General Assembly has evolved into a relentlessly anti-Israel body, scapegoating the preeminent democracy in the Middle East for the bulk of the world's problems.

When Jews are murdered in shopping malls in Netanya or in pizza parlors in Jerusalem, the General Assembly is silent. When Jews stand up against terrorism and defend themselves, that is when the General Assembly erupts into condemnation.

There is now a chilling double standard at the United Nations that roots itself in the very ideology we defeated in Europe 50 years ago. It is rooted in a new 21st century anti-Semitism that targets the political manifestation of the Jewish people.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Israel once again face a threat of genocide and annihilation, they call it the existential threat, from the President of Iran who outlined his vision of a world without a State of Israel and highlighted his pursuit of nuclear power until that vision is realized.

The United Nations cannot sit by and allow that to happen. Now is the time to fulfill our promise, never again. We need to wake up now and see the United Nations for what it is, not what it was. What it is now, in part, is a corrupt and anti-Semitism organization. What it should become is a reformed body that fulfills the promise Mrs. Roosevelt set for it as a dream and a force for peace in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend from New Jersey for his leadership on this issue, and also thank the gentlewoman from Florida and the gentleman from California for bringing this key resolution to the floor.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I certainly thank the gentlewoman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, the United Nations has supported a series of three resolutions which praise Palestinian actions while condemning Israeli self-defense. Rather than promoting democracy in the Middle East, the U.N. continually strikes at Israel, even though it is the only true democracy in that region.

Without any consideration of Palestinian aggression, the U.N. has relentlessly gone on the offensive against the Israeli government, despite themselves having established the State of Israel after the Second World War. It is truly shameful that some 30 percent of the U.N.'s total legislative business is anti-Israel, when so many of the U.N.'s member nations have abhorrent human

rights records that go unaddressed and unspoken of.

Mr. Speaker, I have a simple request for the United Nations: Please do your job. Stop wasting our time with your anti-Israel political agenda and start doing something useful, might I suggest, like really investigating the Oil-For-Food scandal and holding the responsible parties accountable.

Most importantly, take a fair and balanced approach towards solving the problems that are plaguing the Middle East. If we are honestly trying to bring peace to the Middle East, we must help the Palestinians establish their own independent state, while at the same time showing them they must live in peaceful coexistence with Israel.

Mr. Speaker, the President of Iran recently said that Israel needs to be wiped off the face of the map, yet no one at the U.N. made more than a passing reference to these outrageous comments. The United Nations must realize that all member states deserve respect, and that these kinds of hateful, anti-Semitic remarks offend fair-minded people throughout the entire world.

□ 1615

Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that many Americans question our membership in the United Nations. Many resent that our dues are being spent on a political agenda that undermines our American ideals; and when such ridiculous actions are taken, no wonder questions arise about our involvement and our membership.

I urge our colleagues to support H. Res. 438 and ask that the United Nations as well take a balanced approach to the problems facing the Middle East.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT).

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 438 today to once again demonstrate my strong resolute support for the State of Israel and all of our support for Israel, and its beleaguered people as well. When we think about it, it is really unfortunate that Congress has to get together and even make such a statement, but I believe that the circumstances and world politics necessitate that we do so.

In addition to being one of the United States' closest allies, Israel is also the only truly fully functioning democracy in the Middle East. Yet, ever since 1948, when the world officially established the State of Israel and recognized its right to exist in the Middle East, the United Nations has shown an extraordinary bias against it.

It is my hope that it would be clear to all the freedom-loving peoples in the world and all the peaceful nations throughout the world that such a sentiment is unwarranted. Israel has done no more than to promote religious and economic freedom and democratic principles to each of its citizens, and it has

done so while enduring literally decades upon decades of violent attacks from many of its neighbors.

The U.N.'s bias has only served, however, to embolden Israel's enemies and to promote an anti-Israel attitude. That body's record of lagging in promotion of Israeli ambassadors to leadership positions while turning basically a blind eye when condemnation of actions against Israel were warranted is just one of the reasons why the U.S. Congress cannot sit idly by and do nothing.

As a cosponsor of H. Res. 438, I strongly encourage all of my colleagues to join in support of this resolution and also the next resolution, H. Res. 535, which honors the life and work of slain Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Together, these resolutions demonstrate the contrast of peace and democracy versus the hatred and bias that has surrounded Israel and the United Nations' treatment of it over the years.

I am hopeful that our united stand today will persuade the U.N., which has a history of inefficiency and corruption, to change its approach and its dealings with these issues.

I thank the gentlewoman for this opportunity.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL), a distinguished member of the International Relations Committee.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the distinguished gentleman from California, for the time.

I rise in strong support of H. Res. 438, which urges the U.N. member states to cease unfairly castigating Israel and adopt a balanced approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. I would also like to commend the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ROTHMAN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) for their diligent effort on this issue, as well as the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

Mr. Speaker, this resolution concerns one simple issue: equality of all U.N. member states. It is shameful, absolutely shameful, that Israel, a state established by U.N. consensus in the ashes of the Holocaust, has been unjustly maligned for decades. More than 30 years since the infamous Zionism of Racism resolution, an established precedent of Israel-bashing still thrives at the United Nations.

Within the context of U.N. reform, eradicating the various mechanisms of bias is crucial to its success. Examples include the plethora of resolutions condemning Israel while the world's worst human rights abusers escape attention or are even appointed to key U.N. panels.

I am particularly concerned with the three annual U.N. resolutions which reauthorize the so-called Division on Palestinian Rights, the Committee on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, and the Special Committee to

Investigate so-called Israeli Human Rights Abuses. These bodies serve no other purpose than to bash Israel and endorse the cause of one side in the long-standing conflict. Such discriminatory treatment of Israel discredits the entire United Nations organization and should be immediately eliminated.

Mr. Speaker, I recently returned from meetings in the European Union. I and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN) and other colleagues urged European Union officials to switch their vote in the U.N. General Assembly from "abstention" to "no" on those resolutions which fund anti-Israel entities. I say to our friends in the European Union, an abstention is the equivalent of voting "yes" and continuing the bias against Israel. By voting "no," the EU can join the United States in dissolving these inherently discriminatory panels, transfer the funds to a real humanitarian purpose, and move unequivocally to the realm of honest broker. If the EU states were to vote "no," funding would stop because there would not be the necessary two-thirds to perpetuate the funding.

Mr. Speaker, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will not be solved by constantly berating one side, Israel. By tolerating such action, the organization responsible for maintaining world peace is actually exacerbating the conflict by discriminating against a member state.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 438.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker I rise in support and as a co-sponsor of H. Res. 438, which urges member states of the United Nations to stop supporting resolutions that unfairly castigate Israel and to promote within the United Nations General Assembly more balanced and constructive approaches to resolving conflict in the Middle East.

Israel is a critical strategic ally of the United States and is the only true democracy in the Middle East. The United States and Israel are built on a common set of core democratic principles and operate under the rule of law. The United States and Israel must continue to work closely together to eliminate terrorism and foster the spread of democracy and economic prosperity throughout the Middle East.

The state of Israel, founded shortly after the Holocaust, serves as a safe haven and strong voice for Jews around the world.

The Charter of the United Nations—adopted after the end of World War II—states that the U.N. was founded to "maintain international peace and security" and "develop friendly relations among nations." The Charter also states that "[this] Organization is based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all its Members."

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the United Nations has utterly failed to live up to the principles and obligations of its charter when it comes to its treatment of Israel. The United Nations has a long history of singling out Israel for unfair, biased, and one-sided criticism and treatment. Let me mention just a few examples. Israel is the only country that has three special committees set up to support propaganda against it. Israel is the only country that has had its own agenda item dealing

with its alleged human rights violations in annual meetings of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, in contrast to all other countries which are combined into a separate agenda item. Israel is the only member nation of the United Nations that has consistently been denied full admission to its regional grouping, which violates the U.N. Charter guarantee of "sovereign equality" and denies Israel the right to fully participate in all U.N. functions.

Out of the ten emergency special sessions called by the United Nations General Assembly, six have related to Israel. During last year's session of the U.N. General Assembly, the body adopted a total of 71 resolutions by roll call vote, 21 of which (roughly 30 percent) criticized Israel. These resolutions are biased and one-sided, and I am disappointed that the U.N. has not focused its efforts on condemning and bringing an end to Palestinian terrorist attacks launched against Israel.

Finally, I want to cite the recent bipartisan task force report issued in June 2005 entitled "American Interests and U.N. Reform: Report of the Task Force on the United Nations." The report, authored by former House Speaker Newt Gingrich and former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, found that "systematic hostility" against Israel is "routinely expressed, organized, and funded" within the U.N. system, which treats Israel as a "second-class citizen."

Mr. Speaker, the United Nations has a critical role to play in the 21st century in its role as peacekeeper, election monitor, and humanitarian relief provider. The U.N. has also made great strides in promoting the rule of law and democracy. Unfortunately, the U.N. to date has not played a constructive role in resolving conflict in the Middle East, and the U.N. allowed itself to be hijacked by those with a political agenda. I have also written to U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan and expressed my concerns about anti-Semitic statements made by U.N. officers, and have urged him to follow the lead of the Helsinki Commission and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in combating anti-Semitism. I hope today's resolution will cause the U.N. and its member states to reevaluate their attitudes toward Israel and to reflect on how they can use the U.N. to make a constructive and meaningful contribution to international peace and security.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my fellow colleague from New Jersey, Congressman ROTHMAN, for sponsoring this important resolution which addresses the unfair treatment of Israel in the United Nations.

Too frequently we witness the destructive effects of anti-Semitism, hatred and intolerance on innocent people around the world. Just this past weekend, a suicide bomber killed 5 people and wounded at least 66 others at a shopping mall in Netanya, Israel.

Year after year, anti-Israel sentiments have manifested themselves in U.N. resolutions that unfairly condemn and castigate the State of Israel. That is why I am a proud cosponsor of this resolution that criticizes the blatant anti-Israel tone within the United Nations and calls on the U.N. to encourage a more balanced approach to the Middle East conflict.

At a time when anti-Semitism is on the rise around the world, the United Nations should

be taking a strong stance in support of tolerance. Instead, it is funding entities that support anti-Israel propaganda; it has dedicated over half of its emergency special sessions to Israel; and it continues to single out Israel for human rights violations in both the annual meetings of the UN Commission on Human Rights and in thirty percent of the resolutions voted on by the UN General Assembly each year.

Let me be clear—there have been some improvements, such as the election of Israel's Ambassador to the vice presidency of the 60th General Assembly. And yet Israel still remains the only member nation that has been denied admission to its regional grouping.

In 1948, the United Nations established the State of Israel as a homeland and refuge for Jewish people around the world. It is shameful that 57 years later, anti-Semitism has not gone away but is on the rise.

The United Nations Charter calls for its members to practice tolerance and live together in peace as good neighbors. Yet the UN's unbalanced approach toward the situation in the Middle East in general, and toward Israel in particular, risks undermining this foundation.

The United Nations should be a bastion of equal rights, equal voices, equal treatment and, when necessary, equal condemnation. If it cannot be an impartial judge of circumstances, the UN risks losing its credibility in the Middle East and undermining any future peace process.

I join my colleagues in supporting this bill to call on the United Nations to stop unfairly castigating Israel, and to support fair and equal treatment of all member nations.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this resolution offers support for our closest ally, Israel, and calls upon member states of the United Nations to stop supporting resolutions that unfairly criticize Israel.

Israel is the only member-state in the UN that is prevented from belonging to the regional grouping which it geographically belongs in and is, therefore, prevented from participating in much of the ordinary work of the UN. Israel cannot vote for or be elected to many of the UN's central organizations. Just as troubling as being denied full membership, however, is the disproportionate number of resolutions passed in the UN that unfairly criticize Israel.

Anti-Israel resolutions are often adopted in agencies, and on issues which have no relevance to the work or mandate of these organizations. Additionally, the Commission on Human Rights routinely adopts a grossly disproportionate number of resolutions concerning Israel. Of all condemnations of this agency, 26 percent refer to Israel alone, while states such as Syria and Libya are rarely criticized.

Another egregious example of bias against Israel is the fact that the UN has repeatedly held Emergency Special Sessions of the General Assembly on Israeli construction in Jerusalem. The Emergency Special Session was originally conceived in 1950 for emergencies like the Korean War, however in the last two decades, these special meetings have only been held regarding Israel. Emergency Special Sessions were not convened over the genocide in Rwanda, ethnic cleansing in the former Yugoslavia, or with regard to the other major world conflicts.

Since joining the United Nations on May 11, 1949, Israel has been singled out time and again for disproportionate criticism, underrepresented on important committees, denied full membership in regional groupings and constantly attacked by a bloc of Arab states and their supporters.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting in favor of this resolution to once again reaffirm our support for Israel, and to urge members of the UN to stop supporting resolutions that unfairly criticize Israel and prevent Israel from fully participating in the UN.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, we have no additional requests for time, and we yield back the balance of our time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 438, as amended. The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

HONORING THE LIFE, LEGACY,
AND EXAMPLE OF ISRAELI
PRIME MINISTER YITZHAK
RABIN ON THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY
OF HIS DEATH

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 535) honoring the life, legacy, and example of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on the tenth anniversary of his death.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 535

Whereas Yitzhak Rabin was born March 1, 1922, in Jerusalem;

Whereas Yitzhak Rabin volunteered for the Palmach, the elite unit of the Haganah (predecessor of the Israeli Defense Forces), and served for 27 years, including during the 1948 War of Independence, the 1956 Suez War, and as Chief of Staff in the June 1967 Six Day War;

Whereas in 1975, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin signed the interim agreement with Egypt (Sinai II) which laid the groundwork for the 1979 Camp David Peace Treaty between Israel and Egypt;

Whereas Yitzhak Rabin served as Ambassador to the United States from 1968-1973, Minister of Defense from 1984-1990, and Prime Minister from 1974-1977 and from 1992 until his assassination in 1995;

Whereas on September 13, 1993, in Washington, D.C., Yitzhak Rabin signed the Declaration of Principles framework agreement between Israel and the Palestinians;

Whereas upon the signing of the Declaration of Principles, Yitzhak Rabin said to the Palestinian people: "We say to you today in

a loud and clear voice: Enough of blood and tears. Enough! We harbor no hatred toward you. We have no desire for revenge. We, like you, are people who want to build a home, plant a tree, love, live side by side with you—in dignity, empathy, as human beings, as free men.";

Whereas Yitzhak Rabin received the 1994 Nobel Prize for Peace for his vision and bravery as a peacemaker, saying at the time: "There is only one radical means of sanctifying human lives. Not armored plating, or tanks, or planes, or concrete fortifications. The one radical solution is peace.";

Whereas on October 26, 1994, Yitzhak Rabin and King Hussein of Jordan signed a peace treaty between Israel and Jordan;

Whereas on November 4, 1995, Yitzhak Rabin was brutally assassinated after attending a peace rally in Tel Aviv where his last words were: "I have always believed that the majority of the people want peace, are prepared to take risks for peace . . . Peace is what the Jewish People aspire to.";

Whereas Yitzhak Rabin dedicated his life to the cause of peace and security for the state of Israel by defending his nation against all threats, including terrorism and undertaking courageous risks in the pursuit of peace: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors the historic role of Yitzhak Rabin for his distinguished service to the Israeli people and extends its deepest sympathy and condolences to the family of Yitzhak Rabin and the people of Israel on the tenth anniversary of his death;

(2) recognizes and reiterates its continued support for the close ties and special relationship between the United States and Israel;

(3) expresses its admiration for Yitzhak Rabin's legacy and reaffirms its commitment to the process of building a just and lasting peace between Israel and its neighbors;

(4) condemns any and all acts of terrorism; and

(5) reaffirms unequivocally the sacred principle that democratic leaders and governments must be changed only by the democratically-expressed will of the people.

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

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in strong support of H. Res. 535, honoring the life, the legacy and the example of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

I commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) for introducing this resolution. I would also like to thank the leadership, along with Chairman

HYDE and Ranking Member LANTOS of the House International Relations Committee for helping to bring this important resolution to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, on November 4, 1995, Prime Minister Rabin was tragically assassinated at a peace rally in Kings of Israel Square in Tel Aviv, Israel.

Moments before his death, Rabin said the following to tens of thousands of Israelis: "Peace entails difficulties, even pain. Israel knows no path devoid of pain. But the path of peace is preferable to the path of war."

Prime Minister Rabin symbolized the complexities of Israeli society. He fought in the war of independence, which established the State of Israel in 1948, and spent much of his professional life in the battlefield defending the State of Israel militarily.

However, his contributions to the greater battle for Israel's security through a negotiated solution is what the people of Israel, the Palestinians and, indeed, the rest of the world remember most 10 years after he uttered his last words of hope and peace in 1995.

Under Prime Minister Rabin's leadership, Israel signed a Declaration of Principles Framework Agreement with the Palestinians in 1993 and a peace treaty with Jordan a year later.

In 1994, Rabin received the Nobel Peace Prize, saying the following about making peace with the Palestinians at the time: "Mistakes could topple the whole structure and bring disaster down upon us despite the toll of murderous terrorism, despite fanatic and scheming enemies. We will pursue the course of peace with determination and fortitude. We will not let up. We will not give in. Peace will triumph over all our enemies, because the alternative is grim for us all."

Prime Minister Rabin paid the ultimate price for peace; and after his death, his beloved wife, Leah Rabin, carried on her husband's message. After Mrs. Rabin's passing from lung cancer, her daughter Dalia Rabin is leading her father's mission for hope and peace. This resolution is also a testament to their hard work and commitment to the ideals of their father and husband, Yitzhak Rabin.

Thanks to the generosity of so many people, Mr. Rabin's legacy will permanently be commemorated in the State of Israel through the opening of the Yitzhak Rabin Center for Israel Studies.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the passage of this resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the resolution before the House today honors the memory of one of the 20th century's most remarkable leaders.

It has now been more than a decade since Yitzhak Rabin was laid to rest.

Just 3 weeks ago, it was my great honor to represent the Congress at the official remembrance ceremony for Prime Minister Rabin at his grave on Mount Herzl in Jerusalem. It was a deeply emotional event and a spell-binding experience.

Rabin was eulogized by many, but none spoke more eloquently and with more feeling than former President Bill Clinton and our current Secretary of State, Dr. Condoleezza Rice.

As is the custom in Israel, I placed rocks on the graves of both Yitzhak Rabin and his wife, Leah, who were friends of mine and my wife, Annette, as well.

I was privileged to attend the opening of the Yitzhak Rabin Center for Israeli Studies housed in Tel Aviv in a building designed by the incredibly talented architect Moshe Safdie. Through exhibits, seminars and scholarship, it will serve as an appropriate and permanent memorial to the late, great Prime Minister.

Many of us in this Chamber remember where we were and what we were doing and the devastation we felt on November 4, 1995, as if the tragedy had happened just moments ago. I was reading a book about Abraham Lincoln, the first American President to be assassinated. I remember telling my wife that despite all their difficulties, troubles and turmoil, the Israelis at least escaped seeing their leaders assassinated; and an hour later, the television reported that Rabin had just been shot to death.

□ 1630

Rabin's life was more majestic than the moment of his murder was horrible, powerful as the memory of that moment is. His life was rich with legendary achievements and, as befits the first native-born Israeli to lead his Nation, his life was also rich with symbolism:

He played a key role in Israel's War of Independence, and he was critical, of course, to Israel's historic success in the Six-Day War. As Ambassador to the United States, he helped lay the groundwork of U.S. support for Israel in the Yom Kippur War. His honest, piercing insights and sometimes gruff style seemed to epitomize a Nation renowned both for brilliance and directness.

In his last years, at times he publicly reflected on the meaning of peace and war and life and death. And, when he did so, he surprised many of us by revealing in a gravelly voice and in incongruously defined tones, a soul seemingly forged by the psalmists and the prophets.

His story has been told and retold many times and is familiar to most of us. As a youth, he turned down a British mandate scholarship that would have allowed him to study hydraulic engineering at Berkeley, my alma mater, and perhaps pursue a life of more conventional success. Instead, he anchored his life to serving his people

and his homeland. He became a warrior, a strategist, a politician, a diplomat, a statesman, and a peacemaker. He became a general, a chief of staff, an ambassador, a defense minister, and a prime minister.

My wife, Annette, and I were privileged to know him in all of his various roles. We knew him and his wife Leah well, and we loved them dearly. Rabin was already a giant of Israeli history when he initiated the period of intense peacemaking that began with the Oslo agreement. For all his many legendary accomplishments, it is that period that dominates our memory of him, in part because it contrasted so sharply with the military glories of his past and because he was cruelly and tragically forced to exit the scene before he found out if his labors for peace would bear fruit.

President Clinton has said that there undoubtedly would have been peace had Rabin lived. I am not so sure. But we will never know for certain. It is more than possible that Rabin's best efforts would have been thwarted by the devious and malevolent Arafat, just as the best efforts of Rabin's successors were.

But I do know this, Mr. Speaker. Rabin would have signed a final peace agreement only if he were absolutely convinced that it would enhance the security of the democratic State of Israel. The one final peace agreement he did sign, the treaty with Jordan, is today the sturdiest of all Israel's various agreements with Arab States, and Yitzhak was a peacemaker with a spine of steel.

To me, one aspect of Rabin's life stands out above all others. He was a leader. Shimon Peres said it well of Prime Minister Rabin at his funeral, calling him "a rare leader, capable of uprooting mountains and blazing trails, of designating a goal and achieving it."

Many qualities contributed to his supreme leadership skills, not least his thorough identification with his people, their aspirations, their anguish, and their sorrows. But his extra dimension, what made him a special leader, a giant among giants, was his remarkable intellect and his capacity for intellectual growth. As he aged, his mind seemed to grow ever more keen and supple. When he signed the agreement with Arafat in 1993, he explained it in part by saying that the Iraqi missiles that rained down on Tel Aviv convinced him that territory alone would not bring security, and that the intifada of 1987 had convinced him that Israel could never forever rule angry and hostile people.

When he embraced peace, Rabin implicitly created an operational paradigm for a two-state solution, subsequently adopted by our own government, a paradigm that remains at the heart of all realistic visions of peace today, a paradigm that has been embraced and elaborated upon by some of his fiercest critics.

Above all, Rabin believed passionately in democracy and its values. In his final speech, at the peace rally in Tel Aviv, and President Clinton and Condoleezza Rice and several of us, several tens of thousands of us attended a similar rally at the same place 3 weeks ago, his final speech indicated that he was aware of foreboding intelligence reports because he warned, and I quote, "violence undermines the very foundations of democracy. Controversies may arise in democracy, but the decision must be reached through Democratic elections." Moments later, he became a martyr to a gunshot.

Today, 10 years after the tragedy, we look at Rabin even with the clear-headedness that was his own hallmark, and we recognize him as one of the towering figures of our lifetime. We miss him, but we are guided by his multiple legacy of courage and wisdom and belief in the unflagging importance of U.S.-Israeli friendship and his intertwined commitment to security and peace.

It is very appropriate that our body honor the memory of one of our great late friends, Mr. Speaker. I strongly support this legislation, and I urge all of my colleagues to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL).

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I rise in strong support of H. Res. 535, which honors Yitzhak Rabin on the 10th anniversary of his assassination. I am honored to be the sponsor of this resolution, and I would like to thank my colleagues on the International Relations Committee for their assistance and support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, as was mentioned by my colleagues, November 4th marked the 10th anniversary of the brutal assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, a warrior turned peacemaker. In a recent national poll, Israelis ranked Rabin's assassination as the third most formative event in the Nation's history, after the 1967 and 1973 wars. Rabin's impact in life was tremendous and his loss to the world is incalculable.

I remember attending his funeral in Israel with many Members of this body and the other body as well, and many leaders, international leaders, and leaders of other nations. Who can forget the moving eulogy by then President Bill Clinton, who, among other things, said about Mr. Rabin, "shalom chaver," which means "goodbye friend."

Mr. Speaker, my legislation highlights the legacy of the man. The Hebrew word for the anniversary of a death is Yizkor, which simply means remember. While mourning his loss, we must also celebrate his life.

Yitzhak Rabin dedicated his life to the cause of peace and security for the State of Israel by defending his nation against all threats, including terrorism, and undertaking courageous risks in the pursuit of peace. By adopt-

ing this resolution, Congress will honor the life, legacy, and example of former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

This resolution expresses our admiration for Mr. Rabin's legacy and recognizes his historic service to the Israeli people, while extending our deepest sympathy and condolences to his family and the people of Israel. It also reiterates our continued support for the close ties and special relationship between the United States and Israel and the building of a just and lasting peace between Israel and all of its neighbors.

We also condemn any and all acts of terrorism, including one that happened just the other day in Netanya, and reaffirm unequivocally the sacred principle that democratic leaders and governments must be changed only by the democratically expressed will of the people.

Rabin was the first Sabra, a native-born Israeli, to become prime minister. He was born in Jerusalem and later volunteered for the Palmach, the elite unit of the Haganah, the predecessor of the Israeli Defense Forces. He served for 27 years, including during the 1948 War of Independence, the 1956 Suez War, and as Chief of Staff in the June 1967 Six-Day War. In 1975, Prime Minister Rabin signed the Interim Agreement with Egypt, which lay the groundwork for the 1979 Camp David Peace Treaty between Israel and Egypt. He also served as ambassador here in Washington, ambassador to the U.S., from 1968 to 1973, Minister of Defense from 1984 to 1990, and Prime Minister from 1974 to 1977 and from 1992 until his assassination in 1995.

On September 13, 1993, in Washington, D.C., Yitzhak Rabin signed the Declaration of Principles framework agreement between Israel and the Palestinians. I remember it well. I attended with my wife, who was then 7 months pregnant, and it had to be 95 degrees in Washington, but we sat on the White House lawn and watched the historic ceremony because we wanted to be a part of it. Upon signing, Rabin said to the Palestinian people, "We say to you today in a loud and clear voice, enough of blood and tears. Enough. We harbor no hatred toward you. We have no desire for revenge. We, like you, are people who want to build a home, plant a tree, love, live side-by-side with you, in dignity, empathy, as humans beings, as free men."

He received the 1994 Nobel Prize For Peace for his vision and bravery as a peacemaker. The following year, as was pointed out, Rabin and King Hussein of Jordan signed a peace treaty between their countries, and we know about the tragic assassination. And as was stated before, his last words were, "I have always believed that the majority of the people want peace, are prepared to take risks for peace, peace is what the Jewish people aspire to."

Mr. Speaker, 10 years ago, Israel and the world lost a leader of vision and strength. Former Prime Minister Rabin epitomized the essence of the

State of Israel, fierce in his defense of his homeland, but always willing to go the extra mile for peace. As we remember him on the tenth anniversary of his death, let us express the hope that Israel and its neighbors will someday experience this peace that he worked so hard to achieve. I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 535.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my friend from New York for drafting this most important resolution.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I also commend my good friend from New York (Mr. ENGEL) for this resolution.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this proposed legislation, "Honoring the life, legacy, and example of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on the tenth anniversary of his death."

Perhaps no man in Israel's short history as a state has been more influential on the country as Yitzhak Rabin. The story of Rabin's life mirrors the conflicting nature of his county, fiercely wielding the sword of war when necessary in one hand, while extending the olive branch of peace in the other. Few will be considered to have been more dedicated to the peace and security of his country than was Yitzhak Rabin.

As a young man, Rabin's character was hardened by war. He joined the army at 18 years old, before it was named the Israeli Defense Force, before the state of Israel existed. He would serve in the military for 27 years, fighting in the 1948 War of Independence, 1956 Suez War, and, after rising to the rank of Chief of Staff, commanded the Israeli Defense Force in the Six Day War of 1964. Shortly after leading his troops to a stunning, decisive victory in that historical war, Rabin retired from the military to become a diplomat and politician, perhaps suggesting that peace was more effectively sought through diplomacy than through war.

Rabin, who spent a majority of his life as an instrument of war, shifted gears and dedicated the rest of his life to the peace process. Among his major accomplishments were, as Prime Minister, orchestrating the signing of the interim peace agreement between Israel and Egypt, which laid the groundwork for the 1979 Camp David Peace Treaty between the two countries. Fifteen years later, in his second term of service as Prime Minister, he would sign a peace treaty between Israel and Jordan. It is remarkable in retrospect that Rabin, who as a young man fought several wars against Egypt and Jordan, would be such an outspoken and instrumental figure in working towards peace with Israel's Arab neighbors.

Yitzhak Rabin's life was prematurely taken from him on November 4, 1995, when he was murdered at a peace rally in King David Square. Many today suggest that if Rabin had never been murdered, his vision of peace for the Middle East may have come to fruition. Despite his great military career, Yitzhak Rabin is remembered as a champion of peace.

I urge my colleagues to honor the distinguished life and legacy of Yitzhak Rabin by

voting for this legislation. A decade has passed since Yitzhak Rabin was murdered; I pray another decade need not pass before his lifelong goal of peace in the Middle East is realized.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution honoring the life and legacy of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

It has been 10 years, November 4, 1995, since Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated by a gunman in central Tel Aviv after attending a rally, however, Mr. Rabin's service to the Israeli people and work to promote peace with Israel's neighbors is still present today.

At the age of 19 Mr. Rabin joined the Israeli Army where he served for 27 years, culminating his military career as I.D.F. Chief of Staff. After retiring from I.D.F. service on January 1, 1968, he was appointed Israeli Ambassador to the United States.

Mr. Rabin returned to Jerusalem in early 1973, and became active in the Israel Labor Party. In the December 1973 elections, he was elected to the Knesset, and when Golda Meir formed her government in April 1974, he was appointed Minister of Labor. This government resigned shortly afterwards, and on June 2, 1974, the Knesset voted confidence in a new government headed by Yitzhak Rabin. As Prime Minister, Mr. Rabin placed a special emphasis on improving the economy, solving social problems, and strengthening the I.D.F.

Following the Labor Party's defeat in the May 1977 elections, Mr. Rabin served as a member of Knesset in the opposition, until the formation of the National Unity Government in September 1984. He then served as Minister of Defense in the National Unity Government from September 1984 to March 1990.

From March 15, 1990, to June 23, 1992, Mr. Rabin served again in the Knesset in the opposition. Before the 1992 elections, the Israel Labor Party held its first nationwide primaries. Mr. Rabin was elected chairman of the party in February 1992, and in the June 1992 national elections he was elected Prime Minister.

On September 13, 1993, Mr. Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat signed the Declaration of Principles in Washington, DC, outlining the proposed interim self-government arrangements. The "GazaJericho First" agreement, signed in Cairo on May 4, 1994, addressed the implementation of the first stage of the Declaration of Principles. Following the progress in the negotiations with the Palestinians, Mr. Rabin received the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize for his work.

I had the opportunity to meet Prime Minister Rabin and value his memory. Mr. Rabin was an extraordinary man, and not enough can be said about his commitment to the Israeli people, his country, and regional peace. Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 535 to honor the legacy and life work of Mr. Rabin.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 538. On the 10-year anniversary of his death, I believe that it is important to think back and honor the life of Yitzhak Rabin, for he was a great figure in the pursuit of worldwide peace and stability in the Middle East. During his two terms as Prime Minister of Israel, Rabin attempted to work and negotiate with then Palestinian Liberation Organization leader Yassar Arafat to bring about a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.

Rabin's service to the nation of Israel began with his work in the Israeli Defense Forces. Rabin rose to the position of Chief of Staff, and under his command, Israel was able to successfully defend itself against its neighboring states during the Six-Day War. Following his retirement from the IDF, in 1968 Rabin was chosen to serve as ambassador to the United States. In 1973 he was elected to the Knesset. Only one year later, Rabin was chosen to be the leader of the labor party, eventually being elected Prime Minister of Israel. During the early 1990s, in Rabin's second run as Prime Minister, he made it a priority to solve the Palestinian conflict. His tireless efforts on that behalf led to the Oslo Accord. For his efforts Rabin was awarded the Noble Peace Prize.

As we all know, Prime Minister Rabin was murdered in Tel Aviv by a citizen who did not support his efforts towards achieving peace. I had the opportunity, along with President Clinton and several other Members of Congress, to attend his funeral in Israel. It was one of the most deeply moving ceremonies to which I have ever been.

We remember Yitzhak Rabin today as a great man who worked his whole life to protect and strengthen the free state that is Israel. His memory inspires us to continue the progress for global peace. It is crucial that his memory and influence is not forgotten a decade after his tragic assassination.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 535, and appreciate this opportunity to honor the life, legacy, and example of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on the tenth anniversary of his death.

My first trip to Israel was to attend Mr. Rabin's funeral. During my most recent trip to Israel I joined with thousands of Israelis and other international guests in a moving tribute to his distinguished life.

Yitzhak Rabin said that, "politicians are elected by adults to represent the children." In my eyes, Rabin was a man that politicians could look up to for his tremendous valor and courage. During the peace rally in Tel Aviv where he was brutally assassinated his last words were: "I have always believed that the majority of the people want peace, are prepared to take risks for peace. Peace is what the Jewish People aspire to."

Mr. Rabin served in war and was a man of peace. His death was a tremendous loss for Israel and the whole world. I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution honoring his life and legacy.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 535, honoring the life, legacy, and example of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on the tenth anniversary of his death. Mr. Rabin dedicated himself to peace and worked to ensure a lasting peace between the Israelis and Palestinians. Today we honor his legacy and, by doing so, commit ourselves once again to building a lasting peace in this still volatile region.

Mr. Rabin led a distinguished life dedicated to his people. He served in the Israeli army, as Ambassador to the United States, as the Minister of Defense, and as the Prime Minister. As Prime Minister, Rabin was instrumental in the signing of an interim agreement with Egypt in 1979 and the Declaration of Principles framework agreement between the Israelis and Palestinians in 1993.

For his efforts, Mr. Rabin was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1994. At that time he

stated, "there is only one radical means of sanctifying human lives. Not armored plating, or tanks, or planes, or concrete fortifications. The one radical solution is peace."

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 535.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

MOURNING LOSS OF LIFE CAUSED BY FLOODS AND MUDSLIDES IN OCTOBER 2005 IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND MEXICO

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 280) mourning the horrific loss of life caused by the floods and mudslides that occurred in October 2005 in Central America and Mexico and expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should do everything possible to assist the affected people and communities, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 280

Whereas on October 4, 2005, Hurricane Stan made landfall on Mexico's Gulf coast, bringing sustained winds of 80 miles per hour before weakening to a tropical storm and generating separate storms across southern Mexico and Central America;

Whereas Hurricane Wilma, a category four hurricane, made landfall in Cozumel, Mexico on October 22, 2005, and stalled over the Yucatan Peninsula bringing over 60 inches of rain to some parts of the Peninsula and causing severe flooding, over 75,000 evacuations, damaging between 30-40 percent of the houses in Cancun, and causing severe damage to the area's vital tourism industry;

Whereas Hurricane Beta made landfall on October 30, 2005, near Karabal and Sandy Bay, Nicaragua, as a category two hurricane, displacing thousands of people, damaging critical communications and transportation infrastructure, and bringing destructive winds and rains to these and approximately 50 other communities;

Whereas the heavy rainfall associated with these storms caused widespread and severe flooding that has affected millions of people across Central America, including the people of Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Guatemala, and the people of Mexico;

Whereas, as of October 12, 2005, the flooding had killed an estimated 2,000 people across Central America and Mexico, according to government estimates which are expected to be revised upwards;

Whereas rains have produced more than 900 landslides, burying entire villages and causing numerous deaths in Guatemala, with official government estimates confirming 654

deaths, 577 people missing, and more than 120,000 people affected across 621 communities in the provinces of Escuintla, Guatemala, Quetzaltenango, Chiquimula, San Marcos, Chimaltenango, El Quiché, and Baja Verapaz;

Whereas many of the affected areas are especially vulnerable to natural disasters and lack access to basic healthcare, sanitation, and medical services;

Whereas the flooding and landslides have damaged housing and public infrastructure in 251 of the 331 municipalities in Guatemala and sustained rains across much of the country have hampered ongoing relief efforts;

Whereas two simultaneous emergencies in El Salvador—the severe flooding caused by Tropical Storm Stan and the eruption of the Santa Ana volcano on October 1, 2005—have affected half of the country and forced the evacuation of more than 69,000 people to local shelters;

Whereas Tropical Storm Stan caused massive flooding in the Mexican States of Veracruz, Chiapas, Oaxaca, Tabasco, Puebla, Hidalgo, and Guerrero and forced the evacuation of approximately 370,000 people from nearly 3,000 communities to local shelters, according to the Government of Mexico;

Whereas extensive rainfall in the Costa Rican provinces of Alajuela, Cartago, Guanacaste, Heredia, Puntarenas, and San Jose in the Pacific and Central Valley caused severe flooding and landslides, forcing more than 1,000 people in 459 communities to evacuate to local shelters, damaged 550 houses, 117 bridges, and 11 educational buildings, and more than 281 roads have been blocked or damaged by mudslides;

Whereas many families in these affected areas are homeless and in desperate need of reconstruction help;

Whereas the United States Agency for International Development's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) initially provided \$150,000 to USAID/Guatemala for the local purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies, as well as for helicopter support, including fuel and rental of local helicopters and an additional \$1,200,000 to USAID/Guatemala for emergency grants to nongovernmental organization partners for emergency health, water and sanitation, and shelter activities;

Whereas USAID/OFDA committed \$200,000 to support the Pan American Health Organization's (PAHO) emergency health and water and sanitation activities as part of the United Nations joint appeal;

Whereas USAID/OFDA is working closely with the Governments of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Mexico to coordinate transportation and distribution of relief commodities to affected communities and for the local purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies, water, and food;

Whereas on October 8, 2005, the United States Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM) deployed a 58-person team to Guatemala City to assist with ongoing disaster relief efforts in southwestern Guatemala and sent nine United States Army helicopters to conduct search and rescue missions and provide for the transportation of emergency relief supplies, including food, medical supplies, and communications equipment, to affected areas, as well as flying in host nation firefighters, emergency aid workers, and doctors; and

Whereas the United States initially has provided \$100,000 to the Mexican Red Cross for the local purchase and distribution of emergency relief supplies to aid victims of Hurricane Wilma, and a USAID/OFDA team is working with USAID/Mexico, local disaster officials, and other organizations to assess impacts, aid requirements, and deliver

further emergency assistance: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) Congress—

(A) mourns the horrific loss of life caused by the floods and mudslides that occurred in October 2005 in Central America and Mexico;

(B) expresses its deep condolences to the families of the many victims;

(C) commits to provide the necessary resources and to stand by the people of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Mexico in the relief, recovery, and rebuilding efforts;

(D) applauds the prompt humanitarian response to this natural disaster by the United States Agency for International Development, the United States Armed Forces, and other departments and agencies of the United States Government, the United Nations and other international organizations, and nongovernmental organizations;

(E) recognizes the growing support by international donors for relief efforts;

(F) affirms its commitment to additional United States support for relief and long-term reconstruction efforts in areas affected by the flooding;

(G) urges continued attention by donors and relief agencies to the needs of vulnerable populations in the stricken countries, particularly those left homeless by this disaster and whose welfare and economic livelihoods have been disrupted;

(H) urges assistance which targets immediate and long-term infrastructure needs, with a special emphasis on improvements that aim to increase emergency preparedness and withstand future natural disaster events; and

(I) encourages the Administration and other international donors to provide immediate and long-term assistance for the reconstruction of affected infrastructure that is a requisite for the economic and social development of the devastated communities; and

(2) it is the sense of Congress that it should be the policy of the United States—

(A) to promote economic growth and improved living standards, reduce poverty, and promote democracy and the rule of law in the countries of Central America;

(B) in concert with multilateral humanitarian organizations, the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Development Bank, to actively support the reconstruction of affected communities in places to be determined by respective governments in collaboration with representatives of such communities;

(C) to expedite humanitarian relief and reconstruction efforts in order to mitigate the immediate and long-term threats to public health, economic development, and security in Central America;

(D) to provide technical assistance to Central American governments in order to strengthen the capacity of first responders and governmental institutions at the national, provincial, and local levels in the area of disaster management coordination and preparedness, including information and communications systems to help with the response to natural disasters; and

(E) to encourage the governments of these countries to improve disaster mitigation techniques and compliance among all key sectors of their societies.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

□ 1645

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the concurrent resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, devastating storms affected most of the Western Hemisphere this hurricane season, and many people throughout the region will spend the next few months and years rebuilding their lives and their communities. Many people in the U.S., as well as our neighbors in Central America, are in this situation in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Stan, Wilma, and Beta.

These hurricanes and other tropical storms that barreled through the Caribbean, along Mexico's gulf coast, and along parts of Central America and up to our shores, brought heavy winds and destructive rainfall. The torrential downpours caused widespread flooding and severe mudslides, killing an estimated 2,000 people and affecting millions of others across Central America, including the people of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Mexico. Some of these areas sustained severe damage to residential and commercial infrastructure and crippled destruction of transportation as well as food crops.

In some of the hardest hit areas, schools, homes, roads, hospitals, and other buildings were simply washed away. Some villages in Guatemala were swept away by mudslides and have been turned instead into mass graves. Our prayers are with these communities.

House Con. Res. 280 was introduced last month to urge expedited humanitarian relief, as well as stronger efforts to provide technical assistance to Central American governments in order to strengthen the capacity of first responders and governmental institutions at the national, provincial, and local levels. Furthermore, this legislation urges assistance which targets immediate and long-term infrastructure needs, with a special emphasis on improvements that aim to increase emergency preparedness and withstand future natural disasters.

I urge my colleagues to support House Con. Res. 280.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this important resolution. The human suffering and economic devastation caused by natural disasters in 2005

seem to know no bounds. The year began with the aftermath of the horrendous tsunami in Southeast Asia, only to be followed by a brutal hurricane season which included hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

While we in the United States have rightly come to associate these hurricanes with the apocalyptic destruction that they inflicted on our Gulf Coast States, Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita also tore through much of Mexico, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Nicaragua. Some of the worse loss of life as a result of these storms occurred in Guatemala, where more than a thousand men, women and children were killed and where more than 120,000 people had the normalcy of their lives shredded to bits by the avalanches of mud and debris.

The hurricanes brought similar havoc in Mexico and Central American countries. In Mexico, some 400 people in southern states like Oaxaca were forced to evacuate to shelters and up to 40 percent of the homes in popular tourist destinations like Cancun were severely damaged.

Mr. Speaker, as we continue to contribute to the rebuilding and recovery efforts in Mexico and in affected Central American countries, we must ensure that our joint efforts to reconstruct homes, health facilities, schools and other buildings increase the likelihood that these structures will withstand similar natural disasters which are sure to come in the future.

Working with volunteers from two organizations based in my congressional district, I believe twin strategies are necessary to help guarantee that these structures are safe and strong. A friend and neighbor of mine, David Rivard, created an organization called Codes and Safety for the Americas, CASA, while his wife created an organization called Airline Ambassadors International. David and Nancy Rivard are extraordinary and exemplary citizens, giving of their own time, energy, effort, and resources to help our neighbors in this hemisphere.

Mr. Speaker, we must ensure that reconstruction which is financed by the United States taxpayer is less likely to succumb to hurricane-force winds or be built in mudslide-prone areas. Building projects funded by USAID must be models of quality construction. We also must cultivate a culture of code compliance in developing countries through exchanges of building professionals, educational seminars, and other expertise-sharing programs.

I look forward to working with the administration and these two organizations in making the strategies a reality in our rebuilding efforts around the globe. In the meantime, today's resolution achieves the objective of building safe and sturdy dwellings by supporting the adoption and implementation of disaster-mitigation techniques by the governments and construction sectors of countries which are prone to natural disasters. I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague and Chairman of the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, Congressman BURTON, for sponsoring this important legislation mourning the loss of life resulting from hurricanes and flooding in Central America.

We are discussing this resolution as the record fourteenth hurricane of the season, Hurricane Epsilon, still rages. Although Hurricane Epsilon has moved out to the Atlantic where it poses no threat to land, we were not so lucky with Hurricane Beta. This hurricane slammed into Nicaragua in late October and caused a great deal of damage, flooding and forced evacuations in both Nicaragua and neighboring Honduras. And Hurricane Wilma left its imprint not only on Mexico but on our own state of Florida, just one week before Hurricane Beta hit.

This has been a difficult and trying hurricane season throughout our hemisphere. And it has been made even more difficult by the fact that many Central American countries are still trying to rebuild after hurricanes from previous years, such as 1998's devastating Hurricane Mitch.

So I strongly support this resolution, which expresses our heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies to the victims of flooding and mudslides caused by the various hurricanes. It also pledges our support to the countries of Central America that have been hit hardest by multiple hurricanes this year, and our help in rebuilding their infrastructure and economies.

And let's be clear—the region will need not only our help, but the help of the entire international community. Guatemala, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Haiti, Cuba and Costa Rica were all hit by damaging winds and drenching rains this hurricane season, causing widespread destruction and flooding.

The magnitude of this devastation is staggering. In Guatemala alone, the official death toll is just over 670, although other sources estimate that more than 2,000 people may have perished and that hundreds are missing. Across the region, tens of thousands of families have been affected by these natural disasters. Thousands of Central American families have lost everything. They are in need of food, clean water, clothes and shelter.

Just as Mexico and the countries of Central America contributed to us during our time of need after Hurricane Katrina, we should now contribute to them.

So I am pleased that the US government, particularly through USAID and the US Armed Forces, has responded quickly with both initial monetary and technical aid during this crisis. While I encourage these efforts, we must be sure to provide relief and long-term reconstruction assistance to the affected communities.

Many of us on the Subcommittee were already concerned about poverty and inequality in Central America and about proposed cuts to core development funding for Central America. I was pleased by the strong bipartisan support the Subcommittee showed when almost every Subcommittee Member joined me in sending a letter in late October to the conferees on the Foreign Operations bill urging them to restore this funding.

While we continue the long-term fight to reduce poverty and inequality in Central America, we must also offer our condolences to the victims of this most recent natural disaster.

And I know that many of the victims' families live here in the United States. So I would also like to acknowledge the actions of the US Latino communities in DC, New Jersey, and around the country, who quickly mobilized to send money and aid to help the survivors. Our diversity is our greatest strength and connects us to almost every country in the world. When tragedy strikes anywhere in the world, it also is directly felt in the homes of US citizens who still have family and friends in their countries of origin.

Personally, I am deeply saddened by the devastation and loss of life caused by massive flooding, landslides, and hurricanes in Guatemala and throughout Central America. I would like to express my deepest sympathies and condolences to the victims and their families and friends, both in Central America and here at home.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 280, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 479) recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution that began on October 23, 1956 and reaffirming the friendship between the people and governments of the United States and Hungary, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 479

Whereas on October 23, 1956, university students marching through the streets of Budapest were joined by workers and others until their numbers reached some 100,000 Hungarian citizens protesting against the communist government of Hungary and its domination by the Soviet Union, whereupon the Hungarian Security Police opened fire on the crowd and killed hundreds;

Whereas the Hungarian government under Prime Minister Imre Nagy released political prisoners, including major church leaders, took steps to establish a multi-party democracy, called for the withdrawal of all Soviet troops from Hungary, announced Hungary's withdrawal from the Warsaw Pact, and requested United Nations assistance in establishing Hungarian neutrality;

Whereas the Soviet Union launched a massive military counteroffensive against the revolt on November 4, 1956, sending tens of thousands of additional troops from the Soviet Union and launched air strikes, artillery

bombardments and coordinated tank-infantry actions involving some 6,000 tanks which, remarkably, the outnumbered and under-equipped Hungarian Army and Hungarian workers resisted for several days;

Whereas Prime Minister Imre Nagy was seized by Soviet security forces despite assurances of safe passage for him to leave the Yugoslav Embassy in Budapest where he sought asylum, and he was taken to Romania and was subsequently tried and executed;

Whereas an estimated one thousand two hundred Hungarians were tried and executed by the post-1956 Hungarian government;

Whereas an estimated 200,000 Hungarians fled their country in the aftermath of the Soviet suppression of the Hungarian uprising, and over 47,000 of these people eventually were able to settle in the United States, where they have contributed to the cultural diversity and the economic strength of this country;

Whereas the uprising of the Hungarian people in 1956 dramatically confirmed the widespread contempt in which the Hungarians held the Soviet Union and the underlying weakness of the communist system imposed by Soviet authorities in Central and Eastern Europe, as well as the strength of popular support for democratic principles and the right of the Hungarian people to determine their own national destiny;

Whereas on October 23, 1989, the Republic of Hungary proclaimed its independence, and in 1990 the Hungarian Parliament officially designated October 23 as a Hungarian national holiday, indicating that the legacy of the 1956 Revolution continues to inspire Hungarians to this day;

Whereas the people of Hungary are beginning a year-long celebration to mark the 50th anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution of 1956;

Whereas on March 12, 1999, the Government of Hungary, reflecting the will of the Hungarian people, formally acceded to the North Atlantic Treaty and became a member of NATO and on May 1, 2004, Hungary became a full member of the European Union; and

Whereas Hungary and the United States continue to expand their friendship and cooperation in all realms: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the people of Hungary as they mark the 50th anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution which set the stage for the ultimate collapse of communism in 1989 throughout Central and Eastern Europe, including Hungary, and two years later in the Soviet Union itself;

(2) expresses condolences to the people of Hungary for those who lost their lives fighting for the cause of Hungarian freedom and independence in 1956, as well as for those individuals executed by the Soviet and Hungarian communist authorities in the five years following the Revolution, including Prime Minister Imre Nagy;

(3) welcomes the changes that have taken place in Hungary since 1989, believing that Hungary's integration into NATO and the European Union, together with similar developments in the neighboring countries, will ensure peace, stability, and understanding among the great peoples of the Carpathian Basin; and

(4) reaffirms the friendship and cooperative relations between the governments of Hungary and the United States and between the Hungarian and American people.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this is a resolution introduced by the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), the ranking member on the Committee on International Relations, and recognizes the 50th anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution that began on October 23, 1956. It is estimated that 3,000 to 4,000 Hungarian freedom fighters and 700 Soviet troops were killed during the uprising and tens of thousands more were injured. The resolution also reaffirms the friendship between the people and governments of the United States and Hungary.

I am a cosponsor and strongly support H. Res. 479. The 1956 uprising by the Hungarian people was one of the most significant challenges to Soviet domination of Central and Eastern Europe during the Cold War. The crackdown by Soviet forces led to more than 200,000 Hungarians fleeing their country as refugees.

The brutality of the Soviet military action weakened both the standing and moral authority of the Soviet Union and Communist Party that were active in Western Europe. The 1956 Hungarian uprising was a pivotal event in the Cold War which eventually led to the downfall of the Soviet Union and the worldwide communist movement.

I urge passage of the resolution and commend Mr. LANTOS for bringing attention to this very important and historical event.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 479. The 1956 Hungarian uprising against Soviet occupation and domination was the defining event for Hungary in the 20th century. It continues to be a critical element of the Hungarian people's identity and the defining moment in the world's perception of Hungary well into the 21st century.

The 1956 Hungarian Revolution was also a decisive event for the Soviet Union, for the United States, and for the entire world during the Cold War.

Beginning this fall and continuing through November of 2006, the Hungarian people in Hungary and wherever they live around the globe are proudly celebrating the 50th anniversary of their 1956 fight for freedom, democracy, and independence.

Mr. Speaker, the Hungarian struggle for freedom and recognition as an inde-

pendent nation among the nations of the world has been long and difficult. In 1848, the Hungarian people united in the fight to assert their independence from the Hapsburg Empire, only to have their liberty denied by Russian troops which came to the aid of Austria. Although Hungary was given a measure of autonomy in the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, it was not until the end of World War I that it became a fully independent state, though with considerably reduced territory.

After independence, Hungary suffered increasingly authoritarian governments, fell into the Nazi Germany sphere of influence, was eventually occupied by Nazi Germany military forces, and at the end of World War II was occupied by the Soviet Army, when it began nearly a half century of Soviet communist domination.

One of the brightest moments in the Hungarian struggle for freedom and independence came in October 1956 when university students, workers, and Hungarians of all walks of life rallied against the Soviet occupation of their country.

□ 1700

The local allies of the Soviets fought against the popular uprising, but Soviet troops initially withdrew from Budapest. The reform government of Prime Minister Imre Nagy took steps to establish a multiparty democracy, called for the removal of all Soviet troops, announced Hungary's withdrawal from the Warsaw Pact and requested United Nations aid in establishing Hungarian neutrality.

The Kremlin saw the events in Hungary as a fatal danger to communist dominance of Central Europe and their international status. Soviet troops were ordered into Budapest. Massive aerial and artillery bombardments and 6,000 Soviet tanks were launched against the city. Struggling against overwhelming odds, the Hungarian workers and students continued the fight, but in the end, they were overcome by the crushing Soviet force.

The black and white television and newsreel pictures of the fight for Budapest seen by the American people and the entire world were one of the most powerful and enduring images of the entire Cold War. In many ways, the Hungarian Revolution of 1956 defined the Cold War.

The uprising of the Hungarian people dramatically confirmed the widespread contempt in which the Soviet Union was held even by its supposed allies. The uprising exposed the underlying weakness of the Communist system imposed by the Soviet Union, and it was a spectacular demonstration of the strength of support for democracy and the right of peoples to determine their own national destiny.

The revolution of 1956, Mr. Speaker, remains a defining element of the identity of the Hungarian people. In the late 1980s, as the Soviet noose around Hungary and the other Soviet-dominated countries of Central Europe

began to loosen, the Hungarian people again returned to the events of 1956 to express their love for freedom and their desire for independence.

In 1989, the official rehabilitation and public reburial of Prime Minister Imre Nagy who was tried and executed by the Soviets for his role in 1956 was a key marker of the reassertion of Hungarian independence. At the same time, the rehabilitation of other individuals who played a role in 1956 and the public celebration of the uprising itself were important in affirming Hungarian sovereignty.

One of the most important symbolic Hungarian actions during this time was the government decision to formally designate October 23 the date on which the Hungarian uprising began, as a national holiday of the Republic of Hungary.

It is significant, Mr. Speaker, that one of the key events bringing down the Berlin Wall and bringing an end to the Soviet Union and its dominance of Central Europe was the Hungarian decision in August of 1989 to open the Hungarian border with Austria to East German citizens.

East Germans who could not pass through the Berlin Wall could travel through Hungary and after August 1989 could go to Austria and then to West Germany. More than any other event, this bold Hungarian initiative led to the collapse of the East German communist regime and the opening of the Berlin Wall.

Mr. Speaker, as Hungarians in Hungary and around the world mark the half century since the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, it is so appropriate that we in the United States Congress, on behalf of the American people, join in affirming the significance of that event, and that we express the condolences of the American people to those who lost their lives and their futures in their fight for freedom and liberty.

The changes that have transformed Hungary and its people in the last 15 years, the entry of Hungary into NATO, its accession to the European Union, its embrace of a free, open and democratic society are possible because of what happened a half a century ago.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution which affirms our friendship and cooperation with the Hungarian government and the Hungarian people.

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

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to conclude by again commending my good friend from California (Mr. LANTOS) for his leadership and his passion on this resolution, and join with him in urging our colleagues to support the resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from

California (Mr. GALLEGLY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 479, as amended. The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 6 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 (Mr. CULBERSON) 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 motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Res. 438, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 535, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 479, by the yeas and nays.

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

URGING MEMBER STATES OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO STOP SUPPORTING RESOLUTIONS THAT UNFAIRLY CASTIGATE ISRAEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 438.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 438, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 400, nays 1, not voting 31, as follows:

[Roll No. 609]

YEAS—400

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

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

NAYS—1

Paul
NOT VOTING—31

Blackburn	Doolittle	Murtha
Brown, Corrine	Ford	Oliver
Brown-Waite, Ginny	Frank (MA)	Reyes
Capps	Green (WI)	Schwartz (PA)
Carson	Gutierrez	Simmons
Clay	Hinches	Sweeney
Cramer	Jones (OH)	Taylor (NC)
Cubin	Kaptur	Tierney
Davis (FL)	Larsen (WA)	Weiner
Diaz-Balart, M.	McKinney	Wexler
	Moran (VA)	

□ 1856

So (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the resolution was amended so as to read: "Resolution urging member states of the United Nations to stop supporting resolutions that unfairly castigate Israel and to promote within the United Nations a more balanced and constructive approach to resolving conflict in the Middle East."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained by traffic. Had I been present for the vote on H. Res. 438, I would have voted "yea."

ELECTION OF CLERK OF THE HOUSE

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 580) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 580

Resolved, That Karen L. Haas of the State of Maryland, be, and is hereby, chosen Clerk of the House of Representatives.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER. Would the Clerk-designate please take the well.

The Clerk-designate presented herself at the bar of the House and took the oath of office as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter. So help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

HONORING THE LIFE, LEGACY, AND EXAMPLE OF ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER YITZHAK RABIN ON THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH

The SPEAKER. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 535.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 535, 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 399, nays 0, not voting 33, as follows:

[Roll No. 610]

YEAS—399

Abercrombie	Bishop (UT)	Capuano
Ackerman	Blackburn	Cardin
Aderholt	Blumenauer	Cardoza
Akin	Blunt	Carnahan
Alexander	Boehmert	Carter
Allen	Boehner	Case
Andrews	Bonilla	Castle
Baca	Bonner	Chabot
Bachus	Bono	Chandler
Baird	Boozman	Chocola
Baker	Boren	Cleaver
Baldwin	Boswell	Clyburn
Barrett (SC)	Boucher	Coble
Barrow	Boustany	Cole (OK)
Bartlett (MD)	Boyd	Conaway
Barton (TX)	Bradley (NH)	Conyers
Bass	Brady (PA)	Cooper
Bean	Brady (TX)	Costa
Beauprez	Brown (SC)	Costello
Becerra	Burgess	Crenshaw
Berkley	Burton (IN)	Crowley
Berman	Butterfield	Cuellar
Berry	Burr	Culberson
Biggart	Calvert	Cummings
Bilirakis	Camp	Davis (AL)
Bishop (GA)	Cannon	Davis (CA)
Bishop (NY)	Capito	Davis (IL)

Davis (KY)	Johnson, E. B.	Pallone
Davis (TN)	Johnson, Sam	Pascrell
Davis, Jo Ann	Jones (NC)	Pastor
Davis, Tom	Kanjorski	Paul
Deal (GA)	Keller	Payne
DeFazio	Kelly	Pearce
DeGette	Kennedy (MN)	Pelosi
Delahunt	Kennedy (RI)	Pence
DeLauro	Kildee	Peterson (MN)
DeLay	Kilpatrick (MI)	Peterson (PA)
Dent	Kind	Petri
Diaz-Balart, L.	King (IA)	Pickering
Dicks	King (NY)	Pitts
Dingell	Kingston	Platts
Doggett	Kirk	Poe
Doyle	Kline	Pombo
Drake	Knollenberg	Pomeroy
Dreier	Kolbe	Porter
Duncan	Kucinich	Price (GA)
Edwards	Kuhl (NY)	Price (NC)
Ehlers	LaHood	Pryce (OH)
Emanuel	Langevin	Putnam
Emerson	Lantos	Radanovich
Engel	Larson (CT)	Rahall
English (PA)	Latham	Ramstad
Eshoo	LaTourrette	Rangel
Etheridge	Leach	Regula
Evans	Lee	Rehberg
Everett	Levin	Reichert
Farr	Lewis (CA)	Renzi
Fattah	Lewis (GA)	Reynolds
Feeney	Lewis (KY)	Rogers (AL)
Ferguson	Linder	Rogers (KY)
Filner	Lipinski	Rogers (MI)
Fitzpatrick (PA)	LoBiondo	Rohrabacher
Flake	Lofgren, Zoe	Ros-Lehtinen
Foley	Lowe	Ross
Forbes	Lucas	Rothman
Fortenberry	Lungren, Daniel E.	Roybal-Allard
Fossella		Royce
Fox	Lynch	Ruppersberger
Franks (AZ)	Mack	Rush
Frelinghuysen	Maloney	Ryan (OH)
Gallely	Manzullo	Ryan (WI)
Garrett (NJ)	Marchant	Ryun (KS)
Gerlach	Markey	Sabo
Gibbons	Marshall	Salazar
Gilchrest	Matheson	Sánchez, Linda T.
Gillmor	Matsui	
Gingrey	McCarthy	Sanchez, Loretta
Gohmert	McCaul (TX)	Sanders
Gonzalez	McCollum (MN)	Saxton
Goode	McCotter	Schakowsky
Goodlatte	McCrery	Schiff
Gordon	McDermott	Schmidt
Granger	McGovern	Schwarz (MI)
Graves	McHenry	Scott (GA)
Green, Al	McHugh	Scott (VA)
Green, Gene	McIntyre	Sensenbrenner
Grijalva	McKeon	Serrano
Gutknecht	McKinney	Sessions
Hall	McMorris	Shadegg
Harman	McNulty	Shaw
Harris	Meehan	Shays
Hart	Meek (FL)	Sherman
Hastings (FL)	Meeks (NY)	Sherwood
Hastings (WA)	Melancon	Shimkus
Hayes	Menendez	Shuster
Hayworth	Mica	Simpson
Hefley	Michaud	Skelton
Hensarling	Millender-McDonald	Slaughter
Herger	Miller (FL)	Smith (NJ)
Herseth	Miller (MI)	Smith (TX)
Higgins	Miller (NC)	Smith (WA)
Hinojosa	Miller, Gary	Snyder
Hobson	Miller, George	Sodrel
Hoekstra	Mollohan	Solis
Holden	Moore (KS)	Souder
Holt	Moore (WI)	Spratt
Honda	Moore (KS)	Stark
Hooley	Moran (KS)	Stearns
Hostettler	Murphy	Strickland
Hoyer	Musgrave	Stupak
Hulshof	Myrick	Sullivan
Hunter	Nadler	Tancredo
Hyde	Napolitano	Tanner
Inglis (SC)	Neal (MA)	Tauscher
Inslee	Neugebauer	Taylor (MS)
Israel	Ney	Terry
Issa	Northup	Thomas
Istook	Norwood	Thompson (CA)
Jackson (IL)	Nunes	Thompson (MS)
Jackson-Lee (TX)	Nussle	Thornberry
Jefferson	Oberstar	Tiahrt
Jenkins	Obey	Tiberi
Jindal	Ortiz	Towns
Johnson (CT)	Osborne	Turner
Johnson (IL)	Otter	Udall (CO)
	Owens	Udall (NM)

Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Viscolosky
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Waters
Watson

Watt
Waxman
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)

Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

Dreier
Duncan
Eldwands
Ehlers
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)

Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Langevin
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen

Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen

Wolf
Woolsey

Wu
Wynn

Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—37

Brown (OH)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite,
 Ginny
Cantor
Capps
Carson
Clay
Cramer
Cubin
Davis (FL)
Diaz-Balart, M.

Doolittle
Ford
Frank (MA)
Green (WI)
Gutierrez
Hinchesy
Jones (OH)
Tierney
Kaptur
Larsen (WA)
Moran (VA)
Murtha
Olver

Oxley
Reyes
Schwartz (PA)
Simmons
Sweeney
Taylor (NC)
Tierney
Wasserman
Schultz
Weiner
Wexler

Everett
Farr
Fattah
Feeley
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel
 E.
Lynch
Mack
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinney
McMorris
McNulty
Meehan
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Menendez
Mica
Michaud
Millender-
 McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Murphy
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Ortiz
Osborne
Otter
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)

Boehner
Boyd
Brown (OH)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite,
 Ginny
Cantor
Capps
Carson
Clay
Cramer
Cubin
Davis (FL)

Diaz-Balart, M.
Doolittle
Ford
Frank (MA)
Gilchrest
Green (WI)
Gutierrez
Hinchesy
Jones (OH)
Kaptur
Larsen (WA)
Meek (FL)
Moran (VA)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON) (during the vote). Members are advised that there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1908

So (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1924

So (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 479, 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 California (Mr. GALLEGLY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 479, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 395, nays 0, not voting 37, as follows:

[Roll No. 611]

YEAS—395

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Bean
Beauprez
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert

Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Bradley (NH)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Capito
Capuano
Cardin
Caroza
Carnahan
Carter
Case
Castle
Chabot
Chandler
Chocola
Cleaver
Clyburn

Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culbertson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLahunt
DeLauro
DeLay
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Drake

Dreier
Duncan
Eldwands
Ehlers
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Everett
Farr
Fattah
Feeley
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel
 E.
Lynch
Mack
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinney
McMorris
McNulty
Meehan
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Menendez
Mica
Michaud
Millender-
 McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Murphy
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Ortiz
Osborne
Otter
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)

Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Salazar
Sanchez, Linda
 T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwarz (MI)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Sodrel
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Strickland
Stupak
Sullivan
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Viscolosky
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on Tuesday, December 6, 2005 due to official business in my district. Had I been present, the RECORD would reflect that I would have voted:

H. Res. 438—Urging member states of the United Nations to stop supporting resolutions that unfairly castigate Israel and to promote within the United Nations General Assembly more balanced and constructive approaches to resolving conflict in the Middle East, “yea.”

H. Res. 535—Honoring the life, legacy, and example of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on the tenth anniversary of his death “yea.”

H. Res. 479 as amended—Recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution that began on October 23, 1956 and reaffirming the friendship between the people and governments of the United States and Hungary “yea.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I was not able to be present for the following rollcall votes and would like the RECORD to reflect that I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 609—“yea.”
Rollcall No. 610—“yea.”
Rollcall No. 611—“yea.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this chamber today. I would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall votes 609, 610 and 611.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4340, UNITED STATES-BAHRAIN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a

privileged report (Rept. No. 109-328) on the resolution (H. Res. 583) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4340) to implement the United States-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

NOTIFICATION TO THE SENATE

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 581) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 581

Resolved, That the Senate be informed that Karen L. Haas, a citizen of the State of Maryland, has been elected Clerk of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Ninth Congress.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO INFORM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF THE ELECTION OF THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 582) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 582

Resolved, That the Clerk be instructed to inform the President of the United States that the House of Representatives has elected Karen L. Haas, a citizen of the State of Maryland, Clerk of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Ninth Congress.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 4312

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 4312.

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

There was no objection.

DISCUSSION OF SITUATION IN IRAQ

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

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to associate myself with the reasonable presentation and offering of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA), who has allowed this Nation to debate a very important issue of redeploying our troops.

Mr. Speaker, as I join him in his excellent leadership, I would offer to my

colleagues the thought of engaging American diplomacy and providing an international coalition to provide the support and security for Iraq, to convene a summit of Arab nations to ensure that our Arab allies are involved in the security of Iraq, to stop the redeployment of American troops for multiple tours of duty, to have the allocation of resources and attention to cover the 15,000 injured soldiers and proceed for their medical and educational services, and to establish a special memorial for those who have come home from Iraq and those who have lost their lives on the frontlines of Iraq, and then to provide this Nation with a comprehensive exit strategy to redeploy our troops.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday I stood with disabled veterans in Houston. They join me in this request. I look forward to this debate.

□ 1930

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). 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.

GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is December 7. Many people remember it as Pearl Harbor Day. I remember it as the day that I lost my husband and my son was hurt. The members of our community will always remember the Long Island Massacre. It is at that point in my life that I decided to devote it to try to reduce gun violence in this country.

On November 29, we lost Dillon Stewart to gun violence. Dillon Stewart was a New York City police officer and a constituent of mine. He was killed in the line of duty by a convicted criminal with a stolen gun that had been used in another crime earlier this year. This gun was stolen from Florida, a State with much weaker gun laws than New York. While Congress no longer allows the ATF to disclose data gathered when tracing weapons used in crimes, older data reveals most guns used in crimes in New York come from out of State dealers. I agree with my Republican mayor of New York when he says we need to pass tougher Federal gun laws.

But while more and more police officers are killed by gun violence, Congress seems intent on making their jobs more difficult. For a variety of reasons, our Nation's police departments are understaffed and overworked. For example, New York City is losing 1,000 police officers per year. The State of Ohio has the same amount of

State troopers that it did in 1970. Oregon has let go 20 percent of its State troopers. Part of the problem is that State and local government budget cuts have caused many departments to lay off police officers. And many police officers are also reservists in our armed services. Since September 11, 2001, over 4,000 police officers have been called to service in Iraq and Afghanistan. And to make matters worse, the COPS program that has helped put well over 100,000 police officers on the street is cut nearly every year.

Our police officers are working longer hours with more responsibility, but what have we in Congress done? Congress has let the assault weapons ban expire, allowing street gangs and other criminals to legally buy cheaper and more lethal weapons. Congress has given the gun industry unprecedented immunity from liability lawsuits. Congress will not allow the Centers for Disease Control to reveal how much gun violence costs our health care system every single year. Congress will not even ban the sale of guns to individuals on terrorist watch lists. And we have done nothing to fix the hole in the national instant background check system that allows many convicted felons to buy guns with no questions asked. In half of our States, less than 60 percent of felons are entered into NICS databases. This has resulted in thousands of convicted felons being able to walk into a gun store and make a purchase. Many honest gun sellers may be selling guns to murderers, rapists or even terrorists with no way of knowing. The system put in place to protect us is failing and police officers are being forced to work even harder.

I have introduced legislation, the NICS Improvement and Enforcement Act, to stop felons from buying guns. The NICS database is only as good as the information that the States provide, so my bill would require that States enter all disqualifying information into the NICS system. And since so many of our States are experiencing budget problems, my bill would give grants to States to ensure they comply. This legislation would prevent gun violence without infringing on second amendment rights. This bill passed the House in 2002 via voice vote, but time ran out in the 107th Congress before the other body could consider the matter. But the bill had the support of several Members of Congress who are well known for their support of gun rights.

Mr. Speaker, our police officers are already overburdened. With a simple voice vote, we can help them out by making sure felons aren't able to buy guns. We owe it to Dillon Stewart and the rest of the brave men and women who have lost their lives protecting their communities.

Let's bring up H.R. 1415 and pass it as quickly as possible. This bill will save lives and relieve the already heavy burden placed on our police officers. I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to listen to their fellow Republican, Mayor Bloomberg, and start

passing commonsense gun legislation. We can do a better job. We are fighting wars around the world. We are also fighting wars here in our own country. Every single day someone dies of gun violence. We can do a better job. We can make sure that the criminals have a harder time getting the weapons that are on our streets. We must have uniform Federal laws to protect our citizens.

LANCE CORPORAL ROBERT
"ROBBIE" MARTINEZ, TEXAS MA-
RINE

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the great General Douglas MacArthur of World War II once commented, "I have just returned from visiting the Marines at the front, and there is not a finer fighting organization in the world." Lance Corporal Robert "Robbie" Alexander Martinez was a member of this fine fighting organization. He was killed December 1 while fighting and serving our Nation in Iraq. He was a member of the Second Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, First Marine Division, based at Marine Corps Air Ground and Combat Center at Twentynine Palms, California.

Mr. Speaker, to date, there have been 185 Texans killed since the war began in March 2003. Lance Corporal Martinez was just 20 years of age. He was on his second Iraqi tour. He had already spent 7 months on the Syrian border in 2004. He went to Iraq and into Fallujah this past June. He and nine other Marines were killed last Thursday when a roadside bomb exploded next to them in the deadliest attack against American troops in Iraq in 4 months. Martinez was scheduled to come home this past Monday but at the last minute his tour was extended for a month and a half.

Just a week ago, Robbie Martinez had just called his mother and asked her to buy a diamond because he was coming home. He had planned to propose to his "love at first sight" girlfriend, Taylor Wilkenson, as soon as he got back.

Robbie Martinez graduated from Cleveland High School in Cleveland, Texas, in 2003. While in high school, he was known as the peacemaker. By the time he started his senior year, he had already signed up for the Marines. He pre-enlisted at the age of 17 so he could be activated as soon as he graduated from high school. Martinez was a baseball pitcher at Cleveland High and dreamed of getting his degree in education and becoming a baseball coach. He put his dreams on hold to join the elite fighting forces of the United States Marine Corps. He left for basic training 2 days after he graduated from high school.

Lance Corporal Martinez's stepfather, Jeremy Hunt, called Robbie his "diamond in the rough" and one of the

greatest things that had ever come into his life. He said Robbie loved being in the Corps and was proud of it. He was proud of being a Marine. He knew he was there for a reason and he was resolving the situation in Iraq and looking forward to coming home. He had requested lots of candy in his care packages from Texas. This candy was not for him because he would hand it out to the Iraqi children that he would see.

He is remembered for his infectious smile and someone who loved spending time with his family and friends, barbecuing and making people smile. Robbie's mother, Kelly Hunt, said that her 14-year-old son Mikie wants to join the military, just like his brother.

President Ronald Reagan once said, "Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder if they have ever made a difference in the world, but the Marines don't have that problem." Lance Corporal Martinez was working to make a difference in the world when he gave his life. His bravery, his dedication, his patriotism will not be forgotten by his friends, his family and freedom-loving peoples throughout the world.

Lance Corporal Martinez died for this country, the Iraqi people and for that word freedom. His Nation made the call and he responded without hesitation with his unwavering courage and his commitment. He served his country with honor and distinction. He wanted to be in the Marines since he was 12 years of age.

Mr. Speaker, as we extend our prayers and our condolences to his parents, his relatives, his friends and his fellow students at Cleveland High School in Texas, we take time to reflect on this American hero's devotion to country and to the people of Iraq. He is a heroic representative of the State of Texas and an honorable defender of liberty and freedom.

Country music singer Brad Cotter wrote the following in his tribute to American soldiers and it is fitting right now:

"Thank God for Americans in uniform. Those who fight to keep our freedom every day. Thank God for Americans in uniform. Those who fight to keep us safe along our way."

Semper Fi, Lance Corporal Martinez.
Semper Fi.

THE FEDERAL BUDGET AND COLLEGE TUITION

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, at 2 a.m. before Congress adjourned a couple of weeks ago, we passed something called the reconciliation bill, theoretically the first attempt to begin to deal with the flood of red ink that is drowning our Nation. But these were kind of mean-spirited cuts that hit at those who really can't afford to give too

much in order to protect the very wealthy.

Here is how it worked. The biggest single category of cuts in that bill was \$14.3 billion out of student loans. On the Republican side, they said, We didn't cut student loans. All we did was increase the cost of student loans. Well, it is the same impact on the students. They are going to double the origination fee on the student loans, they are going to charge students a fee to fix the rate, and they are going to give them a really high fixed interest rate instead of the rather reasonable rate that is available now. It is estimated for the average Oregonian going to a public school who borrows the maximum amount for 4 years, they will incur another \$5,800 in loan costs.

I went out to see what the students in Oregon thought about this and how they were doing. I was inspired. I went to the University of Oregon and Oregon State both, met with student government leaders and regular students who are getting financial aid. The stories were inspiring, what these young people are doing to try and better themselves. There was one couple, they had both been displaced workers. They have a child. They went through Lane Community College to get associate's degrees because it was cheaper and they borrowed \$40,000 to do it. They are now at the U of O. They estimate they will graduate with over \$100,000 in debt. There was the young woman who is holding three jobs, three jobs, and 14 credit hours. She said, Congressman, I'm going to have to reduce my credit hours. You know what that means. It's going to take me longer to finish school, which means I'm going to have to borrow more money.

They said, when you were young and you went to school, and I think a lot of the Republicans have not thought about this maybe, you could take a summer job and save enough money to pay tuition at a public school. That was true. They said, If we get a summer job and save really well, we get just about enough money to buy our books. You can work full-time year round at a minimum wage job in Oregon where the minimum wage is considerably higher than the Federal minimum wage and still not have enough money to eat and pay your tuition, let alone your housing costs.

This is a dire situation. The response of the Republicans is that these are the people who should sacrifice. These are the people who can afford to pay more to help rein in the reckless, wanton spending and debt being piled up on that side of the aisle. What is the trade-off the Republicans want? They are going to take the \$14.3 billion that these students will have to pay in additional costs, many of them will probably have to give up on getting a higher education and just go to work in a dead-end job, and they are going to give it to the richest among us. It is

going to continue the tax cuts for people who are lucky enough to clip coupons off of stocks, dividends. The trade-off is almost exact.

So students will pay more for their loans, kids who are trying to get ahead, start a life, start a family, do better, become productive citizens, have a good living and pay taxes so that the richest among us will not have to pay taxes on their investments. But under their bizarre theory of trickle-down economics, somehow those students and everybody else is going to benefit by the fact that the richest among us, those who live off dividends on stocks, will pay a lower rate of taxes. What a bizarre view of the world from that side of the aisle. What a mean-spirited cut.

□ 1945

I wonder how many people from that side of the aisle went and talked to students about this during the break. They probably went to the country club and chortled with the rich people over champagne after Thanksgiving dinner, but they did not go out and talk to the students who they are sticking it to nor the seniors who they are sticking it to in this bill or the hungry primary and secondary school kids whose school lunch programs they are cutting. Those are the people who have to sacrifice so the richest among us can have their tax cuts continue.

Last year, according to the Internal Revenue Service, 99 percent of the people in America saw their incomes decline in real dollars. One percent saw an increase, those over \$300,000; and they did not even do really that well. It is only 4 percent for between \$300,000 and 1.3 million, but the people over 1.3 million, the people that these students are going to pay for their tax cuts, they saw a 10 percent increase in their income.

There is something wrong here when we have young people working hard, trying to get ahead, and we are saying you are going to pay for the rich folks' free ride.

OP-ED: IRAQ

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, certainly the last 2 weeks we have seen a great deal written and spoken about the conflict in the country of Iraq. The middle of this month we will see the third popular election held in the country of Iraq this year.

Stay the course or pull out now, these seem to be the two recurrent themes debated in this House and on the editorial pages across the country.

Our military action was really never popular with the press here at home, and it has been portrayed in the most negative possible fashion for the past 2½ years. The result, predictably, is de-

clining popular support for military activity in Iraq in this country and the very real possibility that the United States will lose its political will to complete the mission in Iraq. This would be truly tragic as we are so tantalizingly close to success in this effort.

I was not a Member of Congress when the vote was taken to provide the President the necessary authority for military action in Iraq. I do believe it was the right decision, and I believe I would have voted affirmatively had I been here. I do not recall ever believing that it would be easy, but I do recall believing that it was justified and necessary.

When the House and the Senate considered and approved the resolution authorizing the President to use military force to bring Saddam Hussein in compliance with the United Nations resolutions, several strong reasons were made for the foundation of this decision: weapons of mass destruction, to be sure; a gathering threat; violation of the no-fly zone; targeting our aircraft; endangering our pilots; violations of U.N. sanctions; violations of the terms of surrender from the first Gulf War in 1991; failure to account for Kuwaitis taken prisoner in the first Gulf War; failure to make restitution to the country of Kuwait; mass murder; mass graves; and the only world leader to have ever used weapons of mass destruction in an offensive fashion.

These were the details of the resolution supported by a bipartisan majority of Members of Congress. The policy of the United States as laid out by law in 1998, passed by the Congress, signed by the President was to effect regime change in the country of Iraq. In 2002, by approving this resolution, the Congress and President Bush were finally enforcing this long-standing U.S. foreign policy goal in an environment radically changed by September 11, 2001, and the gathering threat that Iraq and other rogue nations represent to the safety and the security of the American people.

The failure to find warehouses stockpiling weapons of mass destruction has now somehow morphed into allegations that the President misled the American public.

Opponents of this war argue that President Bush and other leaders misled the American people through dishonorable misrepresentations of the Iraqi intelligence; but those allegations are, in fact, themselves lies, refuted and discredited; and this type of representation has only emboldened our enemies to target the United States personnel overseas. Debating how the war has been executed is a debate that we should be having in this country, but attempting to change the facts in the lead-up to the war is disingenuous and has more pernicious ramifications than temporary political advantage.

I have been to Iraq four times in the past 2 years. It is my impression that

one day the big story will be that the press missed the big story in Iraq. What you see in the country of Iraq and what is reported by the press in this country are two completely different worlds.

Every time I have been there, I have been struck by how much progress has been made by American troops. Each time I have traveled to Iraq, I have been moved by the dedication of our military and their commitment to the completion of this mission.

My first visit to the Baghdad airport in August of 2003 left me thinking that the place looked like the city dump. During visits in January and August of this year, the airport was a clean environment, with obvious evidence of commercial aviation having resumed.

This is a picture of the Baghdad power plant in August of 2003. This is a rusted, burned up generator that Saddam Hussein had charged his engineers with keeping running under pain of death.

Contrast that to August of this year, 2005. This is a generator in the city of Kirkuk called the "mother of all generators." This generator was taken across the desert at great risk to our Marines and has been installed in the city of Kirkuk. It is now providing about 12 percent of Iraq's generating power, truly an amazing success story by our Marines. I do not recall having read about it in the press back home here.

Another picture, flying over the town of Kirkuk, and I was taking pictures randomly out the window of our Black Hawk helicopter and did not notice until later, there are two small figures here. One is waving at the helicopter; and if you look very closely and I have done this, she is waving with all five fingers but, very importantly, next to her is a small male child, probably her brother. Think of this, Mr. Speaker, in the city of Kirkuk, prior to our taking out Saddam Hussein, this sister could not mention the fact she had a brother. In fact, her family probably has a crawl space in the wall of this house where the boy could be hidden when Saddam's conscriptionists came through town.

It truly is an amazing transformation in that country. We are very close to having the third and final election for this year. We are close to having sufficient Iraqi forces trained and equipped to participate in their own security operations. Our soldiers are very close to having completed their mission. Congress should not desert them now.

CONGRESSIONAL ACTIONS ON IRAQ

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, the good news, I suppose, is that nearly 3

years into the Iraq war, the Bush administration has seen fit to share with the American people their war plan.

The bad news is that there is no “there” there. The “national strategy for victory” shared with the American people last week is barely worth the paper it is printed on.

It is essentially the same old warmed-over rhetoric that we have become accustomed to and frustrated with: the enemy is bad; we are good; we will never back down; we will achieve total victory.

To the extent that this strategy for victory contains specifics, they are completely divorced from reality.

In last week’s speech, the President mentioned that Haifa Street, formerly called Purple Heart Boulevard because of all of the U.S. attacks incurred there, is now safely under the control of Iraq’s security forces, but taking control of Haifa Street in Baghdad does not make Iraqi forces self-sustaining. Taking the battle to the enemy, as the President likes to put it, has not thwarted terrorism but, instead, made Iraq a hotbed of terrorism.

The President insists that fighting the terrorists “over there” means that we are not fighting them at home. I doubt the people who call London, Madrid, or Bali their home would agree with that assessment. Who is to say that next time it will not be Chicago, Las Vegas, or San Francisco? There is no evidence that we are any more secure at home because of the war in Iraq.

Iraqi democracy is anything but a certainty. We are undermining our own stated goal of advancing freedom when we torture prisoners and when we spend millions of dollars to spread propaganda in the Iraqi press.

When the White House’s statements are not divorced from reality, they contradict everything they once said about the war. Like this one, from the supposed “victory strategy” document: “It is not realistic to expect a fully functioning democracy, able to defeat its enemies and peacefully reconcile generational grievances, to be in place less than 3 years after Saddam was finally removed from power.”

Now they tell us. So much for “Mission Accomplished.” We have sure come a long way from the confident assertion that we would be greeted by grateful Iraqis throwing flowers at our feet, that we would be in and out in a flash, that all we had to do was depose Saddam and democracy would instantly take hold.

The President’s speech last week demonstrates his inability to recognize the intensity of people’s anxiety about this war. Americans are not looking for the administration to do the same thing but just do it a little bit better and to put it in a glossy booklet.

They want to see a fundamental shift in direction, like the plan outlined in a letter I wrote to the President, which was cosigned by 61 other House Members: one, engage in greater multilat-

eral cooperation with our allies; two, pursue diplomatic, nonmilitary initiatives; three, prepare for a robust postconflict reconciliation process; and, four, and most importantly of all, bring our troops home.

I wish this administration would step out of its bubble. They should break away from the yes men and listen to the American people who do not understand the cause for which more than 2,100 and countless thousands of Iraqis have died.

It is not just the American people that the administration is ignoring. It is the Iraqis also. Kurdish, Shiite, and Sunni leaders agree on practically nothing except that there needs to be a clear timetable for our troops to leave Iraq.

The President wants to have it both ways on Iraq. He will not change his underlying approach, an open-ended military commitment that will last as long as he deems it appropriate, but he can read the polls. So he wants to be perceived as doing something new and something different in order to rescue his administration from political oblivion; but, Mr. Speaker, repackaging a Twinkie does not improve its nutritional value, and the same goes for the Bush Iraq policy.

REBUILDING CASINOS IN THE GULF COAST REGION

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

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong opposition to the inclusion of any tax breaks to rebuild the gulf coast gambling industry in the tax package, which may reach the House floor in the near future. I believe that it is an extraordinarily controversial and improper measure to support the casino industry with tax incentives paid by other Americans. I would like to commend the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) for his active role in bringing attention to this important issue.

I certainly understand the need to provide general economic incentives for businesses to rebuild in the gulf region, which was so heavily devastated by the hurricanes earlier this year. I support efforts to encourage economic development and restore infrastructure in the area. However, I cannot support allowing casinos to access Federal tax breaks while at the same time we are proposing to achieve savings from a host of other governmental programs.

If Americans were given a choice, I believe that they would prefer not to use limited resources to support the casinos. Prudent use of hard-earned taxpayer money demands that we stay focused on concerns such as the defense of our Nation, education of our children, health care for veterans, and subsistence for the poor.

My constituents are aware of the proposal to potentially provide assistance

to gambling interests and have let me know of their opposition to such an effort. Nebraskans, and Americans generally, are generous people, willing to help others in need. Congress, however, has a responsibility not to abuse this generosity by providing tax breaks to wealthy gambling operations which have already signaled their intention to rebuild in the gulf region. In fact, even without the tax breaks, the gambling industry has announced its plan to come back “bigger and better” in the area.

Government is an instrument of societal order, establishing priorities for how we choose to live. For instance, we have worked to reduce the marriage penalty in the tax code. We provide tax incentives to save for retirement. We provide tax benefits for health care, and there is certainly a precedent for targeting incentives toward certain businesses while restricting the use of tax breaks for others.

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In fact, it would be unusual, I contend, if the government did not restrict these tax breaks and exclude casinos.

As a Gulf Opportunity Zone package was under consideration, Alberto Lopez, Director of Strategic Communication For Harrah Entertainment, Incorporated, was recently quoted in The Washington Post as saying, “We are actually scratching our heads. We can’t ever remember an instance of being offered a tax credit. Ever.”

In another telling comment in the same Washington Post article, a gambling company official, who wished to remain anonymous, stated “Anything that the Federal Government can provide, obviously we’ll take advantage of it.” Unfortunately, these gambling conglomerates would be taking advantage not only of tax breaks but the generosity of American taxpayers as well.

Why should all Americans be forced to prioritize casinos in the Tax Code? How can Congress consider providing such incentives to the multi-billion dollar gambling industry when there are so many unmet needs in this Nation? Why should these incentives be considered when the gambling industry already plans to rebuild the casinos? To what extent were these casinos covered by insurance? These are a few of the questions that must be addressed before tax legislation reaches the House floor.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in expressing opposition to the inclusion of any tax breaks for gambling interests. Do not let the casino interests hit the jackpot through the Tax Code.

THE LOW-INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, humorist Frank McKinney Hubbard once said, "Don't knock the weather. If it didn't change once in a while, nine out of ten people wouldn't start a conversation."

Unfortunately, extreme weather is nothing to laugh about. Tonight, I would like to talk about the underfunding of the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program, known as LIHEAP, and how we have failed to protect our Nation's citizens against harsh winter and blistering summer elements. Lyndon Johnson once talked about building a "Great Society." But we cannot have a "Great Society" if we only provide tax breaks for the wealthy while ignoring the suffering of the poor in America.

LIHEAP was enacted to assist low-income citizens who pay a high proportion of their household income to meet their immediate home energy needs. Low-income households spend 14 percent of their annual income on energy expenditures, compared to non-low-income households, that only spend 3.5 percent. In fact, two-thirds of the families that utilize LIHEAP assistance have annual incomes of \$8,000, forcing them to choose between heating their homes and putting food on the table.

From 1995 to 2004, the average number of cold-related deaths was 27 annually. Meanwhile, my colleagues from the south note that during the same time period, the average number of deaths from heat was 237 annually. The point is that LIHEAP should be available to offset high energy costs in both winter and summer.

The hardships of high energy bills this winter can be visibly seen on the face of an elderly grandmother shivering in the cold of her living room or having to cut back on medicine to keep the heat on. Savings are used up, credits ratings are destroyed, and children are increasingly vulnerable to sickness and ill health. This is not the policy of a great society.

The National Energy Assistance Directors' Association's most recent survey on the impact of rising energy costs on poor families illustrates this troubling reality: 32 percent sacrificed medical care; 24 percent failed to make a rental or mortgage payment; 20 percent went without food for at least a day; and 44 percent said they skipped paying or paid less than their full home energy bill in the past year.

Since 2003, the price of heat to heat one's home has risen tremendously as the price of natural gas has risen by 45 percent and heating oil has risen by 50 percent. As a result, those who use natural gas to heat their home could see their average heating costs spike from \$750 to \$1,100 this year. For those who use home heating oil, like me, last year's expenditure of \$1,200 could jump to as high as \$1,600 this year.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle contend that Congress has increased funding for this critical program in recent years. They point to the \$2 billion in the fiscal year 2005 and the

\$5 billion authorized this year in the energy bill. However, there are three problems with this argument, or as I like to call it "the triple whammy."

First, we have to understand the \$5 billion authorized in the energy bill was cut to \$3 billion in the House's pre-Thanksgiving budget reconciliation bill. Second, the \$3 billion figure will be further cut to around \$2 billion by the appropriators, because that is the figure they are pushing for to effectively flat line the funding for LIHEAP. Third, take a look at this graph. You can clearly see that even when appropriations increased for LIHEAP, the purchasing power, and that is what is critical for these funds, actually decreased for LIHEAP recipients. Inflation in heating oil and natural gas prices actually decreased purchasing power by 42 percent since the program's inception in 1982.

Ironically, during this time of inadequate LIHEAP funding, oil companies are boasting record profits, some as large as 255 percent. This situation is so bad that some of our Senate colleagues recently wrote a letter to the nine big oil companies and asked them to donate a part of their profits to help low-income people cover these increased energy costs.

Only one response was received, from Citgo, a state-owned Venezuelan company controlled by Hugo Chavez, President of Venezuela. Chavez took this public relations opportunity to promote his socialist world view as counterpoint to the United States capitalist world view.

Specifically, he is using profits from Venezuelan-based Citgo to make friends in the United States and attempting to illustrate the failures of American democracy. Citgo has provided discounted heating oil this winter to low-income residents in Massachusetts. Twelve million gallons of heavily discounted heating oil was donated to low-income communities across the State of Massachusetts, helping consumers save between 60 and 80 cents per gallon. This is a total savings of \$10 million to \$14 million which will occur this winter.

While I am certainly appreciative of this gesture, by having to accept Venezuela's charity, we are playing into Chavez's hands. We cannot effectively promote democracy and free markets around the world if our policies here at home reflect a callous disregard for our poorer citizens.

Close to home in my State of Maryland, we will need about \$84 million in Federal fuel assistance, that is more than twice the amount originally anticipated to help low-income residents heat their homes this winter. The Maryland Energy Assistance Program says it will need \$51 million more to cover rising energy costs.

In conclusion, I call upon my Republican colleagues to forego or at least delay the additional tax cuts for the warm and the wealthy. Instead, I hope my colleagues on the right side of the

aisle will fully fund the \$5 billion promise in the energy bill for low income energy assistance.

IRAQ SECURITY

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it is perhaps difficult for some to comprehend the extent of our successes in Iraq because they are focused on isolated incidents rather than looking at the totality of our efforts. So to fully grasp how far Iraq has come, it is necessary to take stock of these successes.

My stepson, Doug Lehtinen, and his fiancée, Lindsay Nelson, are serving in Iraq right now. They are marine officers flying F-18s along the Syrian border. They know that the security component of our efforts in Iraq is the cornerstone for our mission for victory.

Iraqis are playing an ever-increasing role for providing for their own security. The Iraqi army and police forces are growing larger and are better trained and they are more effective than ever. The Iraqi army and security forces grew from just one operational battalion in July 2004 to more than 120 today. Many critics note that only one battalion is rated at what the U.S. Army categorizes as a level one, fully independent degree of operability. However, over 40 are at level two, which are capable of fighting, with some support, usually just logistics or artillery support from our coalition forces.

All of these units are patrolling their own areas of operations, and the cities of Najaf and Mosul are now patrolled exclusively by Iraqi security forces, as are large portions of the city of Baghdad. And there are also roughly 80 battalions, both police and military, identified as category three and are currently fighting alongside our U.S. and coalition forces.

As a result, the United States military recently transferred more than two dozen U.S. established bases to Iraqi control. In addition, there are now currently 25,000 Iraqi special police officers who can conduct combat and commando operations as well as routine policing duties. Also, there are 75,000 Iraqi police officers trained and equipped.

And looking to the future, Mr. Speaker, the current plans include establishing 10 Iraqi army infantry divisions. That is 160,000 soldiers, 135,000 regular police officers, 9,000 border police, in addition to the current force of 18,000, and 3,000 additional highway patrol officers in addition to the current level of 3,000, by the year 2007.

Today, thousands of young Iraqis are volunteering, volunteering for service, and they are training to become soldiers and police officers at several facilities throughout the country of Iraq. As a result, over 225,000 Iraqi soldiers and police officers will be available to

provide security for Iraq's nationwide election in just under 2 weeks. Yes, the third successful election which will take place in just a few days.

Today, Iraqi security forces are strong enough to garrison and control cleared areas, as recently illustrated in the leading role taken by the Iraqis in the successful September 2005 offensive in Tal Afar. Both U.S. and Iraqi forces have enjoyed additional successes in eliminating insurgent strongholds in Fallujah, in Mosul, in Najaf, in Samarra, and in many other smaller towns along the Syrian border.

The increasing effectiveness of the Iraqi security forces has inspired optimism among the Iraqi people, and this is reflected in the growing number of intelligence tips from Iraqi civilians. According to reports in March 2005, Iraqi and coalition forces received 483 intelligence tips from Iraqi citizens. This figure rose to 3,300 in August and to more than 4,700 in September. This has translated into further public confidence in the security situation in Iraq.

Simultaneously, the increasing effectiveness of the Iraqi security forces has caused fear and derision within our enemies' ranks. Significant success securing the Syrian border, previously a sieve for Iraqi and foreign insurgents, has made it tougher for Syrian-based insurgents to orchestrate or support attacks in Iraq. As a result, homicide bombings by Islamic jihadists has reportedly been down 30 percent since the October constitutional referendum.

So the military and the security components of the strategy are laid out in the national strategy for victory in Iraq, as stated by the President, and it is due to the commitment of fighting men and women like my stepson, Doug, and his fiancée, but also thanks to the brave men and women of the Iraqi security forces who continue to fight for their emerging democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to look at the situation in Iraq, look at the threat posed by Iraq under the regime of Saddam Hussein, then look at Iraq today. There is no question that we are succeeding.

U.S. DETAINEE POLICY IN IRAQ

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

Mr. MEEHAN. Well, Mr. Speaker, if so many of these Iraqis are ready to come up and to provide the security, the police work in the country, then surely there should be no problem with putting American forces into the background instead of having them up front.

The reality is that we have missed a lot of opportunities in Iraq because of a failed policy. Our own State Department polls say that 80 percent of Iraqis view the United States as an unpopular occupier. That is right, an occupier. Forty-five percent of Iraqi citizens

think it is morally okay to attack American troops. So if, in fact, Iraqis are ready to keep security in their own country, surely now is the time to let them do that.

We should have had, as General Shinseki said, more security forces in from the beginning. He said a few hundred thousand troops. And if we had had them there, maybe we could have won the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people from the beginning when Saddam Hussein fell. But the Pentagon and the civilian leadership thought General Shinseki did not know what he was talking about and they put him out to pasture. But the truth is, he knew what he was talking about.

There have been other mistakes made. In April of last year, the shocking photographic evidence of prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib became public. In an instant, America's new image in the war on terror was published around the world with photos of Iraqi prisoners being subjected to cruel, unusual, and degrading treatment.

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A report by Major General Antonio Taguba found "numerous incidents of sadistic, blatant, and wanton criminal abuses," constituting "systematic and illegal abuse of detainees" at Abu Ghraib. And, unfortunately, Abu Ghraib is only the most publicized case of torture in Iraq.

Regrettably, it has become clear that torture of detainees in United States custody is not limited to Abu Ghraib or even Iraq. Since Abu Ghraib, there have been increasing reports of torture. Most recently, The Washington Post broke a story of secret CIA detention centers around the globe where prisoners were being sent for questioning.

Under the leadership of President Bush and Vice President CHENEY, the United States has given up the moral high ground that we used to occupy as an international leader.

Last month, President Bush defended U.S. interrogation practices, proclaiming, "We do not torture." However, he has refused to back up these words. Instead, he and his administration have vehemently opposed a provision that would specifically prohibit the use of torture as official U.S. protocol.

They supported legislation that would strip the right of detainees being held by the United States to the writ of habeas corpus, an 800-year-old legal procedure grounded in the Magna Carta. Instead of denouncing torture is never acceptable, the administration seems to continually be looking for exceptions to the rule.

In the now-infamous "torture memo," along with other documents, the Justice Department sought to carve out an increasingly narrow definition of detention. Instead of firing administration officials, like Alberto Gonzales, who referred to the Geneva Convention as "quaint" and "obsolete," we have a President who pro-

moted him to the chief law enforcement officer of the United States of America, Attorney General.

By accepting this behavior, the Bush administration has not only hurt America's credibility around the world; but it has put our soldiers at risk.

I have joined forces with a number of my colleagues to try to change this course. However, the leadership in this body has kept us from being heard. We have tried to obtain documents related to Federal investigations of detainee abuse in Iraq, Afghanistan, Guantanamo; but our efforts have been shut down by the majority in this body.

Mr. Speaker, 173 Members of this body have signed onto the Waxman legislation to establish an independent commission to investigate these abuses; but nearly 6 months after being introduced, this bill languishes in committee without even a hearing from the majority.

President Bush and the majority did not want the independent 9/11 Commission. They have also opposed independent commissions to investigate the Federal response to Hurricane Katrina. But just like the revelations that came from the 9/11 Commission, an independent investigation into our detainee policy would help us all in the end.

It is time to investigate these abuses. It is never too late to regain our credibility around the world. I call on my colleagues to stand up against torture by standing firm to the belief that the United States has held for generations, that no individual in U.S. custody be subject to cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment, any time, any place, anywhere.

CONGRESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, there are two things I want to address tonight, both terribly disappointing to me as a freshman Member of Congress.

As a former judge who sent hundreds or thousands of people to prison for felony crimes, I have heard and seen all kinds of stories. But the one that played out last week makes me both heartsick and very angry. A valiant Vietnam veteran, a man of courage and daring, a Navy pilot, a defender of this country, an ace, a true military leader by example, pled guilty, basically, to accepting bribes to push defense contracts to contractors who may not have been entitled to them.

For those of us who have served in the military, we know what it is to requisition supplies, equipment or services and get quality in response. On the other hand, we also know what it is to receive supplies, equipment or services and wonder who in the world got their bank account padded or their

back scratched to allow such substandard material to be sent.

Now to hear that our fellow congressman, Randy "Duke" Cunningham, was such a Member of Congress on the take makes me both very sad and very angry.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM has made true acts and comments of contrition and humility; but my goodness, how much damage has been done. Not only will he be sentenced to satisfy the requirements of justice, retribution and deterrence, his family and friends will suffer. That is what happens when crimes are committed.

Let us also not lose sight of the fact that the contractors who paid bribes should be barred from ever contracting with the government again. I do not know who it is, and it does not matter to me who they are or with whom they are friends, they should be barred.

But one other thing that has caused me great bewilderment in the last month to 6 weeks or so is the rhetoric against our efforts in Iraq and how it has reached a crescendo and fanatical pitch. In what may well have been the cradle of mankind, the people of Iraq are on the threshold of democratically electing their first permanent leaders under their new Constitution. As a democratic self-governing people, we should as a Nation be uniting in support and encouraging the people of Iraq in their own efforts at self-government.

Some, like our colleague and war hero, Mr. MURTHA, have been expressing concerns of this type about the war for over 2 years. Others have now jumped on the bandwagon, and still others have raised their pitch dramatically. This historic election is 9 days off. It is true that if the election goes well, it not only is a great victory for freedom, democracy and against terrorism, but it will probably help President Bush. It is also clear, and many realize, if the election goes badly, it will probably exacerbate and lower President Bush's popularity still further. But could Members not wait 9 days, wait until after December 15, to make your points about withdrawal or how we are losing and we cannot win.

Obviously, if the people of Iraq think we are about to withdraw before that permanent ink wears off their finger when they vote, they may hesitate to vote or not vote. Heightened rhetoric against our historic assistance in Iraq serves to undermine the election and may assist in its failure. I implore Members, regarding Iraq, please let us put partisan politics aside for the next 9 days until after the election.

Sure, it would make you happy to see President Bush's numbers fall lower; but at the cost of democracy and stability in the Middle East and of our own safety, the price is too high. You can go back to your Bush bashing in 9 days, but how about being statesmen and stateswomen until after the Iraqi election. Show that there is one noble thing you can put above partisan politics for the next 9 days.

We are doing a great good over there. I have seen. Senator LIEBERMAN has seen it. Mr. SHAYS has seen it. We have witnessed it. At this time of year, we can note tragedy as I have tonight, but let us also rejoice in this great thing that may well come to pass next week if you will stop trying to poison it before it happens.

100 DAYS OF EMPTY PROMISES

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

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 100th day since Hurricane Katrina came ashore in south Mississippi. Since that time, we have had a mixture of incredible support from the people of this Nation; but also, quite frankly, there have been a lot of promises made by the President of the United States that have yet to be fulfilled.

In 100 days since the storm, numerous regrets by me, Senator LOTT, Mr. PICKERING and others to try to help those people who found themselves in the horrible situation of having a home that never flooded, or a piece of land that had never flooded since the Europeans settled in Mississippi in 1699, who thought they were properly covered by having wind insurance, who thought they had taken adequate precautions to secure their home in the event of a storm, who found that their homes had flooded.

And now for 100 days, I, Senator LOTT, Mr. PICKERING and others have asked to try to do something to help those people. After all, every aid package the President talks about talks about tax breaks for the fat cats. Well, the fat cats are going to do just fine after the storm. They always do. They have got the money; they know how to invest it; they know how to make more money. They do not need tax breaks. The people who need help in south Mississippi are the average-Joe homeowners: the kid who coaches the Little League team, the guy or lady who sings in the choir, who find themselves now at the end of 90 days that their mortgage is due, they have lost their job, their house has been either destroyed or horribly damaged and they are looking for help from their Nation.

This is an extremely patriotic part of the country, and an extremely high percentage of those people have served in the Armed Forces or are presently serving, and all they are asking from you, Mr. President, is a little bit of consideration.

After 100 days, we had taken care of the people of New York after 9/11. After 100 days, we had taken care of the people of San Francisco. Tonight in south Mississippi, people will crawl into two and three-man tents because 12,000 families are still waiting for a FEMA trailer.

The company you gave the contract to, Bechtel Incorporated, has donated

tens of thousands of dollars to your campaign and to the Republican majority. You are obviously friends. I think you can pick up the phone to the Bechtel family and ask them to finish the job.

After 100 days, only two-thirds of the people who have asked for a trailer since their home has been destroyed have received one. I did not promise those folks a trailer. You did, Mr. President. After 100 days, it has turned cold. A shower with a garden hose in August feels pretty good; a shower with a garden hose when it is 33 degrees outside is a pretty crummy experience.

The contracts for debris removal were let on a per-cubic-yard basis. Therefore, the people who did that had an incentive to work quickly because the more they did the more they got paid. The contracts to deliver FEMA trailers was paid by the month. If you pay anyone to do something by the hour as opposed to the job, it is human nature they are going to do it slower. The people of south Mississippi have waited long.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to call your friends at Bechtel and tell them to finish the job. Folks had to live in a pup tent for Thanksgiving and their patience has worn thin.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, I remember when the promise was made that you could cut taxes, increase spending, and pay down the debt. I thought that was a bunch of malarkey at the time, and it has turned out to be \$2.4 trillion wrong.

But to come to south Mississippi and to promise the people in south Mississippi that you are going to get them a trailer, and not fulfill that promise or drag your feet on that promise, that is something people see every day. It is something I see every time I go home, and that is every weekend.

Mr. President, it is time for you and the people at Bechtel to do the job: to deliver the trailers that are sitting in places like Hope, Arkansas, where there are thousands of trailers sitting on the runway. Or Purvis, Mississippi, where there are over 1,200 trailers sitting on the ground, or the staging area in De Lisle or the staging area in Hancock County. They are not doing any one any good sitting in the staging areas.

If you have to void the contract with Bechtel, by all means do so. If the Bechtel family has any respect for their good family name, I am asking them as a Member of Congress representing south Mississippi to replace the management you have in south Mississippi and get the job done because the people of south Mississippi and the people of this Nation who are paying for this deserve better.

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

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California 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 Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. OSBORNE 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. FILNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

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BLUE DOG COALITION

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

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, for the next 60 minutes, me, along with other Members of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition, will come to the floor of the United States House of Representatives to talk about the debt, the deficit, the budget, the cuts in spending as well as tax cuts that will be proposed on the floor of this House this week.

Mr. Speaker, let me begin by explaining what the Blue Dog Coalition is all about. It is a group of 37 conservative moderate Democrats. Democrats that are concerned about this country's future, because of today's reckless spending, 37 conservative to moderate Democrats that are concerned about what today's reckless spending means for tomorrow's generation, our children and our grandchildren and their future.

For those who come to our Nation's Capitol, as you walk the halls of the House office buildings, the Cannon House Office Building, the Longworth House Office Building, the Rayburn House Office Building, it is easy to identify an office that houses one of the 37 conservative Democrats that belong to the Blue Dog Coalition, because by the door to each of our offices you will find a sign like this right here, the Blue Dog Coalition reminding every taxpayer in this land of the national debt. Today, the U.S. national debt is \$8.121 trillion and some change. And if you break that down to every man, woman and child, including those who are born today, every citizen of this country would have to pull out their checkbook and write a check to the tune of \$27,000 and some change to pay off this national debt.

There are those in this administration and within this Republican Congress that say debts do not matter. We all know that is not true. We all know that the larger the debt, the more demand there will be for money and the

higher interest rates will go. We are already starting to see it happen. We all know during the last 4½ years that one of the things that kept us out of a recession, just barely, was low interest rates that allowed people to refinance their homes and have some extra cash to buy things and encouraged people to become and be able to afford to become first-time homeowners; and it allowed others to either add on to their house or to sell their house and buy a new one. Those low interest rates are rapidly disappearing as we see interest rates continuing to go up and up and up.

It is hard to believe now, but from 1998 through 2001, this Nation had a balanced budget. This Nation did not deficit spend from 1998 through 2001. And now this President, this administration, this Republican Congress has given us, American citizens, the largest budget deficit ever, ever in our Nation's history. For what? For a fifth year in a row.

Put it another way. The total national debt from 1789 to the year 2000 was \$5.67 trillion. But by 2010, the total national debt will have increased to \$10.88 trillion. Tonight, it stands at \$8.121 trillion. That is \$8.121 trillion and some change. This is a doubling of the 211-year debt in just 10 years, in just the past decade. Interest payments on this debt are one of the fastest growing parts of the Federal budget, and the debt tax, I did not say death tax, the debt tax, a phrase coined by the Blue Dog Coalition, is one tax that cannot be repealed.

And let me tell you what I mean by that. Every day in this land, our Nation is spending a half a billion dollars. That is right, \$500 million every single day simply paying interest on the national debt. How much is that? We could build 100 brand new elementary schools every single day in America just with the interest we are paying on the national debt. It is what we call the debt tax, D-E-B-T, and it is one tax that cannot go away. It is one tax that will prevent us from being able to meet the priorities of this Nation when it comes to education and health care and the economy and so many other important areas until we get our fiscal house in order and pay down this debt and stop this deficit spending.

Deficits do matter. Deficits reduce economic growth. They burden our children and grandchildren with liabilities. They increase our reliance on foreign lenders who now own 40 percent of our debt. That is right. Foreign lenders now own 40 percent of our debt.

Let me put it another way. This President, this administration, this Republican Congress, in the last 4½ years has borrowed more money to run the United States of America than the previous 42 presidents of the United States combined.

Now, let us think about that. This President, this Republican Congress has borrowed more money from foreign governments, foreign lenders and for-

eign central banks to operate our government than the previous 42 presidents combined.

Congressman JOHN TANNER, a founder of the Blue Dog Coalition from Tennessee, said it best when he said if China decides to invade Taiwan, we, the United States will have to go borrow even more money from China to defend Taiwan. What has happened to this country? What has happened to the fiscal responsibility that leaders of this country should share? It is a duty and an obligation that we keep, or at this point, put back, restore fiscal discipline to our Nation's government, and that is what the Blue Dog Coalition is all about.

The United States is becoming increasingly dependent on foreign lenders. Foreign lenders currently hold a total of \$2 trillion of our public debt. You see here, we owe \$8.121 trillion. That is how much money, more money we have spent than we have taken in as a government. That is how much money we have borrowed. In fact, we are borrowing to the tune of about \$907 million a day, we are sending about \$188 million every day to Iraq, \$33 million every day to Afghanistan. And the list goes on and on. Two trillion of our public debt has come from foreign lenders or 45 percent of our total debt.

Some people may wonder where the other 6 trillion is coming from. The majority of it is coming from money that the politicians in Washington are borrowing from the Social Security trust fund with no provision on how or whether that money ever gets paid back.

Now, when I go to my banker to get a loan, he wants to know how I am going to pay it back, when I am going to pay it back and where the money is going to come from to pay him back. And yet, our government continues to borrow money from Social Security with no idea on how or when that money is going to be paid back or where it is going to come from to be paid back. No wonder this Republican leadership and this Republican Congress refused, refused to give me a vote or to give me a hearing on my bill that basically told the politicians in Washington to keep their hands off of the Social Security trust fund.

I mentioned that we were going to have a number of Blue Dogs join us this evening. 37 Members in the Blue Dog Coalition. We are conservative to moderate Democrats and we come from all across this Nation. And at this time, it gives me great honor to be able to introduce a real leader in the Blue Dog Coalition, someone that understands fiscal responsibility, someone that came from a state legislature where he helped balance a state budget, and that is the gentleman from Georgia, DAVID SCOTT.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Thank you so much my distinguished colleague, Congressman ROSS, from the great State of Arkansas. You continue to do an extraordinary job of leadership in this

Congress and the people of Arkansas, I am sure, are very, very proud of you.

It is indeed a pleasure to join you once again as we talk about the number one issue facing the future of our great Nation. Alexander Hamilton said it best, who was the father of our financial system, when he said, woe to those who borrow more than they have.

Our Founding Fathers would not be proud of this country today when we say that 90 percent of every penny that we are spending to run this country today is coming from foreign countries. That is a very dangerous position for this country to be in. And I am here to tell you especially that China and India are eating our lunch. Not only are we borrowing money to run our government on it, but through our warped trade policies, we are exporting thousands and thousands of manufacturing jobs from Arkansas, from Georgia, from this country over to India, over to China and these other countries. So it is important that we wake up America. I believe that is our mission as Blue Dogs, to wake up this country to understand what the number one issue is facing us.

And the gentleman mentioned my time in Georgia where I served in the Georgia legislature for nearly 30 years, 10 of those as chairman of the Senate Rules Committee. And we kept the State of Georgia in sound fiscal shape because we made it the law that we will not spend more than we have. And that is what we have got to do in this Congress of the United States to get our financial house back in order. For 5 years, the Blue Dog caucus has been warning, we have been pleading, we have been begging, we have been talking about the dangers of blowing the Federal surplus that was left by the last administration. Say what you want to say about Bill Clinton and the Clinton administration. But they left this country in fine shape, with hundreds of billions of dollars in surplus.

In September, the Blue Dogs formally asked President Bush if he would be kind enough to hold a bipartisan summit on budget deficits and Federal spending. That offer was rejected. Instead, President Bush and the Republicans want to cut money from our veterans. Yes, our veterans. Cut money from our veterans. Cut money from our farmers, cut money out of seniors programs, out of children's programs and cut the very programs designed to help those who need the help the most right now, and those are our victims of Katrina and Rita and Wilma, and then to give \$70 billion in tax cuts to the wealthy among us, who really do not need it. We cannot afford to give it to them now. And I have had wealthy people even come up to me and say, we do not need this money now. The victims of Katrina need the money. The farmers need the money whose farms have been flooded. Senior citizens need the money. We do not have health care. Our young people need the money to go to school instead of cutting our edu-

cation budget. And now we are concerned about our national credit. Now we are discussing the budget deficit. But we did not discuss the dangers of overspending until Hurricane Katrina hit. Then we correctly responded. And now what are we being asked to do? We are being asked to cut the very programs that it would help, people like the ones displaced by the hurricanes. America deserves better than this. Americans deserve much better than this, and they are expecting this House of Representatives to give better, and we can do better. And the first order of business is to certainly reject these painful cuts that are untimely. A time when our Nation is in great need and great pain is not the time to cut these vital Social Service programs.

□ 2045

And certainly it is not the time to give tax cuts to the wealthy. Not now. And I am one who supports tax cuts. I supported the first round of tax cuts. But I am at the head of the list today, as most of us should be. This Nation is suffering too much, too greatly for us to give tax cuts to those who really do not need it at this time.

I believe that the Federal budget process is a series of smoke and mirrors designed to deflect from the real financial disaster facing America. There is no provision in the current rules that enforces a balanced budget, and we Blue Dogs have been preaching that for years, pay-as-you-go. And there is nothing there that allows Congress to defy the budget rules at will. America and many people are wondering when we are going to run this government with the care and the sincerity, with the interest of taking care and being good stewards of their tax dollars, run it like a family business. We ask America to do the same thing, families and businesses. Our Federal Government should be at the top of the list.

And let me just point this out, Mr. Speaker: in today's headlines all across this country, it says a report, the USA left open to attack, shocking gaps cited by the 9/11 Commission. The final report from the 9/11 Commission that came out today gives us failing grades, and they warn us that terrorists will strike again and they will cause catastrophic destruction. And what do the Republicans do? They want to give tax breaks to the wealthy by cutting and failing to fund the basic program that the 9/11 Commission said we need to do, and that is to provide the radio-spectrum communications devices so that our firefighters and our first responders can at least coordinate and communicate with one another during the crisis. A failing grade.

Our precious Americans deserve better. We cannot afford the tax cuts for the wealthy now. Perhaps later. America is hurting now. America is in pain now. We need help now.

The victims of the gulf region were just up here today testifying before the

Government Reform Committee, their hearts breaking, tears in their eyes. Our American citizens are suffering. We failed them down in New Orleans. Many are homeless. And we are failing them today by cutting the very programs that we have designed to give to them. America deserves better.

This budget reconciliation bill reminds me of the poorly run business that lays off employees in order to stay in the black. That same company in turn gives big bonuses to the corporate officers. Our American Nation is in terrible financial shape of the deficit and now because of the Republicans wanting to add to that deficit \$70 billion in tax cuts for the wealthy. The American people are watching this debate; and they need to know what programs will be cut, what we are talking about in this reconciliation.

I want to talk first about the budget cuts. We need to remind the American people how irresponsible we are at this precious time. Nearly \$12 billion will be cut in Medicaid; yet nearly 45 million Americans, in spite of that, do not even have health insurance. The cost of college is increasing faster than inflation; however, more than \$14 billion will be cut from student loan programs. And the Department of Agriculture is reporting that an additional 2 million Americans are now going hungry; yet over \$800 million will be cut in the food stamp program. That is immoral, and we cannot stand for it.

Other programs will be cut, including nearly \$5 billion for child support programs. Agriculture programs will be cut at a time when high energy prices are crushing the family farmer. Veterans cut by \$2 billion, child nutrition by \$2 billion at a time when children are going hungry.

The Federal budget should be an honest blueprint for our spending priorities of the government. However, this budget process is not honest, and I am going to tell my colleagues something. The American people are sick and tired of this dishonesty coming out of Washington. We might as well say what it is. And they are expecting their congressmen and -women to stand up and represent them with honor, with dignity. This budget process is, indeed, not honest because we are passing on our obligations, our responsibilities, our challenges, and this debt to our children, our grandchildren while cutting programs that benefit the poorest among us. We need not accept a Federal budget that singles out hard-working middle-class American families; those who have served our Nation, right now making our veterans have to choose between whether they have their veterans retirement pay or whether they take disability. That is wrong. They should have both. They should not have to make those decisions. Society's most vulnerable citizens, Americans deserve an honest budget that reflects their priorities and that honors their hard work, and that is what we must do.

Finally, let me say this: I think that great writer Sir Edmund Burke put it best when he said that the only necessity for the triumph of evil, for the triumph of wrong, is for good men and women to do nothing. And that is why we Blue Dogs are standing in this Congress tonight. We are standing up and we are doing something. We are demanding that this Congress treat the American people better, and the first step is to reject these budget cuts and to reject this tax reconciliation package.

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I want to thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT), a fellow member of the 37-member strong fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition, for joining me here on the floor this evening, as we will do every Tuesday night, to talk about the Nation's debt and deficit and what it means not only for today's generation but for our children and grandchildren and for future generations.

And, again, Mr. Speaker, I remind the Members that outside the office of every Blue Dog Member of Congress, every fiscally conservative Democrat in the Congress, there are 37 of us. We are 37 strong. And as one walks the Halls of Congress, it is easy to spot a Blue Dog Member because beside their front door next to that welcome mat is a poster that will demonstrate and remind the taxpayers of this Nation of a number that unfortunately changes and goes up every day.

Today, the U.S. national debt, when we went to work this morning, was \$8.121 trillion-and-some-change. Again, for every man, woman, and child that is a citizen of this country, for us to get this Nation out of debt tonight, they would have to write a check for \$27,000. Our Nation is spending a half billion dollars every single day in this country simply paying interest on the national debt. Give me 3 days' interest on the national debt, and I can finish I-49 through the western side of Arkansas. Give me 4 days' interest on the national debt, and I can finish I-69 across southeast Arkansas. These are priorities that will continue to go unmet until we get our Nation's fiscal house in order. And that is why we are here, to try to bring about some accountability within our government.

We are not here to point fingers or to criticize this Republican Congress for the fact that they have given us the largest budget deficit for the last 4½ years ever in our Nation's history. Again, we had a balanced budget from 1998 through 2001. This Republican administration, this Republican Congress has given us the largest budget deficit ever in our Nation's history for 5 years in a row. As Blue Dog Democrats, we are sick and tired of all the partisan bickering that goes on in our Nation's capital. It should not matter if it is a Democratic idea or a Republican idea. It ought to be about is it a common-sense idea and does it make sense for those who send us here to be their voice and to represent them.

So this discussion, this debate here on the House floor is not about pointing fingers. It is about accountability. It is about accountability to the American citizens. It is about accountability to the taxpayers. And this Congress is not being accountable when it has driven up the largest deficit ever in our Nation's history for the 5th year in a row and given us the largest debt ever in our Nation's history.

I am pleased to yield to not only a fellow member of the Blue Dog Coalition but a real leader in the Blue Dog Coalition, one of the co-chairs of the Blue Dog Coalition, and that is the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA).

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Ross for yielding to me. I have to say the citizens of the gentleman's district in Arkansas are certainly ably represented.

It is interesting that before, as he was talking here earlier and mentioned that we are spending in excess of a half billion dollars a day just on interest on the national debt, I was thinking I do not know how much his State budget is per year, but my State budget in California is around \$100 billion a year. And if we were to take his State's budget and Mr. SCOTT's State budget and add them all together with my State's budget, I would bet that we would still be below the annual number of what we pay in interest alone. So if we think about all of the work that our local governments do in our States and we take three States, Georgia, Arkansas, and California, that is a huge, vast sum of money that we are paying just in interest on the national debt.

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from California makes an excellent point. In Arkansas I was in the State senate there for 10 years. It has grown since then. I have been here 5 years now. But the Arkansas State budget is somewhere around \$5 billion a year, is what the Arkansas State government budget is. That means that just the amount of money we are spending as a Nation on interest on the national debt in 10 days equals the budget for the State of Arkansas for a year; and I think it really drives on the point of how much a half billion dollars is. Our Nation, again, is borrowing \$500 million every 24 hours simply to service the debt, simply to pay interest on the debt; and that is \$500 million that cannot go for better schools, better education, better health care, increasing teacher pay. These programs are going unmet, and they will continue to go unmet until we get our fiscal house in order.

As I was mentioning earlier, as Blue Dogs we are tired of all the partisan bickering that goes on in our Nation's capital, and we are not here to condemn the Republican leadership, the majority, this Republican administration for failing the American people by giving us the largest deficit ever in our Nation's history without also offering up the solution. And as Blue Dog mem-

bers, the Blue Dog Coalition has a 12-point plan for budget reform, 12 points. We will be discussing some of them tonight. We will be discussing them every Tuesday night. Twelve points that we believe have to be implemented by this Congress before we can have meaningful and truthful budget reform.

So we are not here as conservative Democrats to simply say Republicans are bad. We are here to offer up two things: we are here to demand accountability, to put our fiscal house back in order, restore some common sense to our Nation's government; and we are also here to offer a plan. We have a plan of action, and we are calling on this Republican Congress and this Republican President to embrace our 12 points for budget reform. Let us come together and let us fix this problem for the American people before this number, this \$8.121 trillion debt, gets any bigger.

□ 2100

Mr. ROSS. I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA).

Mr. CARDOZA. As you were taking about that, it reminded me that there was another fellow from your district by the name of President Clinton who had inherited this same kind of problem once before. In his 8 years in office he took an annual debt and made it into an annual surplus.

And he did that through sound financial practices. I recall that they eliminated a vast number of programs and commissions and wasteful spending in government. I believe Mr. Clinton assigned that task to the Vice President.

In fact, we took, as Democrats, a deficit budget and made it into a surplus budget in the 1990s. In just 5 years, we have gone in a different direction. I believe it is putting our Nation in serious jeopardy. I just thought it was appropriate that I acknowledge that there has been two fiscally conservative leaders from your area, both you and Mr. Clinton.

Mr. ROSS. Well, it is the most fascinating thing for me. Ever since I was a small child growing up in Emmett and Hope and Prescott, Arkansas, my dad was a public school educator and a principal and a superintendent. And, well, that is a profession kind of like preachers and coaches; we moved around some, but we never got too far from home.

You know, growing up as a small child in rural south Arkansas, I always heard it was the Democrats who spent the money. And yet it was a Democrat named Bill Clinton who gave us the first balanced budget for the first time in 40 years. Of all things, a Democrat from Hope, Arkansas, my home town, where I graduated high school in 1979.

And so I think it is important that the American people recognize that this Republican-led Congress, you know it is the first time in 50 years they have controlled everything, the White House, the House, the Senate. And what are they giving us? They are

giving us the largest budget deficit ever in our Nation's history for 4½ years.

It is time to restore some common sense and fiscal discipline to our Nation's government and stop this reckless spending. Again, today, the U.S. National debt is \$8.121 trillion.

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman was talking, I recall when I was an intern in this body for Congressman Martin Frost from Texas, 26, 27 years ago, I sat here and listened to the Republicans rail against the Democrats saying that they were fiscally irresponsible.

And yet since that time, their deficits, when they have been in control, the White House and now in control of everything, have just exploded. I wish they would go back and read those and listen to those old tapes, I am sure C-SPAN still has them back in the old archives, and remember what they said when they were in the minority.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. I just wanted to go back to a point that both of you made, because I think it is important for the American people, those who are watching us, to know the role of leadership that Democrats have played throughout the history of this country, going all the way back, and you go to the great world war and Franklin Delano Roosevelt. You come all of the way up through all of the Presidents that we have served. We have been very strong and very responsible in areas of defense, in areas of the budget, bringing it in on time.

This is just a recent phenomenon with this administration. So I do not want the American people to feel like we are jumping on the Republicans here. The truth is there. When Democrats left office running this government there was an extraordinarily large surplus. Nobody argues with that. We are in an extraordinary deficit now, and dangerously so. And I think what we are seeing here tonight as Blue Dogs, as Democrats, is this: that whether you are Republican, whether you are a Democrat, the whole point of it is, I think we all will agree, that our country deserves better.

The American people deserve better than what this is, and all we are doing as Democrats, and as our Blue Dog Coalition, is proving our heritage, proving our purpose, our mission, our goal, is to bring about a balanced budget. We are the group in this Congress that has been at the leadership of this issue. It is time to lead. We have been leading. We think we are getting the ear of the American people.

Once we get the ear of the American people to help put pressure on this Congress, which unfortunately or fortunately, depending upon what party you belong to, is run by Republicans. And I think Republican and Democrats can work together. And there are many on the other side of the aisle who want to bring this deficit down

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT) makes an excellent point, that is, that this is not about politics. It is not about who is a Democrat or who is a Republican. It is about accountability. It is about a group of us that want to restore accountability to our Nation's government and want to restore some common sense and fiscal discipline to our Nation's government.

And, quite frankly, this debate is about priorities. It is about values. On November 18, at 1 o'clock in the morning, this Congress passed, on a 217 to 215 vote, barely passed, something that they deceptively titled the Deficit Reduction Act. It cut spending \$50 billion to prepare for another \$70 billion in tax cuts.

Only in Washington can you increase the national debt \$20 billion and call it a Deficit Reduction Act. Do not take my word for it; it is H.R. 4241. Look it up.

So this budget reconciliation package, this so-called Deficit Reduction Act, it cut Medicaid, the health insurance plan for the poor, the disabled, the elderly. Half the children in Arkansas are on Medicaid. Eight out of every 10 seniors in the nursing homes are on Medicaid. One out of every five people in my home State are on Medicaid. You know, that is my America.

People count on Medicaid. A lot of people think, oh, that is for poor people that are on welfare; it will never affect me. Well, let me tell you something. If you got a quarter of a million dollars in the bank the day you retire, and where I come from most people do not, and if you go in the nursing home the day you retire, not 5, 10 or 20 years later, in less than 8 years, folks, you are on Medicaid. And yet this Congress voted to cut Medicaid \$11.4 billion on November 18.

\$14.3 billion in Federal student aid programs. Our future generation. The largest cut to the Federal student aid program ever. \$3.7 billion in cuts to farm programs, including cuts to commodity programs, conservation programs, renewable energy programs, and rural development and nearly \$700 million in cuts to food stamps.

For what? There are some in this Chamber who wanted you to believe that it was to help pay for the war in Iraq. Not so. There was some in this Chamber who wanted you to believe it was to help offset the cost of the hurricanes, Katrina, Rita, Wilma. Not so. It was to help offset \$70 billion in tax cuts that mostly benefit those who earn over \$400,000 a year.

Only in Washington. Only in Washington can you call something the Deficit Reduction Act that increases the national debt by \$20 billion, \$50 billion in cuts to the poor, the disabled and the elderly, to pay for another \$70 billion in tax cuts for those earning over \$400,000 a year.

You want to talk about values; you want to talk about morals. Growing up at Midway United Methodist Church

just outside of Hope, Arkansas, and listening to the preachers every Sunday, and listening to my parents, great role models for me as public school educators, I can tell you that that does not represent my morals, and it certainly does not represent my values, the kind of conservative small-town values that I was raised on and still believe in.

Mr. Speaker, with that I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COOPER), another one of the co-chairs of the Blue Dog Coalition, a real leader in this Congress, someone who has been around for quite some time, a real leader in the Blue Dog Coalition, a co-chairman of the 37-Member-strong fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition.

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. ROSS) and, I appreciate your leadership in this Special Order and in so many activities in our Congress.

I want to point out a couple of things, and perhaps you have touched on them already, because from what I have heard of your remarks, I am proud to associate myself with them. You are doing a great job of helping inform the American people about what is really going on with their country.

A couple of things about the Blue Dog chart. Every Blue Dog has a chart just like that outside of their office. It is a little bit scary, because most people who come into our offices do not realize the debt is that big.

But the deficit is about to bust the debt limit cap. Just a few billion dollars from now, our Nation is going to have to ask formal permission to raise the debt ceiling of the United States. Just a few billion dollars from now, we will lose our ability to borrow any more money unless an act of Congress changes that.

And yet the leadership in this Congress is not telling the American people about that. They are going to hide that information until next February, next March, even though, as that chart shows, the debt is already 8.121 trillion.

By the time it gets to 8.170 trillion, we will lose our ability to borrow any more money as a Nation. Our credit card will be maxed out. That is a moment of tragedy for our country because the actual debt burden for working families, if you look at the unfunded obligations of our country, it is not the \$27,000, for every American. For a working family, it is \$350,000 of debt burden that is already on their shoulders.

So I like to refer folks to a report that came out, it is available on the Internet, it is from the Heritage Foundation. That is not a Democratic group. It is a strong Republican group. But it is one of the scariest reports to ever be issued. It came out on November 30. It is by Brian Riedl. It details how under the Republican budget we can look forward to \$800 billion annual deficits, permanent structural deficits that will never go away.

So I just wanted to help folks who may not appreciate Blue Dogs, who

may appreciate Republicans more, that they need to read from the Republican think tank about what the Republicans are doing to our country's finances. This is an issue that should concern all Americans, whether Democrat or Republican.

I am proud of the role that the Blue Dogs are playing in trying to reduce this fiscal insanity, to try to get our Nation back on the right path again. I thank my colleagues, particularly the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. ROSS).

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COOPER) and would invite him to stick around as we continue this debate about restoring fiscal responsibility to our Nation's government. I think it is important to note not only that we have an \$8.121 trillion debt this evening, not only important to note that we are spending \$500 million of American citizens' tax money every day simply paying interest on the national debt, or the fact that we are borrowing about \$907 million a day.

I think it is also important to contrast and make the American people aware that these \$50 billion in cuts came from Medicaid, came from student loans, came from farm programs, came from food stamps to fund tax cuts for those earning over \$400,000 a year.

In fact, this week, this week, we are going to vote on legislation that would provide the majority of tax relief to the most fortunate. That is on the heels of November 18 at 1 a.m. when we voted, they voted, the Republican leadership voted, on a 217-to-215 vote, that I might add not one Democrat voted for, to cut Medicaid and student loans and farm programs and food stamps. They voted to do those cuts to do what? To pay this week for a tax cut, \$70 billion in tax cuts.

The reduced tax rates on capital gains and dividends, something most of the folks in my district do not have to worry about, they wish they did, the reduced tax rates on capital gains and dividends will cost over \$20 billion, or 36 percent, of the bill's total, nearly 50 percent. I talk about how these tax cuts will benefit those earning over \$400,000 a year.

Nearly 50 percent of the benefit of these rate reductions will be received by those with annual incomes of over \$1 million. We are not talking about people who have \$1 million in the bank. We are talking about annual incomes of over \$1 million. That is where 50 percent of the \$70 billion will go; and the majority, the rest of it will go to those earning \$400,000 a year.

Look, as Members of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition, we are conservative Democrats. A lot of us support tax cuts when we can afford them. I was a Democrat that voted for tax cuts. It was before 9/11. It was before Iraq. It was before Afghanistan. We really had a surplus. We really were giving people some of their money back.

□ 2115

Since then, I have opposed these tax cuts for a simple reason. I will give them this. It might make for good politics, but it makes for bad fiscal policy and it is the wrong way to treat our children and our grandchildren because now with every tax cut, that mostly benefits those earning over \$400,000 a year, how are we paying for it? Not by cutting spending. That is one of the 12 points in the Blue Dog plan. If you are going to cut taxes, cut spending. That is what we do at the Ross home in Prescott, Arkansas, around the kitchen table. If we want to buy something, we have got to make sure we have got the money in the checkbook to pay for it. If we want something really bad that costs more than we can handle that month, we have to cut something else. As a State Senator for 10 years, Arkansas like 49 States in this Nation, I had to help balance the budget. And we did it. There is no reason why this Nation cannot have a balanced budget.

We are not against tax cuts. We are against borrowing the money from China and Japan and the Caribbean banking center and OPEC nations to pay for tax cuts. Yet this week another \$70 billion will be borrowed, mostly from foreign lenders, foreign central banks, foreign investors, to pay for tax cuts to the tune of \$70 billion that mostly benefits those earning over \$400,000 a year, at a time when we have a record debt of \$8.121 trillion that continues to increase every hour.

I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. CARDOZA. I want to thank the gentleman from Arkansas for a great explanation of what the problem is. But as part of that, I also want to highlight the fact that the Republicans criticized the Blue Dogs for not supporting what they call the Deficit Reduction Act. I want to tell you just one reason why, just one out of many, but I believe the most immoral cut that was advocated by the Republican side of this Chamber, and, as you said, not one Democrat voted for that bill, was the \$600 million cut to foster care programs. You cannot tell me that out of a \$2.2 trillion budget, you cannot find someplace else to cut. But \$600 million from orphaned and abused children who are put in foster homes, that to me is just unconscionable. And so what they are asking us to do is not a reconciliation but a changing of priorities. I do not believe that cuts to orphaned and abused children are American priorities. I certainly don't believe they are American family values. That is not what we learned in church. That is not what I learned in church.

Mr. ROSS. And, I might add, you know a thing or two about that.

Mr. CARDOZA. Well, I do, Mr. ROSS. In fact, I have two children that were adopted out of foster care. My wife and I are blessed to have two children from foster care. I just cannot believe that we cannot find a different place to cut. I know after dealing with the foster

care system that there are a lot of things that do not work in that system, but it is not that there is too much money in the system, because having seen it up close, there is not too much money in the foster care system. We don't have enough resources. We can save kids from going into a life of crime or being victimized in other ways that cost society much greater amounts. Incarcerating one prisoner is over \$40,000 a year. If we lose a young person because of the way they are treated in foster care and being abused a second time after they have been abused either in their home or abandoned or neglected like my children were, if we lose them in the system, it will cost society much more in the long run.

I have a word that I want to call this. I believe we should call this Scrooge-onomics, because I believe it is just the wrong priorities. The other side in my priority has adopted Scrooge-onomics. Just like in the movie and in the book written by Charles Dickens, I just hope that my colleagues on the other side don't wake up with a nightmare of the ghost of Christmas past when they sleep in their nice warm homes, in their nice warm beds on Christmas day, that they have totally forgotten about those children who don't have the same kind of advantages that they have in life. I would ask them to abandon Scrooge-onomics and adopt a vision for America that is much more compassionate, conservative but compassionate, truly compassionate, and adopt a vision that we can all be proud of instead of abusing our foster children a second time.

Mr. ROSS. We discussed \$11.4 billion in cuts to health care for the poor, the disabled, the elderly. Eight out of 10 seniors in nursing homes in Arkansas, my home State. \$14.3 billion in cuts to student loans, at a time when I know how many parents feel now, because I have got a child that will soon be going off to college. My wife and I are very blessed. We are very fortunate that we will be okay. We both went to college, we got a good education, we work hard and we will make sure our children get an education. But we are thinking about it and we are concerned about it. I now understand how so many parents across this country lay in bed at night and can't sleep worried about the cost of their child's education, at a time when \$14.3 billion has been cut from Federal student loans. \$3.7 billion from our farm families at a time of record diesel prices and we just went through a drought. \$700 million in cuts to food stamps. It is like this Republican Congress thinks that people are going to wake up tomorrow and not be poor or sick anymore. My wife and I own a small town family pharmacy. I see a lot of people come through our doors that are sick. Never once have I met one that loved being sick. We meet a lot of poor people that come through the doors of our pharmacy in my hometown of Prescott, Arkansas, 3,400 people, where everybody knows everyone.

We know a lot of poor people. We see them come through our door. Never once has someone said, I'm proud to be poor. Yet these cuts make it appear as though people in this country are going to wake up tomorrow and not be poor or sick anymore. And now you are telling me on top of these, there is cuts in that bill, the Deficit Reduction Act, that actually adds \$20 billion in new debt that cuts our orphans in foster care?

Mr. CARDOZA. That is right, Mr. ROSS. Not only does it cut those two populations but it is done to pay for tax cuts, to pay for additional tax cuts.

Mr. ROSS. This week's tax cuts. \$70 billion this week, mostly to benefit those earning over \$400,000 a year, half of it to benefit those earning in income over \$1 million a year.

Mr. CARDOZA. I don't think you can call it anything but Scrooge-onomics.

Mr. ROSS. Scrooge-onomics.

With that, I will recognize the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COOPER).

Mr. COOPER. You have made very powerful statements here tonight. One point that needs to be addressed a little bit more is the fact that we are going to be borrowing even more money from foreigners and the gentleman touched on that, particularly the Chinese. They are lending us more and more money, but I didn't know if you had pointed out so far here tonight as our colleague, JOHN TANNER, has shown in the past that President George W. Bush has already borrowed more money from foreigners in the last 5 years than every previous President in American history combined. That is an incredible statement because that is every President from George Washington through Bill Clinton. They borrowed about \$1 trillion in total from foreigners. But already under President George W. Bush we have borrowed over \$1 trillion just from foreigners. So the gentleman's very powerful points about cuts to American citizens, cuts that are really going to damage their lives, at the same time we are cutting them, we are going to be paying more interest money to foreign lenders, to foreign bankers.

And talk about wrong priorities. Hurting home folks so we can benefit rich foreigners? That is completely out of hand. But that is what happens when we not only have giant deficits but we have to borrow so much money from foreigners.

Mr. ROSS. \$2 trillion of our debt today is being held by foreign lenders, foreign governments, foreign central banks. Compare this to only \$23 billion in foreign holdings in 1993. The top 10, it is kind of like David Letterman later tonight and his top 10 list. The United States of America, we owe Japan \$687.3 billion. We borrow money from them to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy people here in this Nation. China, we owe them \$252.2 billion. I know I have got that southern drawl and so I want to make sure everybody understands that I say billion, not million. \$252.2 billion.

United Kingdom, \$182.4 billion. Caribbean banking centers. I had never heard of such. Caribbean banking centers, \$102.9 billion. Korea, \$61.7 billion. OPEC, and we wonder why gasoline is so high, we have borrowed \$54.6 billion from OPEC. Taiwan, \$71.8 billion. They are counting on us to defend them if China invades them and we are borrowing money from Taiwan. The gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER), a founder of the Blue Dogs, again he put it best when he said, if China decides to invade Taiwan, we'll have to borrow even more money from China to defend Taiwan. Germany, \$63.5 billion. Switzerland, \$37.5 billion. And Hong Kong, \$48.1 billion.

Again, this President, this administration, this Republican Congress, has borrowed more money from foreign lenders in the past 4½ years than the previous 42 Presidents combined. It is time for accountability. It is time to restore fiscal discipline to our Nation's government.

I hope the gentleman from Georgia agrees.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. I definitely do agree. Just to bring your point home and the gentleman from Tennessee's point home about what we are doing and the money we are borrowing from foreign governments, just think about this as you tie that to homeland security. We are spending more in our interest and the fee and the costs that we are paying these countries, in addition to the billions of dollars for each country you have mentioned, there is an interest on top of that that they are charging us to borrow the money. It is more than what we spend on our own homeland security. You talk about the height of irresponsibility.

But I do want to make sure that the American people understand the hypocrisy that is at stake here with what my friends on the Republican side are asking us to do which we must not do. We must not trade these budget cuts for foster care programs and for those of the needy to give the wealthy these tax cuts. Not now. Later when we can afford it, let us do so. But certainly not now. Just think. I am not sure that my friends on the other side of the aisle understand nor the President really understands how our country, most of the majority of the working families, the people in this country that are the backbone of this country, let us just even take our soldiers and our National Guardsmen, our soldiers who are defending us so brilliantly, doing an extraordinary job in Iraq and Afghanistan, many are on their second and third tours. Our military might is being strained. We are not nearly paying our soldiers enough. They are coming from the middle class and they are coming from people like my district. I talk to them every day as I stand here as a Georgian, no State in this Nation has paid the sacrifice in the number of soldiers who have lost their lives in this combat in Iraq as in the State of Georgia. While at the same time in my

State of Georgia, we are faced with the loss of manufacturing jobs. We have just had news of the General Motors plant closing. There is a possibility, strong possibility, before the week is out, we may have news that the Ford Motor plant is closing. Delta Airlines, stretched with its pension, begging and asking this House of Representatives for help to help with their pension so they do not go under. That is where we need help. Katrina victims, nearly 30,000 in my State, many in your State of Arkansas who need help. And you mean to tell me at a time like this when our country is in such great pain, in such need, not only are we going to cut their programs but we are going to take that money and give it to billionaires and millionaires.

Mr. ROSS. I want to thank the gentleman from Georgia. This is exactly why the 37-member-strong fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition will take to the floor every Tuesday night to discuss with the Members the debt, the deficit, and to hold this administration and this Republican Congress accountable and also offer up our 12 point reform plan for curing our Nation's addiction to deficit spending.

Point number one, require a balanced budget. We will be talking more about that and the other 11 points next Tuesday night as members of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition, a group of 37 conservative to moderate Democrats, take to the floor to hold this administration and this Congress accountable for these record deficits and to offer up a solution, including requiring a balanced budget.

□ 2130

The Blue Dog Coalition, the poster here, today the U.S. national debt, this morning, when we started this hour, it was \$8.121 trillion. In the past 60 minutes, while we have been standing here discussing the crisis at hand in America, the national debt has risen another \$41 million. Another \$41 million in debt has accumulated in this Nation since we began this discussion here on the floor of the U.S. House 60 minutes ago. That is eight more elementary schools that cannot be built tonight in America simply because that money is going to pay interest on the national debt.

This discussion will continue with my colleague and other members of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition next Tuesday night, and I want to thank you for coming and joining me in this debate about accountability and common sense and fiscal responsibility.

HONORING PETER E. HAAS, SR.

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

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Texas for allowing me to speak out of turn. I appreciate it very much.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to pay tribute to a great friend and great American, Peter E. Haas, Senior, for a lifetime of leadership. Peter Haas, who, with his brother Walter, led the renowned blue jean empire Levi Strauss, died at the age of 86 on December 3 in San Francisco. His extraordinary life will forever serve to enrich the lives of all of us living in the San Francisco Bay Area. Known for his integrity, honesty and modesty, Mr. Haas was distinguished in the business world for his unyielding commitment to corporate ethics and for championing blue collar workers.

Mr. Haas was born in San Francisco in 1918 to Elise Stern Haas and Walter A. Haas, Senior, the third generation of his family to lead the family business. Mr. Haas' great granduncle, Levi Strauss, created blue jeans as working pants for gold miners in the 1850s.

Mr. Haas graduated from UC Berkeley in 1940 with a bachelor's degree in economics and from Harvard Business School in 1943. In 1945, he joined his brother Walter at Levi Strauss, commencing a 60-year career. In 1953, *Time* magazine named the two brothers Leaders of Tomorrow. Peter Haas focused on the company's operations and finance, while his brother Walter focused on marketing and advertising. Peter Haas served as president of the company from 1970 to 1981 and chief executive officer from 1976 to 1981. In 1981, *Financial World* magazine named Mr. Haas Chief Executive Officer of the Year. Under their leadership, the Haas brothers' leadership, the company experienced massive growth and expansion. As the baby boomers hit their teenage years, they capitalized on the growing popularity of blue jeans.

With the first Levi Strauss manufacturing plants in southern States, Mr. Haas took a stand against segregation, refusing to allow separate working areas for black and white workers and demanding equal treatment for all employees. His ethics did not hinder the company's success. In 1945, Levi Strauss consisted of three small factories in the San Francisco Bay Area and \$2 million in denim sales. By the time Mr. Haas left his position as board chairman in the late 1980s, sales had reached \$3.1 billion in 50 countries.

Mr. Haas used his business sense and financial success for public service, working with numerous foundations and service organizations, including the San Francisco Foundation, the Jewish Community Federation, and the United Way. Through the Miriam and Peter Haas Fund, he contributed millions of dollars to the arts, public policy programs, and health and human services. The Haases gave millions to provide high-quality, early childhood development programs to low-income families.

Peter Haas served as a UC Berkeley Foundation trustee for 12 years and was the university's most avid donor and fund-raiser. He and Walter built the Haas School of Business in honor of

their father, Walter Haas, Senior. In 1996, Peter Haas received the Berkeley Medal, the school's top honor, and was named Alumnus of the Year. Mr. Haas never missed a home football game or basketball game. He was preparing to attend a UC Berkeley game Saturday when he fell ill.

San Francisco is forever indebted to Peter for his immeasurable contributions. It is with great personal sadness that I offer my deepest sympathy to his wife, Mimi; his sons, Peter and Michael; his daughter, Margaret; his stepsons, Ari and Daniel Lurie; his four grandchildren, Jennifer Haas-Dehejia, Daniel, Bradley, and Nicholas; and one great-grandchild, Maya Cady Haas-Dehejia. I hope that it is a comfort to Peter's family that so many people mourn their loss and are praying for them at this sad time.

THE ECONOMY

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

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, it is great to be here tonight to host this hour, and I am looking forward to having a colloquy with some of my friends from our party to discuss the economy, which I think in this era of where we are right now does not get bragged on enough; and so we are going to spend the next hour bragging on the economy.

Before I do that, though, I would like to talk a little bit about what my friends on the other side have been talking about.

When I was campaigning for this first time, the Chair and I are in our first term in this House, I talked about trying to make some friends on the other side of the aisle, trying to build a group of folks we could deal with across the aisle in a bipartisan manner. I committed to myself to try to avoid inflammatory rhetoric, overreaching hyperbole, all the kinds of things that sometimes get us and our colleagues in a lot of trouble when we come to these microphones and speak.

Having listened for the last few minutes to the folks on the other side, I would like to, with as much respect as I can, challenge some of the things that we have heard here tonight.

I am a CPA. I spent 30-plus years in business helping write financial statements and do tax returns and all the kinds of things that a CPA does. With respect to financial statements, it was always the goal of the financial statement to fairly present the financial results of a particular enterprise, whether it is a small business or a large business. The goal was the same, get all the information out, allow the investor, the banker and the owner to make fair and well-informed decisions.

One of the things we do here each night is to try to do that same thing.

We try to get information out to each other, to the American people, so that they can make good decisions; and then, hopefully, we can make good decisions as well.

Sometimes it is not what is said that is as important as what is left unsaid, and I would like to point out a few things tonight that were left unsaid while my colleagues talked about the debt of the Nation and how we got in this particular position.

One of the things that you heard over and over is that we are experiencing the largest deficits ever, and that is an accurate statement. But it also ought to be put in context with a couple of other "largest ever," and that is, that we are now in the largest economy, the largest U.S. economy, ever. The American economy, U.S. economy, has never been bigger than it is today. That is not an excuse for the deficit, but it helps to put it into context.

We also have more people working in America today than ever. More people employed, more people self-employed, more people at jobs every single day to try to feed their families, provide for themselves, and make their communities a better place to live. That is a point that ought to be said in the same sentence or same several sentences when we talk about the deficit.

We have got more people owning homes today than have ever owned homes in America, and that is a major statement because with respect to probably on an absolute basis from the family standpoint, homeownership is the single largest asset, single largest borrowing that most all families will ever do. There is obviously some exceptions to that; but by and large, most folks will see their biggest debt is their home and biggest asset will be the equity in that home. Overall, good news with which to examine the deficits.

Now, coming at my role here in Congress with a background in finance, background in accounting, you go at budgets or correcting budget deficits, there is really only two things to do. You either raise revenues or you cut expenses, and what got left unsaid tonight over and over and over as my colleagues on the other side talked about the spending that the Republicans have championed over the last 5 years in our attempt to try to reduce that was where would the Democrats not spend money.

We heard a lot of things about what they did not like about the \$50 billion that we passed a couple of weeks ago in rates of reduction in the growth of spending in mandatory programs, mandatory programs being two-thirds out of our annual budget. They did not like any of those. They would argue that every single one of those cuts was into programs that were totally efficient and totally without an opportunity to reduce spending in those areas, and they were not really cuts as I have mentioned. They were simply reductions in the rate of growth.

What got left unsaid was where would the Democrats, our Blue Dog

colleagues, actually cut, which program. Let us be precise. It is real easy for my colleagues and me to stand up here and say we are against excess spending, we are against the runaway spending, we are against all those kinds of things. But talk is cheap in west Texas, where the Chair and I hang out. Where are the specific programs that they think are subject to being cut? We did not hear any of that.

Maybe over the next several weeks, as they said, they are going to come down here again next Tuesday night and talk about what their plans are, and maybe then they will lay out for us are they going to cut defense. I do not think so. Are they going to cut homeland security? We did not hear that tonight. In fact, what we did hear is that they are going to increase spending in those areas. Are they going to cut mandatory spending? It did not sound like it. It sounded like they would prefer to increase spending in all of these areas.

That leaves the nondefense, non-homeland security discretionary budget, which is about \$400 billion, a lot of money; but if we have got a \$300 billion deficit and we only have \$400 billion that they would be willing to kind of work on in terms of providing us with spending cut direction, that runs everything else by the way. So I do not realistically think you can cut out of the \$400 billion that is in discretionary spending that you can cut enough to eliminate \$300 billion in deficits.

The other side of the equation, though, is revenue. What I did hear tonight is that my colleagues are in favor of tax increases, period. Someone once said that trying to work your way out of a deficit with tax increases is like standing in a bucket and trying to lift yourself up with the handles. Those do not work.

What we have seen over the last 3 years, 4 years now, the new tax rates, the new tax code that we have in place for America, a tax code and a tax scheme that is pro-growth, pro-job creation, is a recovery from a pretty tough time. Let me just go quickly through a couple of numbers that will help you set in context, and then I would like to allow a couple of my colleagues time to visit with us about that.

In 1999, the Federal Government's total tax receipts, and this was in the years of surpluses as they have mentioned, was \$1.827 trillion; and then in 2000, it was just a little over \$2 trillion in tax receipts. Then we had a couple of things happen that seem to get lost often when we are in these Chambers and we are talking about projections that were done back in 1999 and 2000, about the ongoing surpluses as far as you could see into the future.

We had a little thing called September 11, 9/11, horrible attack on this country that had a devastating impact on our economy. We also had the bust of the dot-com era, the stock market bust. We had corporate accounting

frauds with which I am very familiar. A lot of things went bad. We were already, unbeknownst to most, already in a recession and heading into recession.

In 2001, it went down to \$1.99 trillion. In 2002, it went down to \$1.853 trillion. In 2003, it went down to \$1.782 trillion. That is when the 2001 tax cuts and the 2003 tax cuts began to take effect and tax revenue recovered the next year to \$1.88 trillion. In 2004, the year we just finished, it was \$2.153 trillion.

That is the way we should raise taxes, is to grow this economy and to have more people working than have ever worked before. All of those good things increase receipts for the Federal Government, and that is the way you do it.

□ 2145

You do not do it by raising rates and taking more money away from people that have earned it.

I noticed tonight they mentioned tax increases on earned income. Tax increases on money that people have earned. I spent a long time trying to earn money, and I know how hard it is to come by. I spent a long time trying to advise clients what to do with their money and how to comply with the Tax Code, and I understand how difficult that is when those tax laws go up.

So we have got some things left unsaid from our folks on the other side, and perhaps next week they will come back with a specific plan and specific programs that they would propose that we reduce spending in, and then I suspect that will get the attention of an awful lot of folks on our side of the aisle and we can then go about trying to craft some sort of a bipartisan bill that we can work with.

Because I hang out with some folks that would really like to reduce the Federal Government's spending. I think we should be about doing that, and I think if the other side comes to us next week with some specific program cuts they would champion, maybe we can do that.

I want to ask my colleague, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE), also a freshman with me tonight, and he has agreed to come and speak with us on the economy and share his thoughts with us, so I yield to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman CONAWAY for organizing this hour and giving us an opportunity to present what we will call "correct the record." How does that sound? I served, as you know and others, four terms in the State Senate in Georgia, and in three of those terms I was in the minority. At that time, we used to kind of call the majority party on the carpet and we would make certain that people knew exactly what they were doing. We got to where we were giving away what we were calling a stuck pig award. And we called it a stuck pig award because when you put the truth out on the table, some folks sometimes squeal.

That is kind of what I heard tonight from the Blue Dogs. They were very eloquent in their presentation, but what I heard was squealing. That is what I heard. I heard squealing.

They talked about the Deficit Reduction Act and why they thought it was done and why they felt it was to cover tax cuts. And we are going to talk about that a little tonight, and I appreciate the gentleman's bringing that up and putting that on the table. But I think it is important for people to appreciate and understand that across the Nation the reason that we took that step 2 weeks ago with the Deficit Reduction Act was not to cover for tax cuts, which, as I said, we will mention and talk about very specifically, because we are very proud of the tax decrease package we have that we will be putting on the table, but the reason we did the Deficit Reduction Act was to decrease the size of government. It was to cut waste and fraud and abuse and it was to fulfill the promise that we make, and I know some folks on the other side of the aisle make to their constituents, and that is that it is a principled position of decreasing the size of government, making the government smaller and spending less money.

That is why we passed that bill. That is why we put it on the table. We would love to have had some support from the other side of the aisle from some folks who say so often that they do believe that the government spends too much. We gave them a chance to put that vote up, and you heard them tonight themselves say, and they said so proudly, listen to this, not one Democrat voted for that. Well, now, that is real leadership. You put a spending cut, a savings bill on the table and not a single Democrat supports it.

Now, Congressman CONAWAY mentioned the increased tax revenue, and I think it is important to say that when you decrease taxes, what happens. What happens when you decrease taxes? The other side would have you believe that revenue plummets, that revenue to the Federal Government plummets. Well, if you look at the facts, the facts are that when you decrease taxes, what happens is that you increase revenue, as the gentleman said.

This chart is from the CBO and it shows clearly, as my colleague mentioned, in 2003, tax revenue to the Federal Government, \$1.78 trillion. That is when the most recent tax decreases, tax cuts, took effect at that point. In 2004, \$1.88 trillion. In 2005, \$2.14 trillion.

Mr. CONAWAY. If the gentleman will yield for one second, let us correct our language. Because what we are talking about voting on this week are extensions of the current Tax Code. These are not tax cuts. They are only cuts when the Federal Government has got some claim to this money.

So what we are talking about doing on Thursday or Friday of this week is to extend the current pro-growth, pro-job creation tax scheme we have in

place. So let us not talk about it in terms of cuts in the future, let us make sure my colleague and I use the right phrases.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I appreciate that so much, because that is exactly right. Anybody that is opposed to extending these tax decreases is in favor of, in fact, a tax increase.

And what could we expect from continuing the tax decrease? Well, I would expect, just as I know my colleague would, that the revenues to the Federal Government will increase, more than enough, I am certain, to continue the appropriate programs that we should at the Federal level, and, in fact, what we ought to be able to anticipate is the opportunity to further continue those tax decreases.

Now, I have some other examples of what happens when you decrease taxes that I would like to share with my colleagues. Remember, 2003 is when the tax decrease went into effect, and this chart here shows the amount of growth by each quarter, the amount of growth by each quarter before the tax cuts took effect and after tax cuts took effect.

What you will see very clearly, this is as vivid as it gets, before the tax cuts took effect, you had kind of variable growth. We had the difficulty, as the gentleman mentioned, of the challenge of 9/11, the extreme hardship that we faced at that point and the difficulty of recovering from that. The tax cuts were put in place and they took effect at the beginning of 2003, and since then, since then we have had 10 straight quarters of plus 3 percent or more growth in GDP. In fact, every one of those quarters is greater than every one of the quarters before when the tax cuts were not in place.

That is the kind of remarkable growth that occurs when you put more money in people's pockets. It increases the amount of economic activity throughout our country.

This is the remarkable chart that demonstrates again what happens with tax cuts, with tax decreases. This chart demonstrates the change in employment. These are the jobs across our Nation. Again, this line in the middle is when the tax cuts took effect. Before that you see from January 2001 through the beginning quarter of 2003, before the tax relief occurred, you see decreased job growth.

Again, 9/11 took an incredible toll, but decreased job growth. What happens when the tax cuts takes effect? You have increased job growth, with 4.4 million jobs created since the tax cuts took effect. Every single quarter you have job growth. Sometimes less, oftentimes a lot more. This past month, we had 215,000 new jobs created across our Nation.

So what happens when you cut taxes? You increase revenue to the government, you increase the economic productivity and growth in this Nation, and you increase jobs. That is what happens when you cut taxes.

Would my colleague agree with that?

Mr. CONAWAY. I agree with that completely, and the evidence is in the statistics that we have and that the gentleman is presenting tonight and that my other colleague from Texas will, I suspect, share with us as well.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Let me just share a few more charts with my colleagues, because I think these charts just speak loudly. They say a picture is worth a thousand words, and these charts can say it so much better than I can.

This shows again the jobs as it relates to the unemployment rate since the tax cuts took effect. So again, we have jobs that we see in this line down below here, the green line as it heads up; unemployment rate in the red line, and time across the bottom. So the tax cuts take effect right here. Job growth is relatively low. Continued upward increase in the amount of jobs. And in terms of the rate of unemployment, topped off in early 2003, and since then, has been steadily declining.

In fact, we are now at an unemployment rate in this Nation of 5 percent, which many economists will tell you is full employment; that people are changing jobs or moving or from between one position or another, that 5 percent unemployment is virtually full employment.

The unemployment rate right now is less than, less than the average unemployment rate for the 1970s, for the 1980s, and everybody remembers the boom time in the 1990s, for the entire decade of the 1990s. Less than the average rate right now for those decades. So I think that demonstrates clearly exactly what happens when you decrease taxes.

And the wonder and the beauty of our economy is that it responds so consistently and so clearly and really so quickly.

Let me share one more chart, because I think that oftentimes, we have the other side talking about the spiraling deficit and how the tax decreases add to that deficit. Well, in fact, what has happened over the past number of months and years is that the deficit in fact has decreased. With a decrease in taxes, the deficit has decreased. And over the past 18 months, what we have seen is a 30 percent decrease in the deficit. In fact, this year, a \$138 billion decrease in the deficit.

So I want to thank my colleague once again for providing this time, but I think it is important that the American people appreciate that the responsibility that we believe we have in Congress is to make certain that individuals have more money in their pocket, are able to determine greater their destiny, to decrease the size of government, and that all of those things play into increasing the ability of the market to increase jobs and increase the productivity of our private sector and economic development.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Georgia

for coming out tonight and sharing these facts with us. I want to quote my good colleague from Texas, everybody is entitled to their own opinion, but none of us are entitled to our own set of facts. And the more we speak to the facts and the less we talk about the make-believe, I think the better off we all are.

This is clear and convincing evidence that the tax system, while flawed in many ways, is working, and that to tinker with that at this point in time is muddle-headed and hopefully something we will keep from happening. So I want to thank my colleague for coming out and joining us.

And I now want to recognize my good friend and colleague from Texas, Congressman HENSARLING, who has been at this for four or five times as long as I have been, and who is a constant champion of reining in Federal spending.

We sometimes equate Federal spending with the Federal Government's growth, and I think that is an accurate portrayal, and Congressman HENSARLING is a leader among many of us here on the Republican side, and in the Congress overall, and a voice calling for a smaller Federal Government and also smaller Federal spending to accomplish that.

So I now yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING).

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good colleague and fellow Texan for yielding to me this evening. I appreciate his leadership on the issue of helping promote economic growth and helping promote jobs in our economy. I also want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Georgia, for his illuminating presentation and, indeed, a picture is worth a thousand words, so we benefited by many, many words tonight through those pictures.

There are a number of facts that the American people need to know, Mr. Speaker, and I hope that we can help illuminate those this evening. As we enter the Christmas season, people are looking for some good news and, Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of good news out there. There is good news because of the economic policies that have been enacted by this Republican Congress at the instigation of President Bush.

Since we passed tax relief, as the gentlemen have pointed out, 4.4 million new jobs, jobs with a future, have been created in this economy. That is 4.4 million new jobs. Mr. Speaker, that is wonderful news at this Christmas season. Now, before we passed the tax relief, this economy was struggling. It was struggling after 9/11, it was struggling after the wake of all the corporate scandals, and it was struggling in the wake of the bust in the high-tech bubble.

But what this President knew, and what this Republican Congress knew, is that if you would only allow the American people to keep more of what they earned, put more capital into small business, allow families to keep more of what they earn as they go about

their daily lives, that people would go and they would expand their businesses.

□ 2200

They would become entrepreneurs, and they would start new businesses. And then the greatest housing program, nutritional program, and educational program in the history of mankind would be created, and that is a job in the free enterprise system.

Thanks to the tax relief policies of this Republican Congress, that is what has been done. Now we are going to have this incredibly important vote, I believe, at the end of this week where the Democrats are trying to increase taxes yet again on the American people. What is odd about the procedures that we have, and my colleague from Texas knows this, but when a Member of Congress does something to enact spending, spending is forever; but somehow tax relief is only temporary. We have to vote to keep it alive. Spending goes on forever and ever and ever, but we have to keep tax relief alive.

This is not about any further tax cut; this is about preventing tax increases on the American people. That is what this is about. Already the Democrats want to take all of the tax relief that has been enacted in past years away. Somehow they want to bring back the death tax so Americans will have to visit the undertaker and the IRS on the same day. They want to bring back the marriage penalty so that when two people fall in love, they are going to have to pay Uncle Sam extra money if they want to get married. They would double the child tax credit.

I can tell you as a father of two young children, it is not easy. And yet the Democrats want to take that child tax credit and cut it in half. They want to take away the accelerated depreciation for small business and they want to tax investments, the capital of capitalism, that makes all of these jobs possible.

Mr. Speaker, I have held a number of jobs in my life. I used to clean out chicken houses on a poultry farm. I used to tote luggage at a Holiday Inn in College Station, Texas, and I used to bus tables. And although I am somewhat loathe to admit it, I actually practiced law at one time.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield, was the chicken coop cleaning better or worse than the practice of law?

Mr. HENSARLING. That is an excellent question. I will say this, though. It has proven to be excellent practice for this particular avocation of Congress since there are a number of messes that have been left here as well that need cleaning up.

But the point I was going to make is that of all of the jobs I have held, no poor person ever hired me. It was somebody who rolled up their sleeves, risked their capital, and went out and created a business. So Democrats keep on tell-

ing us how much they love jobs, they just seem to hate everybody that creates them because they want to go out and tax and tax and tax and tax. That is no Christmas gift for the American people.

Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, what is going to happen later this week, if we allow the Democrats to impose their tax increases yet again on the American people, let me tell you what could happen to the 4.4 million jobs that have been created because of tax relief. Let me tell you about just a few in my congressional district.

Not long ago, I went to visit a small business in my congressional district called Jacksonville Industries located in Jacksonville, Texas. They are an aluminum and zinc die cast business. They employ about 20 people. Prior to passing tax relief, due to competitive pressures, they were on the verge of having to lay off two of their workers, two of 20. That is 10 percent of their workforce.

Because of what we call "accelerated depreciation," they were able to go out and buy this new piece of equipment. It is large. It is noisy. I could not tell you what it does, but it makes them more competitive. And because it makes them more competitive, they went out and hired three new workers. They did not lay off two. They hired three. They hired Roger. They hired Jess. They hired Victor.

The Democrats now, though, they want to go and increase the taxes on Jacksonville Industries. They want to take away the paychecks from Roger and Jess and Victor and replace them with welfare checks. Mr. Speaker, they call that compassion.

I will tell you about Hugh Dublin and East Texas Right of Way and Tennessee Colony over in Anderson County in my district in east Texas.

This company specializes in the purchase of leasing and leasing of right-of-way for property for many different purposes. Previously, it had two full-time employees, a very small business. But once we passed tax relief, this business took off. The economy soared. As you have seen earlier this evening, we are having over 4 percent economic growth. Their business soared, and so East Texas Right of Way went out and hired two other people who are unemployed, Dan and David. Those are two new workers who now have good jobs.

Yet the Democrats this week are trying to increase taxes on Hugh Dublin and East Texas Right of Way. They want to take away Dan and David's paychecks and replace them with welfare checks. And, Mr. Speaker, they call that compassion.

Let me give you one more example. Eddie Alexander of Triple S Electric in Henderson County, Texas, once again in my congressional district, has a small business that specializes in residential and commercial electrical contracting. Up until we passed the tax relief, his business consisted of himself with one part-time helper. But since

the passage of tax relief and the economic boom that has brought on, he has hired two new individuals. He hired Jarad. Jarad was unemployed. He hired John. John was unemployed. Now they are both full-time employees. They started at minimum wage, and they have worked hard. They are now making above minimum wage, and they have both been able to go out and provide homes for their families, something that earlier they could not do.

Yet the Democrats this week are trying to raise taxes on Eddie Alexander and Triple S Electric. They want to take away Jarad and John's paychecks and replace them with welfare checks.

Mr. Speaker, they call that compassion. I do not see the compassion in that. I see compassion in keeping the tax relief alive. I see compassion in preventing tax increases on small businesses and preventing tax increases on American families. That is where I see the compassion.

Let me tell you about some more compassion that I see in the economic policies of this President and this Republican Congress. We are seeing the highest rate of homeownership in the entire history of the United States of America under this administration and this Republican Congress. The highest rate of homeownership. Part and parcel of the American Dream is to go out and have your own home and put that roof over the heads of your own family. That is the American Dream. Under this administration, this Republican Congress, our policies, our tax relief policies that the Democrats are trying to take away, so many people have been able to buy new homes because of the tax relief. Yet the Democrats would take that all away with their tax increases. The compassion is seeing that we have the highest rate of homeownership in the entire history of the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, as you have heard earlier this evening, this Nation still has a big deficit challenge. But you know what, since we have passed tax relief, the deficit has come down. I wish it were because we were spending less. Many of us fight the battles up here to try to protect the family budget from the Federal budget. But what it is, we have cut tax rates and guess what, we have more tax revenues. And do not believe me, it is not my opinion, go to the United States Treasury. Look at the report. It is there in black and white. Already individual income tax receipts are up 14.6 percent over last year since we passed tax relief. Business income tax, corporate income taxes are up a whopping 47 percent. More revenues, more tax revenues are bringing down the deficit.

Now, for some people that may not make a lot of sense, but it is happening. We have the proof. Mr. Speaker, we have seen it in history. Under President Reagan when we cut marginal tax rates, guess what? Not only did the economy grow but so did tax revenues. Tax revenues grew by about 25 percent.

The same is true under the Kennedy administration. They cut tax rates, and real economic growth was promoted at about a 5 percent rate, and it increased revenues to the Federal Government by about 33 percent.

You can go back to what some people consider fairly ancient history, the Coolidge administration. Guess what? They cut tax rates and they got more tax revenue, an increase of 61 percent. Why? Again, if you will allow the American people, if you will allow small businesses, if you allow American families to keep more of what they earn, they will go out. They will start that new barbecue stand over on the corner. They will start a new transmission shop over there, and they will grow a new automobile dealership on that street corner. It is free enterprise. We have 200 years of history to show us that is where jobs of the future are created. That is where the great nutritional program is, the great health care program, the great educational program.

But to support that free enterprise system, we have to prevent the Democrat tax increase that they are trying to impose upon the American people. I want to thank my colleague from Texas in leading this Special Order this evening and making sure that the American people know that due to the economic policies of this Republican Congress and this Republican President, there is a lot of good news today, 4.4 million new jobs. But that is in peril. It is in peril if we do not prevent the Democrat tax increase that we know is coming and coming soon.

But when the American people know what is at stake, when they know that the Democrats want to increase taxes and take away jobs, the American people are not going to buy into that; and we will keep this economy growing and the American people will truly have a great Christmas and a great holiday season.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for coming out tonight and sharing his background and his experience in this area. He is one of those loud, clear voices on behalf of limited Federal Government, limited Federal expenditures; and I am proud that he has come out tonight to help us with this.

Let me flush out what he was talking about in terms of increased Federal receipts. Back in January of this year, the CBO estimated that fiscal year 2005's tax receipts, Federal receipts, would be about \$2.045 trillion. CBO is an organization that gets paid to try to estimate these things. They generally do a really good job. When we finished out the year, I was looking at the same Treasury report that my colleague made reference to awhile ago, and for fiscal year 2005 which ended September 30, 2005, receipts were \$2.153 trillion, over \$100 billion more in Federal tax receipts than we had estimated just 9 months previously.

So the numbers we have been talking about tonight, the \$50 billion in tax

cuts, the \$56 billion and the impact extending the current tax law will have on tax revenues, pale against over 108 to \$109 billion of increased Federal revenues that has come about as a result of the pro-growth, pro-job creation tax policy that was put in collectively in 2001 to 2003.

In addition to that good news, at the end of last week, the GDP growth for the third quarter of calendar year 2005 was 4.3 percent. That is a good growth rate on any economy, a developing economy or whatever it is. But let us make sure that we understand this is on the single largest economy in the world. It grew 4.3 percent in the third quarter, and that is staggering growth under any conclusion.

□ 2215

The unemployment rate was mentioned earlier as being as low as 5 percent. That is full unemployment in reckoning of many economists and is certainly lower than the averages of unemployment of the previous 3 decades. The decade of the 1970s, which you remember, we had a big depression then, and as a result of a run-up in oil and gas prices. We had lower than in the 1980s, when those of us in the oil business experienced a significant downturn in 1986 and later, and then lower than the boom years of the 1990s when the unemployment rate was as low as anybody thought it would ever be. The current unemployment rate is actually lower than that. Statistics are full of all kind of odd and important indexes that statisticians and economists use to try to make projections as to where the economy is going. One of those that you do not hear a lot about is the consumer confidence index, and that is supposed to be a measure of how consumers feel about themselves, are they going to go spend money, do they feel comfortable with their job and those kinds of things. It jumped from an 85.2 percent rating in October to a 98.9 percent rating in November, a 1-month jump of over 13 points in consumer confidence. What that tells us is that retailers for the Christmas season ought to do very well.

One of my colleagues today said go try to find a parking spot in the mall these days, and for all of the doom and gloom that is out there in the media, it is not being reflected in Americans going to the malls and working on Christmas gifts and charity gifts for other folks that do not have it.

So the consumer confidence is up. Another statistic that gets talked about a little bit is that sales of new homes jumped 13 percent in October, the largest 1 month percentage gain in 12 years, and new single-family homes also climbed to an all-time record high of 1.42 million units, more people, again, as we have said several times tonight, more people owning a home in America than have ever owned a home.

Now 1 month does not make a trend. But continuing to talk about Federal tax receipts and revenues, the first

month of fiscal year 2006 was the month of October of 2005. And during that first month, Federal tax receipts were about \$149 billion, and a year ago, the equivalent month in October of fiscal 2005, which was October of 2004, Federal tax receipts was \$137 billion, so a \$12 billion gain in just 1 month against previous years' months.

Now you have got to be careful. That may or may not be a trend. But it is hard to say it is bad news, that the tax receipts for October of this year are greater than tax receipts for October of last year. I think that is good news. I would also like to point out a couple of tax provisions that are included in the extension that we will do later on this week that are important, and one of those would continue the tax deduction for state and local sales taxes for States that do not have a State income tax, States like yours and mine, Mr. Speaker, and my former colleague. Texas does not have a State income tax.

And so this provision would allow Texans to deduct, rather than the State income taxes, to deduct State and local taxes, which are used to fund many of the exact same programs that States who have income taxes use those taxes to provide goods and services to their citizens.

Another deduction that is extended is the above-the-line deduction for higher education expenses. Now, trying not to bore everyone with tax returnese or speak, above-the-line deductions means that you get to deduct that without having to itemize your deductions.

So higher education expenses, the deduction for that is continued, as well as an important expenditure for many teachers who find the school budgets do not provide some of the extras, and maybe even sometimes some of the essentials that a teacher needs in providing a good classroom experience for her students, teachers get to deduct their out-of-pocket expenses above the line, which means they don't have to itemize deductions to get to deduct those personal expenses that the teacher may pay.

One that I came across tonight, or an example of one I came across tonight is the tax incentive to revitalize the District of Columbia. Included in the Code of the past two tax cuts has been a \$5,000 tax credit for anyone, any new first time home purchaser here in the District of Columbia. Well, one of the folks on my staff, who as you know, staff are legendarily overworked and way underpaid. One of the folks on my staff 2 years ago took advantage of this provision and bought his first home and has begun to build equity in that home over the past 2 years and would not have been able to do that were this tax provision not in place. When you sell a home, you have bought it from somebody who previously owned it, hopefully, and in all likelihood, that person is going to go invest that money in another home, so it is important that we have first-time buyers to work

into the market, work into the housing market, because as we stated earlier, for many families, the ownership of a home is the single largest asset that they have in their portfolio. And this gentleman now has a home that he is paying a mortgage on, of course, but is building equity in that home, building equity in his personal wealth, and he is going to be better off as a result of having done that.

Let me talk about something that we probably should have talked about right off the bat, and that is the Federal Government does not grow this economy. A lot of times, the Federal Government gets a lot more credit for good economic news than it deserves, and in all likelihood, sometimes a lot more of the blame for bad economies than it deserves. But the truth of the matter is a growing economy that we have right now is not created by a Federal Government. It was created by hundreds of thousands of hard working Americans, employees who go to work every day and work for their employer to try to provide a good or a service that that employer can sell and make money on.

Self-employed individuals who have gone out there and taken the business risk of leaving that paycheck, leaving the security of a check every 2 weeks to try to make it on their own. Those are the folks who are building this growing economy, who are adding people to their payrolls, who are hiring new people or setting up additional businesses to take advantage of opportunities that we are having in this growing economy. So we cannot overstate the value of the hard working American in growing this economy. But we do have some risks a lot of times of overstating the impact the Federal Government has. In my view, the role of the Federal Government is to get out of the way of these hard-working Americans and let them continue to grow this economy, pay their fair share of taxes, of course, but let us not do things that puts the government in the way of creating jobs, gets in the way of furthering homeownership, gets in the way of growing this economy and providing new opportunities for men and women in this country.

I participated in, back in the early 1990s, in a needs assessment for Midland, Texas. This was an attempt to survey on a statistically valid basis throughout Midland County, what were the needs of people within Midland, what were the needs of your family, what were the needs in your neighborhood, what were the needs within the overall community. And we got all of this information together and began to sort them into like items and pared the list down to 10 so that we had, in fact, 10 top needs that the people in Midland, Texas, told us they were having in their homes, their families, their neighborhoods and the community. And as you look down that list, nine of those needs would have been positively impacted by a family that had a job.

It has been my experience that jobs cure an awful lot of ills within every community. When families are working, the family itself is better off. Communities are better off. The strains on the social network, that is the United Way, that is all those social charities that we have in place to create that safety net that is so vital in every single one of our communities, is less strained when more people have jobs. It is also better supported when more people have jobs.

So it is important that we give credit where credit is due with respect to this growing economy. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) mentioned one of his, or three actually of his constituents that are good examples of why these pro growth/pro job creation tax policies are in effect now and that we ought to continue them in effect.

I want to talk about Calvin Fryar. Calvin is a good friend of mine from Brownwood, Texas. He and his partners own a company that distributes gasoline. They also have convenience stores. They hire people to work. And he told me the other day at dinner that, because we were talking about extension of these current tax cuts. He said that the one that was the most important to him as a small business owner was the section 179 deduction. Section 179 provides for the immediate write-off of certain equipment that is purchased by businesses and put into use each year. And I think it is about \$100,000. Calvin told me that when that came into effect, I think it was 2003, that it helped him make a decision to invest additional money into the businesses that he was trying to create. And not only did he invest the amount of money that qualified him to immediately deduct that amount, he also invested a lot of money on top of that, and in doing so, created jobs, and not only did he create jobs for the people who built whatever it is he bought, but he also created additional jobs for his company because he was expanding his opportunities within the gasoline distribution area as well as convenience stores.

So he was adding jobs to his business as a result of that one specific Tax Code that is expiring, and under the tax law that we will pass, hopefully pass on Thursday, will be continued.

Another one of those that is very important, and my colleagues earlier in the previous hour mentioned it, and that is the tax rate on capital gains and dividends. If you were to listen to the colleagues on the other side, it is as if the Federal Government has some innate claim to some portion of your capital gains, some portion of your dividends, and I would argue that that is not logical. Where is it stated anywhere that the Federal Government has a claim on selling property that you have held, selling property that you have invested in, selling a business that you built from scratch? Why is it that the Federal Government has a claim to a certain amount of that?

And right now, under the current tax law, the Federal Government has a claim on 15 percent of that capital gain, or 15 percent of those dividends. That may or may not be correct. It is the law of the land, but certainly, increasing that number, you would have to answer the question is, all right, why does the Federal Government have a claim on or does it own in some way the capital gain that I get when I sell stocks and bonds or when I sell a business? Why is it that the other side believes that a higher tax rate on capital gains is somehow some right of the Federal Government? That is not. If we were to let those current tax provisions expire, capital gains would get thrown back up to the previously high percentage rates.

Everything is going to get thrown back in with ordinary income, the taxable income rates and we will be right back into a circumstance where we are raising taxes the wrong way, raising taxes by raising rates, as opposed to raising taxes by having an economy that is growing at a staggering rate providing new jobs to workers in this country.

So I would argue against that as we close out this hour. If you look at the reporting, we are talking about the economy tonight, and if you look at reporting of economic news, it is, I guess, an attempt to be balanced. Balance is rarely neutral though. You will hear somebody talk about, well, you know, this economic statistic is looking up and looking better; but if that path continues, it will drive us into higher interest rates, or if we have got increased job growth or jobs going to be created at too fast a rate, then that is going to drive up inflation.

So it is rare that you ever have good economic news simply presented as good economic news. And maybe we will never get to a point where that happens. Hopefully, on the nights that we get to come in here and talk about the economy, get to brag on the economy actually, we will be able to help set the record straight. As I mentioned earlier, my good colleague, Mr. HENSARLING, has said often that we are all entitled to our own opinion but we are only entitled to one set of facts; not our own set of facts just the set of facts as are out there.

Hopefully we can be responsible for what we say in front of these microphones, be held accountable for what we say. The other side made a lot tonight about accountability and all those kinds of things. I would argue that that same accountability ought to go to things that are said from behind these microphones.

If I have said something that is incorrect, if I have made an insinuation or made some sort of a comment that was intended to mislead, that I am called to account for that. And I would hope the other side would ascribe to that same kind of philosophy, that the folks in the Chamber tonight who are listening to this debate, or listening to

these arguments, not really debate since we are not going back and forth, but listening to the three of us put out information that we believe is important for the American people to hear and to understand—and to understand how we are coming to the conclusions that we are coming too, that we be held to a very high standard of what we say and that we are able to back up each and everything that we do say with facts that are verifiable.

So Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you tonight for being able to lead this hour, and I want to thank my colleague from Texas, Mr. HENSARLING, for his role in our talk tonight and I want to also thank my freshman colleague from Georgia, Mr. PRICE, for his helping me out tonight as well. So the message I would leave with the American people is this, that we have got a growing economy, we have got an economy that is well grounded and is going to sustain this growth; but that what we do not need to do is to increase taxes, tax rates on that economy, but that we continue the pro growth/pro job creation tax rates that have been in effect since 2001 and 2003.

□ 2230

THE SECOND CHANCE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARCHANT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for half the time until midnight, approximately 45 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, of course I come to the floor to talk about a subject that we do not talk nearly enough about. And I really did not intend to talk about tax policy or taxes, but after listening to the last hour, and especially some portions of it, I just could not resist, as I listened to some of the commentary. As a matter of fact, it reminded me of the young fellow who went to Sunday school and rushed home because he was so excited and told his mother, "Mom, you should have been with me at Sunday school. We just had a great lesson. You really would have enjoyed it.

She said, "Well, what was so exciting about it?"

He said, "Well, in Sunday school, they told us all about this great general named Moses and how he led his army out of Egypt with the Egyptians in hot pursuit. And when they got down to the Red Sea," he said, "Moses dispatched his engineers and had them build a pontoon bridge and all of his soldiers went across. And then when the Egyptians got on the bridge, he dispatched his demolition experts, and they dynamited the bridge, and all of the Egyptians fell into the water and drowned. Johnny's mother said, "Now, Johnny, are you sure that is what they told you?"

He said, "Well, no, ma'am." But I figured you would believe this more than you would what they did tell us."

And listening to what some of my colleagues have been saying this evening, I figure that the American people have got to believe something other than that. I mean, I have been truly amazed about how they can put money in the pockets of those at the very top, nothing in the pockets of those at the bottom, and say that they are going to get the economy moving. It would seem to me if they did it the opposite way, if they put something in the pockets of those at the bottom, they have no choice except to spend it. Every dime that they would get would go right back into the economy, and it would circulate, and the guy at the grocery store would get some of it. The person in the barber shop would get some of it. The person selling Pampers would get some of it.

Well, at any rate, it would circulate, and the economy would then be nourished and could grow and develop and not be one sided. But I really did not come to talk about that. So let me move on.

I really came to talk about the reentry of the large number of individuals who are incarcerated in our country. As a matter of fact, the United States of America has become the most incarcerated nation on the face of the earth. Right now as we speak, even tonight, there are 2 million people in our Nation's prisons and jails. Two million. More people proportionately than we would find in prison in China or in Russia or any other countries that we often talk about their human rights violations. And it is a problem that we have got to get a handle on because many of these individuals come home every year.

Right now, we expect about 650,000 to come home from jails and prison, and when they come home, they need to be reintegrated. But, unfortunately, when many of them come home, they cannot find a job. They cannot find a place to stay. There are laws that prohibit them from working.

In my State, for example, there are 57 job titles by law that an individual who has a felony conviction could not hold. As a matter of fact, a person could not even get a license to cut hair without some intervention or a person could not be a mail technician unless they got a waiver or some special consideration. So prisoner reentry has become a big issue but not big enough.

Many of us have been trying to work on it, and we have a bill that we have put together that we think will go a long way. And, of course, it is no panacea. It is a small way of addressing the problem.

I was delighted when the President gave his State of the Union address 2 years ago and suggested that we had to do something for these individuals coming home, and out of that conversation, in many instances, efforts have occurred, and ultimately we have the Second Chance Act on the drawing board, on the table, waiting to be acted upon that would simply provide some

resources to assist these individuals. It would also provide some coordination so that we can have the Justice Department, the Education Department, the Labor Department, all working jointly at the same time, to develop coherent strategies so that as individuals return, there is enough of an effort to keep them from going back.

Statistics suggest that when an individual comes out of prison, unless there is some help for them, unless there is some intervention, 67 percent of them will have done what we call reoffend within a 3-year period of time and more than half of them will be reincarcerated, meaning the recidivism rate, in and out, in and out, money being spent, where, if we could somehow or another try to help them to become self-sufficient rather than spending \$25,000 or \$30,000 a year taking care of them, they could help take care of other members of society and they could pay some of those taxes that my colleagues have been talking about. But if they are not working and if they are incarcerated with no hope, they are not going to pay any of those taxes. So I am looking forward to the time when we will pass the Second Chance Act.

I am so pleased to be joined by two of my colleagues, both who have demonstrated a tremendous amount of commitment, a great deal of energy, effort, and courage to find real solutions to the problems that plague our society. I know that the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES), a former prosecutor, a judge who has seen corrections, who has seen sentencing, who has seen people come before the court, probably had to sentence some of them to correctional facilities, but also who knows that it is our responsibility to help them as they return.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES).

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for his leadership on these issues. He has been hosting sessions across this country with regard to issues that impact ex-offenders and the African American male population in our country and in some of the territories.

Reentry is an issue of common sense and of public safety. I am not on the floor just as a Member of Congress. As my colleague said, I have served as a general jurisdiction judge handling criminal felony cases, even death penalty cases, and also as the elected prosecutor in Cuyahoga County, Ohio. I have been working on community reentry issues or prisoner reentry issues in Cleveland for 25 years. I served on the board of the Community Reentry Program in the city of Cleveland. While county prosecutor, I implemented a Pretrial Diversion Program, as well as the Municipal Drug Court in the city of Cleveland.

And people said, Why as a judge or a prosecutor are you working on these issues?

We must collectively, law enforcement, judges, prosecutors, correctional officials, address this issue. Otherwise, we will continue to spend tax dollars incarcerating and continuing to incarcerate individuals. We need to contemplate that while they are incarcerated that they have an opportunity to train, that they have an opportunity to be educated.

I know a lot of people think that going to prison is like being in a hotel. I guarantee it is not like being in a hotel, even though we used to call our county jail the "McFall Hilton." McFall was our sheriff. It is nothing, as many contemplate. And while they are there, we need to work on issues to give them skills once they hit the streets.

The programs that I spoke about implementing, the Pretrial Diversion Program, the Municipal Drug Court, and some of the community reentry programs, are still in existence. We need to contemplate that prisoner reentry is not a Democratic issue, it is not a Republican issue. It is a common-sense issue. The facts are clear that meaningful reentry programs significantly diminish the chances that ex-offenders will return to prison. They save taxpayer dollars and increase public safety. So why not invest in enhancing reentry programs in order to end the cycle of recidivism? That is exactly what the Second Chance Act does.

Before I discuss the legislation, and I am going to leave that to some of my colleagues as well, I just want to give a few statistics. In 2002, 2 million people were incarcerated in all of the Federal and State prisons. Each year, nearly 650,000 return to communities nationwide. Two-thirds of them are expected to be re-arrested. The State of Ohio has one of the largest populations of ex-offenders reentering the community, with about 24,000 ex-offenders returning to their respective communities annually. Of those ex-offenders, about 6,000 will return to Cuyahoga County, my county, and almost 5,000 will reenter in the city of Cleveland, which is the largest jurisdiction in my congressional district.

Statewide, about 40 percent of ex-offenders will return to prison. In Cuyahoga County, about 41 percent. Such high recidivism rates translate into thousands of new crimes each year and wasted taxpayer dollars which can be averted through improved reentry programs.

H.R. 1704, the Second Chance Act of 2005, allocates \$110 million toward a variety of reentry programs. One of the main components is the funding of demonstration projects that will provide ex-offenders with a coordinated continuum of housing, education, health, employment, and mentoring service. This broad array of services will provide stability and make the transition of ex-offenders easier, and in turn, reduce recidivism.

One of the things that we have found over the years in our community re-

entry programs is a lack of housing for ex-offenders. An ex-offender comes home to a family and the family says, "I cannot take you in. You need to be somewhere else." An ex-offender comes home and does not have access to drug treatment programs and maybe no access to mental health programs. We found that statistically, inmates in many of the prisons not only have a drug problem, they have a mental health problem. And when they hit the streets, they often self-medicate because they are not involved in any psychiatric program that provides them the necessary drugs to be able to help them work through their issues. This is the first of a kind piece of legislation that is critical to the success of ex-offenders but is also critical to the success of our communities. We need to focus on these issues and begin to break down the barriers.

□ 2245

It is important because there are groups that are committed to reentry on the ground, for example, the Community Reentry Program in my city. But also in our State prison system, our director, Reggie Wilkinson, has been very active in creating a program called the Choice Act.

In that he has been able to implement services and programs beginning in the penal institution so that as they come out to the street they are already prepared. I am so pleased to have been a part of many of these programs, and I am so pleased that our legislation has had a hearing before the Judiciary Committee.

Many times you introduce legislation, the legislation goes to committee and it never gets a hearing, does not get voted out of committee; and then it kind of lingers and dies in committee. We were pleased that we have had that Judiciary Committee hearing and pleased to have the opportunity now to try and get it voted out and brought to the floor of the House so all of our colleagues can talk about the issue.

The other beauty of this program is that we have bipartisan support. There are Democrats and Republicans on this bill. The trade representative, Mr. Portman, was very active in that process. I can go on and on and on talking about this issue and my experiences with the program.

But what I will say is I am so pleased. I feel like it is like my silver anniversary in community reentry issues that I am involved in. It is great that I am getting to present an opportunity to talk about a program that is so important to me.

And with that, because our time is limited, I am going to yield to my colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), and say to him again thank you so much for your leadership, thank you so much for your concern.

I know that the people involved in this country, not only the offenders but their families who are always looking at this, they say, I sent my son to

get a job, and when he went to get the job, if he told them that he had a felony record he would never get the job, or if he does not tell them, then they learn he has a record, he loses the job.

There are men and women out here who need to be put to work and take care of their families.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES). You are absolutely right. I get letters every day that I can never read. I mean, we try and respond to all of our mail. I have got a cardboard box of letters that we have not been able to get to of individuals and their families simply expressing a hope that this legislation is going to be passed, that there is going to be some possibility that they would have an opportunity to reclaim their lives and become again meaningful members of society.

And we certainly thank the gentlewoman for the role that she has played. I am optimistic, because I think we are going to see this legislation passed. Right now we have got about 85 sponsors in the House. When it was introduced in the Senate, there were 10 cosponsors in the Senate, or 10 sponsors, which is a good indication that it has great support and that is continuing to rise.

One of the reasons I think we have been able to have a hearing in the Judiciary Committee is because there is support among members of the Judiciary Committee for the legislation. And one of the members of that committee who has been very instrumental in not only moving this legislation, but instrumental in protecting the rights of American citizens, perhaps like none other, and using his office, we all like to call him our constitutional scholar, that is one who understands the Constitution and what it was that its framers were trying to protect and provide, and so we are indeed delighted that the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) is here with us this evening.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) for working together tonight on this Special Order. I especially want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for his hard work in dealing with prisoners and their problems.

Obviously, we are in a democracy where in most States prisoners cannot vote, so there is nothing in it for you. However, there is something in it for the prisoners. But also there is something in it when you help those prisoners get out and do well. There is also something in it for everybody else, because if they get out and do well rather than get out, and with the present trend, two-thirds are going right back to prison.

The public, the law-abiding public benefits from your work, because they are less likely to be victimized by another crime. They also as taxpayers are less likely to have to pay for the

\$20,000, \$30,000, or \$40,000 a year incarceration for the two-thirds of the prisoners that go back.

So the gentleman's work not only helps the prisoners, but also help the law-abiding citizens in terms of their public safety and helps the taxpayers in terms of not having to pay for the incarceration.

Your legislation is bipartisan legislation. It is not a panacea for everything that needs to be done, but it certainly makes a significant step in the right direction in ensuring those who leave our Federal and State prisons have the assistance they need to avoid returning.

As you mentioned, there are close to 700,000 people who will leave the prisons, the jails and prisons of the United States next year. Most will be ill prepared to succeed in earning a living and leading a law-abiding life, and the resources to help them are very limited. Your bill will help them.

Now, we know that the chances of success for the prisoners are extremely small. Two-thirds come back to prison within 3 years. We know, as the gentleman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) has pointed out, that it is hard to get a job if you have got a felony record. Obviously, the fact that you have that gap in your resume does not help.

The fact that you have to say that you are a convicted felon does not help you get a job. Most prisoners have limited education, they have limited resources, they have limited job skills, they are disqualified from many Federal programs by virtue of a drug offense.

And there are benefits that they are not entitled to. We also have a situation where they have limited or no family support, no community support. So it is not surprising that two-thirds of all prisoners released are rearrested for new crimes within 3 years of their release.

Although the national crime rate has fallen significantly over the last few years, we are seeing more and more people sent to prison for longer and longer times, and the problem is going to continue to grow before it gets better. We are still passing new bills with longer prison sentences and establishing mandatory minimum sentences and other kinds of sentences that make sure that the time served is even longer and longer and more and more people are sent to prison.

We have seen some of these schemes, like the mandatory minimums studied. And the studies have concluded that minimum mandatory sentences are distorted in the effort to establish an orderly, fair, and appropriate sentencing scheme. These programs discriminate against minorities, violate common sense, and in the end waste the taxpayers' money.

Now, all of this focus on the draconian sentences has led us to the point, as you pointed out, over 2.2 million people are locked up in our Federal prisons and State jails, a five-fold in-

crease in just the last 20 years. The prison population on the Federal level has increased over seven-fold in the last 20 years.

For example, in 1984 the daily lock-up count in prisons and jails was just over 400,000. 400,000. 25,000 in the Federal prisons. Today 2 million prisoners are in State and local prisons. Almost 200,000 in Federal prisons. 400,000 20 years ago, over 2 million today.

According to many studies, most of that is through the new sentencing schemes like mandatory minimums. As a result of the focus on incarceration, the United States leads the world in incarceration, by far. We are in first place: 726 inmates per 100,000 population. 726.

Second place Russia, 532. We are at 726. 532. Most are in the hundreds. England, 142 per 100,000. Australia, 117. Canada, 116. Germany, 91. France, 95 per 100,000. The United States, 700-and-some per 100,000. When you go into the inner cities, it is not 700-and-some; it is 3,000 per 100,000. Five thousand in the inner cities. 116 in Canada, 5,000 in our inner cities.

No matter how tough we get in sentencing, the fact is that 95 percent of inmates will be released at some point. The question is whether they are going to reenter society in a context that better prepares them to lead law-abiding lives or whether two-thirds will return to prison within 3 years, as the present trend is.

If we are going to continue to send more people to prison with longer and longer sentences and spend that kind of money, we ought to spend the little bit of money in this bill to reduce the chances when they are released that they will be likely to come back to prison.

That is why the Second Chance Act is so important. And I applaud the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) and former Representative Portman. This is a bipartisan bill supported by over 90 cosponsors, including me and virtually all of the criminal justice advocates and organizations in the country, including law enforcement who work with or are familiar with the situation encountered by those leaving our prisons.

The only criticism I have heard of this legislation is that it perhaps might not go far enough to fully address all of the problems of those facing problems reentering society from prisons.

Now, I agree with that criticism, because it does not do everything that needs to be done, but it is an important first step. And so I am a cosponsor of not only this bill but one that is being developed by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) that was introduced last Congress and will be refiled this Congress, the Reentry Enhancement Act.

That bill addresses many of the programs and issues touched by this bill and goes even further by actually im-

plementing many of the programs on a national level.

Now, I have seen the value of these programs. The Virginia CARES Program, Community Action Reentry System, Virginia CARES Program, has been studied, and they have just little meager resources.

But those who get the benefits of that program, we have seen a 25 percent reduction in recidivism compared to like prisoners who do not get a benefit from the program. Twenty-five percent reduction. When you calculate that out in terms of those that do not come back into prison and what we would have to pay for their incarceration, we save more money than we spend.

And we not only help the prisoners lead a productive life, save more money than we spend and also spare that 25 percent of victims who would have been victimized, victims of crime, they do not have to be victims of crime because we made that cost-effective expenditure of money helping the prisoners, but also helping the taxpayer and helping public safety.

As a society, we often breathe a sigh of relief when a long sentence is issued for a crime as if that is the end of our responsibilities. But with the numbers of prisoners and the amount of money we spend with those long sentences and the fact that when they finish that long sentence, they are going to turn around and go right back, we need to do more.

We need to make sure that we do the financially and morally responsible thing. We cannot allow ourselves the luxury of sounding tough on crime, tough on crime policies with no attention to what happens next.

To continue in the direction we are going is unfair to the taxpayer, unfair to those prisoners, and unfair to the unsuspecting people that will be victims of crime because we did not spend the money that we needed to spend.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the work of my colleagues in developing and promoting this legislation. I look forward to continuing to work with them and other members of the bipartisan coalition to enact this measure so that we cannot only help the prisoners but help the taxpayers and help public safety.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

□ 2300

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. I thank the gentleman from Virginia. I know that you are on Judiciary and there are people in our country whenever you start talking about doing something that relates to corrections or trying to assist individuals who have been convicted of crimes, people accuse or charge you with being soft on crime. How do you respond to people who suggest that this kind of legislation, this kind of activity, this kind of effort is being soft on crime?

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I ask them to decide right up front what choice they

are going to make on crime policy. Are you trying to reduce crime or are you trying to play politics? We know what helps us get elected. We know how to play politics. We also know how to reduce crime. Once you have made that choice, the rest of crime policy is easy. If you are playing politics, you don't have to worry about the effects of the policy, you just have to make sure that you have got a good vote-getting slogan. You can be wasting the taxpayers' money. You can be even increasing crime. Some of these slogans like codifying "If you do the adult crime, you do the adult time." That slogan has been studied up and down and the conclusion of every study is that the crime rate will go up if you codify that slogan. The crime rate will go up. You help yourself get elected, the crime rate goes up. Like I said, make your choice. If you are interested in reducing crime, some of these policies are stupid. If you are interested in getting elected, some of those slogans are very helpful. When you get into helping prisoners, let's decide not whether you are interested in the prisoner or not, just whether you are interested in reducing crime. If your goal is to reduce crime, this is one of the most cost-effective expenditures you can make, a lot better than lengthening the sentence. Ninety-five percent will get out of prison at one point or another. You have got 600,000 people, almost 700,000 people coming back into the community, two-thirds of whom will end up going back to prison if we don't do anything. If you want to take that 650,000, almost 700,000 people, spend a little bit of money and you can reduce the crime rate amongst that group, if you can reduce the crime rate, you will not only reduce crime, you will also save the taxpayer a lot of money and spare the potential victims of crime that victimization.

If you ignore what you have done for humanity in helping the prisoners, just ignore that, just look at what you are doing for the taxpayer and the law-abiding citizen, this is the right thing to do. You also help prisoners lead a more productive life. But that is frankly, from a public policy position, a secondary aspect. We are trying to reduce crime. We are trying to save money. This saves money and reduces crime so that the law-abiding citizen doesn't have to worry as much about being a victim of crime. You do that by helping the prisoner lead a productive life. That is what your bill does. It is cost effective and reduces crime.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. I was about to jump out of my seat in order to respond to being soft on crime. Again as a former prosecutor and judge, I have served on a number of commissions with other law enforcement people. In fact, one of the great community reentry programs is actually part of our Ohio Department of Corrections under the leadership of our director. But in the community reentry program that is run by Lutheran Metropolitan Min-

istries, our motto is that people are more likely to act their way into a new way of thinking than think their way into a new way of acting. One of the things that we want to do is to give them an opportunity to act into a new way of thinking and to have new policies and new opportunities to do some things. The duty of many of these reentry programs is that if we do not do something, we bring offenders back into the community without mental health opportunities, without drug treatment programs, without opportunities for employment.

One of the things that is really impacted by a community reentry program and the opportunity for jobs is child support. There are many offenders who are unable to pay child support because they are not working anywhere and we are paying the cost of supporting their children. Through giving them meaningful employment, we will be able to have them pay some of the cost of the children that they have fathered or mothered. But as importantly as we all talk about the importance of family, the importance of having a mother or father in your life, in many of these programs we are able to bring these ex-offenders back to understanding the need to be a good mother or a good father in order to create better families, and having stronger families in communities creates better communities. Having taxpaying, working citizens in our communities provides a stronger tax base. There are all kinds of reasons that we need to be in support of community reentry.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. I thank the gentlewoman so much. I think we are fortunate that many publications are taking the right spin on this. I was just looking at a group of them: The Baltimore Sun, the Houston Chronicle, Newport Daily News, Journal and Courier, Detroit News, Baltimore Sun, Tulsa World, Daily Oklahoman, Baltimore Sun again, American National Catholic Weekly, the Washington Times, the Charlotte Observer.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. The Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. The New York Times, the Cleveland Plain Dealer, the Chicago Tribune, the Chicago Sun Times, the Jewish World Review, the Boston Globe, the Daily Oklahoman, the San Diego Union Tribune, the Philadelphia Inquirer, the Miami Herald, the Lancaster News, San Francisco Chronicle, the Virginian-Pilot. All of these have written positive editorials, stories, or entertained letters to the editor. One that struck me that I picked up really came from Oklahoma. It talks about a person.

"Facing five 20-year sentences at the age of 35, Debbie Green's life seemed pretty much over. An abusive husband led her to a heavy meth habit and that, in turn, to dealing the drug and landing repeatedly in Oklahoma's prisons. But in 2001, 7 years into her third prison term, she convinced the parole board to give her another chance. They

did, and so far their bet is paying off: Debbie has worked 4 years now at a fencing company in Tulsa, staying clean, supporting herself, and paying taxes. She credits her success to counseling programs on the inside, strong support from her church and community since her release and her own gritty determination to beat the odds."

I think that programs like this one is an indication that there are indeed places that people can go. And so the Second Chance Act not only provides for the coordination but it also provides some resources. It provides some money, block grants to States that can be used to establish programs such as the one that Debbie benefited from in Oklahoma. We had hoped that we were going to get this out this year. Obviously that is not going to happen because of Katrina and all kinds of other things that have crept or jumped into the legislative process, but next year.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. The gentleman talked about spending the money. We are spending the money. Six hundred thousand people get out every year. Two-thirds of them come back. That is 400,000 going back. At just \$20,000 a year, that is \$8 billion we are spending because we don't reduce recidivism. It is actually probably more like \$10 billion to \$16 billion by the time you invest 20, 30, \$40,000 a piece, but at a minimum \$8 billion, if we spent a portion of that, if we could significantly reduce recidivism by turning lives around like the life you mentioned instead of having to pay for incarceration, we are now on the receiving end of the tax money that she is paying. Every program we have seen, and this is no different, of those reentry programs when you provide education, you reduce recidivism, save more money than you spend, drug treatment, transitional services, significantly reducing recidivism because of the expense of incarceration, 20, 30, \$40,000 a year, you don't have to reduce recidivism very much to save the taxpayer some money. We are spending the money now and we ought to be spending it better. We ought to be smart on crime rather than rhetorical on crime.

□ 2310

If we were smarter on crime, we would spend some of this \$8 billion that we are going to spend next year because we did not make the investments last year. We need to make the investments in these people to reduce recidivism and save money, and if we do that, it would save more money than we spend if we pass this bill.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, we have still got a couple of minutes left.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I just want to add that also the Second Chance Act will provide demonstration grants, but it also will create a national offender re-entry resource center for States and local governments and service providers, faith-based, to be

able to elect and disseminate best practices and provide training and support around re-entry.

It will create a Federal task force that will identify programs and resources, identify better ways to collaborate, develop Interagency initiatives.

Finally, it will create, in addition to the grants to nonprofit organizations, offender re-entry research to authorize the National Institute of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Statistics to conduct research around re-entry.

We know there are programs working out there that are being run by churches, that are being run by other organizations, and we need to collect some of that data in order to implement some of the programs.

Again, I thank the gentleman for his leadership.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues, and I often say to people that it is not really just about the ex-offender, and it is not just to help those individuals.

If I am walking down the street and there is a person who needs \$15 to get a bit of crack and I am carrying a briefcase and he thinks that I am an insurance salesman rather than an elected official or politician and that there might be something in there other than notes, if he attacks me, then of course I am at risk. I may end up in the hospital with a \$200,000 hospital bill, \$300,000, \$500,000.

All of the misery, poverty, all of the things that are associated with crime, many of those can really be reshaped, refocused and changed with a sensible re-entry policy, and so I want to thank both of my colleagues for coming and sharing.

WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARCHANT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized until midnight.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to address my colleagues and the people in this country.

There are some important issues before us, as there always are in this Congress, and sometimes I have a little difficulty sorting between which of those issues it is that I would like to speak to my colleagues about, Mr. Speaker.

Tonight, I would like to address the subject matter of the future of this country, the future of the Middle East, the future of this global conflict, this assault on Western civilization that comes from radical, militant, Islamic extremists, the will of the United States of America, Mr. Speaker, to stand up and defend the cause that our Forefathers have fought so hard for and to preserve not just our freedoms which are essential and worth the struggle and worth the sacrifice, but our very safety and lives are at risk, Mr. Speaker.

We need to understand this war that we are in. We need to understand our enemy, and as I listened to the debate here on the floor a couple of weeks ago on a Friday when we debated the resolution to immediately pull out of Iraq, it occurred to me that there were a lot of people actually on the floor of this chamber, Mr. Speaker, that I thought did not have a long-term view for the future of the United States of America or the free world for that matter.

I want to raise a point, and I want to then continue to illustrate that point. I have brought in a picture and a poster to help with that point.

This is not the number one villain in all of Iraq or all of this war against radical, militant extremists, but this is Muqtada Al-Sadr, who is actually a Shiite leader, an individual we have heard quite a lot about. He got into the military business and brought his militia to bear against U.S. and coalition military forces and Iraqi military forces and with mixed results I think we can say at best.

I made a number of trips over to Iraq, and what we do is we go into Kuwait and then usually leave very early in the morning to go into Iraq in the morning. In the evening, I was sitting there, and I had turned on my television set in the hotel in Kuwait and turned it to Al Jazeera TV because watching Al Jazeera TV tells me a lot about what people are seeing in the Middle East and across the Arab world.

As I watched that television, it was Arabic audio, but it had English I call them subtitles. On that date, which was June 11, 2004, this particular CODEL, I watched the television and saw Muqtada Al-Sadr come on there, and I heard him say in Arabic, with the English subtitles underneath, just what you see here, Mr. Speaker. He said, "If we keep attacking Americans, they will leave Iraq, the same way that they left Vietnam, the same way that they left Lebanon, the same way that they left Mogadishu."

Now, what does that mean? It means that the word has been spread throughout al Qaeda world that Americans do not come and stay till it is over, that they will pull out, and that we are not committed to this cause. He would like to convince his followers and those he would recruit to be his followers that Americans are prepared at any moment to pull out of Iraq.

That is far from the case, Mr. Speaker, and this is the cause where we must stay, and we must carry this message across this world to our coalition partners, to our soldiers that are over there, those soldiers that have just not too long ago celebrated a Thanksgiving in foreign soil again, and again to our allies but especially to our enemies.

This language, this statement, that Americans do not stick to it, is a thread that goes through many of the writings and the statements of al Qaeda leaders. I believe I can find that in a Google search in words phrased a little bit differently but the same

meaning, out of Osama bin Laden, out of Zawahiri, out of Zarqawi, and that coupled with Muqtada Al-Sadr.

That message has been sent. It keeps getting sent. It is echoed out off Al Jazeera. That means whoever is watching Al Jazeera hears this message. Many of them believe this message that America is not going to stay until the job is done.

We had a debate on this floor, Mr. Speaker, and that vote took place in the fall of 2002. It authorized the President to use force to enforce the United Nations resolutions, all for a good cause. That is how a free Nation should do this. We should have a free debate, and it ought to be an open debate. The people in this country should engage in this debate and carry their message to their Members of Congress and let that echo in these chambers, Mr. Speaker, and it did in that debate.

The resolution after the vote went up, and it was a solid majority to give the President the authority to enforce those U.N. resolutions and to use force, if necessary, to bring Saddam Hussein in line. In fact, it is the policy and was the policy of this Congress to establish a regime change in Iraq. We had our debate. When debate is over and there is a majority vote that prevails, then the people in this chamber need to abide by that decision.

If we pass a law in here, we do not go out and say, okay, I am going to ignore that law and undermine that law. We live by that decision. It is a majority decision. There is nothing more important than when you have men and women in uniform, put their lives on the line, and you do so by a majority vote and you endorse it, you do not want to see people undermining that effort. Undermining that effort indexes directly with this statement by Muqtada Al-Sadr.

Mr. Speaker, I will pick that up in a moment and carry some more details of this, but I want to take the privilege of yielding to the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. KING), my friend, the first of the Caucus States, the first in the Nation primaries.

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for yielding.

I would like to thank you for your leadership and your willingness to talk about what is a very important issue for the future of our country and for the future of the Middle East.

Like you, I have traveled to Iraq on two occasions, and I have seen both the problems that our troops are confronting there, but I have also seen the progress. I think it is important when we talk about Iraq that we have a balanced perspective and we look at both those problems and the progress.

□ 2320

There is no question that today was a very difficult day for the Iraqi security forces, as the suicide bomber killed over 40 police recruits, and the U.S. Marines that were killed on Friday by

an improvised explosive device. We see those problems every night on our TV, but what we do not see is the progress that is being made.

There was a show on one of the major cable networks on Saturday night, and I would urge anybody that wants to see a very balanced picture of what is going on in Iraq and much of the progress being made to try to watch that show. It spoke of the sacrifice that our troops are making and their commitment of courage, of valor, of sacrifice, of willingness to defend the values of our country, the democratic values and the ability for myself and my colleague tonight to be able to debate this issue, to be able to debate it with our colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

And we should have a debate in this country about the policy of it. But what is also important to remember is that we must support our troops and to support their mission that is so critically important. Much of the debate we have had in this country, Mr. Speaker, revolves around the strategy of how we bring our troops home and bringing our troops home to a job well done. There are two critically important elements I want to talk about tonight, because that strategy is in place, and if it is going to work, we need to follow through on it.

Number one is the continued movement toward democracy in Iraq. On December 15, there will be the third major election. We saw the election in January, where nearly 8 million Iraqis went and defied the terrorist threat of reprisals and killings and murder to vote, to elect an interim parliament. And then more recently, we saw, again, millions of Iraqis go to the polls and ratify a constitution. There was a good political debate in both of these instances, but the constitution was ratified and an interim parliament was chosen. Hopefully, on December 15, a permanent parliament is going to be chosen.

When that happens, that move to democracy, the Iraqi people, much as we have for over 200 years been able to make these kinds of decisions, they will have given birth to an Iraqi democracy. Yes, it will be different from ours in many fundamental ways, but it will be a government that they have created and it will be a government that will lead them through the religious, the tribal, and the ethnic differences that are so much a part of their culture that need to be resolved and have to be resolved through a democratic process.

Now, our troops, those men and women who we see every day on TV and we hear about from e-mails at home, from letters coming back, they are doing a fantastic job of moving the country toward that democracy. As I said, there are problems, there is no question about that, but there is major progress going on. Hopefully, on December 15, we will see another watershed that will lead to the political solutions that will enable the Iraqi peo-

ple to finally put behind them the murderous legacy of Saddam Hussein, the violence, the many human rights abuses, the barbaric nature of his regime. Hopefully, this move to democracy will enable that to happen.

Equally important, and a very necessary part of the strategy for being able to bring our men and women home is the continued growth of the Iraqi security forces. The first time I was in Iraq was November of 2003 and we went to Baghdad and we went to Tikrit, and to Kirkuk. Kirkuk is what I want to talk about for a moment, because it is an ethnically mixed city in the northern part of the Sunni triangle, and certainly an area where there have been some problems over the years.

In November of 2003, we met one of the first groups of Iraqi-trained police officers that were actually in the very beginning stages of starting to provide the security so necessary for their country, and they were one of the first batch of recruits that had gone through the training process and were in uniform, and were going to confront the threats of terrorism in their country. They indicated to us in the clearest possible language that they knew that they would be the subject of attacks. And as they said to us, they were willing to shed their blood, as they have done so many times, to help rebuild their country. That was November 2003.

In April of this year, April of 2005, I had the opportunity to go back to Iraq a second time. At that point in time, there were 150,000 Iraqi security forces, army, border guard, police, and a work in progress, obviously. We had the opportunity to meet with several Iraqi women leaders who told us of the improving characteristics of the Iraqi security forces in April.

There have been many news reports about the difficulty of training the Iraqi security forces, but to hear it from actual Iraqi women leaders, a couple members of parliament, an ambassador, ministers in the interim government that the Iraqi people were beginning to trust and work with the Iraqi security forces, was very compelling to us.

We also heard the same information from General Patreas, who was responsible for the training, the arming and equipping of the Iraqi security forces. What he told us is that they were starting to be able to develop a command and control structure. They were beginning to be able to operate independently without being embedded with American forces, having American forces as backup, and that process was continuing. It is clearly a work in progress. Today, there are over 210,000 Iraqi security forces, and the process is not done.

The point I am making is that starting in November of 2003, when I first was there, to April of 2005, and then today, those Iraqi security forces are making tremendous progress. Yes, it is not perfect. There are continuing

issues that have to be dealt with, but the progress is measurable and quantifiable and is receiving the trust and the support of the Iraqi people, real people that we talked to, people who had had their lives threatened, who had had their lives disordered by the regime of Saddam Hussein.

As you know, there are 18 different provinces in Iraq. Fourteen of them in the north and in the south, primarily, are largely stable. Yes, continuing with some problems, but generally stable. The problem areas are that Sunni triangle around Baghdad to Tikrit, Fallujah, and Kirkuk, and those are the problem areas that both the emergence of the Iraqi security forces as well as the move toward democracy, as that grows in Iraq and thrives and the Iraqi people are buying in to the changes, the positive changes, it will enable them to put behind them the legacy of Saddam Hussein as well as some of these tribal ethnic and religious problems.

This is the critical element that Americans need to know is in place and is making progress; that the Iraqi people and our forces are making that progress every day. Is it dangerous? Is it difficult? Absolutely. And our troops there at great sacrifice. Over 2,000 of them have indeed paid the ultimate sacrifice to make this happen, but they continue to be extremely dedicated to their mission.

I had the opportunity to address a group of marine reservists who were being activated on Saturday before they ship off to training and then to Iraq, and their commitment to making this happen was certainly very present for all of us that were there, their family members and their leaders. And I salute this Bravo Company from my home State of New Hampshire and the men and women from our country who have given so much to provide not only for our security, but to improve the situation in Iraq.

We have further to go, there is no question about that, but every day I believe we are continuing to make progress. It is difficult progress, there is no question about that, but December 15 will be a watershed. The Iraqi people and the Iraqi security forces will continue to improve. Those two elements are what will allow our men and women to come home having achieved success in Iraq, with a job well done, as we will all say to them as Americans supporting their mission.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for offering me the opportunity to speak here tonight.

□ 2330

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to team up with Mr. BRADLEY and help direct our Presidential candidates on to South Carolina, too, in about another 3 years. I appreciate you turning this tone over to the tone of the progress that has been made in Iraq. We do not hear about that very often, and Mr. BRADLEY brings to mind

some issues I would like to add to that tally.

Two elections already this year in Iraq, one in January that elected the interim Iraqi Government and the one in October which was for the referendum that ratified the Constitution. We have heard the Iraqis cannot hold elections. There will not be enough safety, they will not be legitimate. And all of those criticisms got rolled out.

In fact, I would take us back to the first election after the liberation of Iraq that I know of, and Mr. BRADLEY mentioned General Petrais who commanded the 101st Airborne that went in there in March 2003, and he liberated the region of Mosul and approximately three of the provinces up in that area. That was March.

I was in the region of Mosul in the fall, and I met with the governor of Mosul and the vice governor of Mosul, and one or two other officials of that region. How can you have a governor and vice governor of Mosul? They were not appointed by General Petrais. It was interesting, the governor sat at the head of the table next to the vice governor, and General Petrais sat at the side of table, and he was giving deference to the elected leaders. The governor and the vice governor, and I do not know how many other officers were elected in May of 2003, but there were free and fair and open elections in Mosul. The governor was a Sunni and the vice governor was a Kurd. You could tell by the way that they worked and cooperated and laughed and did those things that they worked together comfortably. At the time in Mosul, it seemed like it was very much back to normal.

I point out that the first successful election was in May 2003, and since that time there have been a number of elections in Iraq. The milestones established early in this process, at that point it was liberation first and it was martial law to stabilize the security in the country, get a handle on the looting but put the military law in place, and then shortly after that we established the CPA, the Coalition Provisional Authority. That was headed by Paul Bremer, who ran that region then, as Coalition Provisional Authority had, for quite a long time. But there was another milestone that was set on the calendar and that was the following June.

Not recalling the specific date, but before that date by 2 days we handed over the control of Iraq to a civilian government before the targeted deadline to do so. We established the dates for elections and set the milestones to elect an interim parliament, and the voice of the people would then write and draft the Constitution, present the Constitution to the people of Iraq, and then the people of Iraq would have the opportunity to vote and ratify the Constitution. Each one of those milestones was met or exceeded by the Iraqi people at the direction and cooperation of the coalition forces.

Now, you may think that is not such a difficult task, you simply open up the polling booths and hold an election. In order to have a legitimate election, you need to have voter registration. You want people to have an opportunity to vote and only vote once. It has to be safe to travel to the polls, and you have to maintain the confidentiality of their vote and the integrity of the tally of the ballots and the reporting process.

An election has no value in a free country if the people who are being represented by those elected in the election, if the people do not have confidence in the process. But they had confidence in Mosul in May 2003. They had confidence in the process in January of this year when they elected their interim government. It was not as safe in January as it was later, but there were 108 different places attacked by the terrorists when they elected their interim parliament, but still the turnout for that election was greater than the turnout for the Presidential election for the President of the United States.

We saw millions of Iraqis proudly waving their purple fingers in the air, proud that they voted. In fact, the fear factor was supposed to set in and cause people to stay home and not vote, but instead they voted. They voted with a proud and a free and a patriotic and, in fact, a defiant attitude, waving their purple fingers in the air and saying they directed their national destiny when they waved their fingers.

But 108 of those polling booths were attacked by terrorists on that day. That did not deter the Iraqis. They went on without interruption. No one has challenged the legitimacy of the election. It was a legitimate election. That was January. On October 15 when the Constitution that was drafted by that interim parliament, and it was hard fought and there were many tough decisions to be made, and to reconcile the differences between the regions in the country, the resources in the country and the differences between the religious factions that were there and the tribal factions that were there was a very difficult thing.

How do you divide up the resources of a country so all of the people benefit from those resources when you have that proprietary notion that because the oil is underneath the soil in one region, it should not be shared with people of another region that does not have oil underneath their soil?

They came to an agreement on that, and the known and developed reserves are distributed equally around the country with exceptions to put extra resources in those regions where they have been at a greater disadvantage, and it is going to take greater resources to get them up to speed. But, essentially, the language in the Constitution calls for taking existing resources and providing kind of a parity so the Iraqis can benefit almost equally.

But that Constitution that was so hard fought, the one that down to the last minute they were changing some language in it so they had the best chance of getting it ratified in the referendum, on October 15 of this year they ratified their Constitution.

Now, one might say, so Iraq has gone through these milestones and the milestones of liberation in March and April of 2003, and the milestone of martial law converting into the Coalition Provisional Authority under Paul Bremer, and then handing it over to the Civilian Provisional Authority, and then having the elections that elected the Iraqi interim parliament and then having the referendum that ratified the Constitution on October 15, one might say what is all of that about.

Well, all of them together were required sequentially to get to the point where they are today: poised to have an election of a new parliament in Iraq, a new parliament that will be established upon the Constitution that the people have ratified in their referendum last October 15. The new parliament that will be seated shortly after those elections of December 15 will be a parliament that truly represents a sovereign nation of Iraq.

When they seat themselves at the United Nations and the representative that is appointed to represent Iraq in the United Nations, they will be the most legitimate government represented in the United Nations of the Arab world that is there because they will be the ones that are elected by a free people. The voice of the representative from Iraq will actually be the voice of the people of Iraq.

That is a misconception that many of the people in the United States of America have about the United Nations themselves, the idea that the United Nations is a voice of the world, that it is a free and democratic global forum where we can resolve all of our differences, when in fact many of the countries represented are not free countries. They do not allow their people to have freedom of speech, press, and religion. They do not allow their people to step forward and voice their opinions. In fact, some of those countries will cut their tongues off for doing that, but they have a voice for their dictator sitting at the table of the United Nations.

This will be an Arab country, Iraq, which has a free and duly elected government that sends a representative to the United Nations that will be more representative of the people of that country than any other Arab country represented in the U.N.

□ 2340

And so this is a huge milestone coming up December 15. But for a lot of other reasons too. Now the Iraqi people can start to direct their national destiny. This really is the milestone that allows that to happen. And I have traveled over to Iraq three times. The last trip in was in August, and I asked to go

down into Basra where I believe we were the first congressional delegation to visit the coalition forces down in that region. General Dutton commands the forces there. He is a British general. And I stood in one place with soldiers in the coalition forces that represented Romania and The Netherlands and Denmark and Australia and Great Britain and Poland. I am sure I am missing one or two others. Put them in a group and took their picture because they really did represent the coalition forces.

And down in that region, there the largest oil reserves are down in that region around Basra and we reviewed that and then went up to Kirkuk, as the gentleman from New Hampshire had mentioned, that he had been up there earlier during this conflict. And there, I saw places where oil seeped to the top of the ground. There was so much oil that I could drill a well and hit oil on it because I would hit the oil before I started to drill. But there needs to be a lot of oil that is developed in Iraq in the south around Basra and in the north up around Kirkuk and those distribution lines and refineries and the export systems have got to be set up so that they can get some cash flowing back into that country. This milestone of a truly sovereign Nation with a duly elected parliament that will select, that will elect themselves a prime minister so that they can move and act and build on the future of the country is an essential milestone. And it has taken blood and treasure to get to this point, and it will take blood and treasure for a while beyond this point. And it has been a price that has been painful to pay, but it is also a price that has freed 25 million people and it has the opportunity for Iraq to become the lone star nation that inspires the entire Arab world, inspires them to freedom and that freedom that becomes contagious like it did in eastern Europe after the Berlin Wall came down in 1989, November 9.

Freedom echoed across eastern Europe and almost bloodlessly and in almost the blink of a historical eye, Mr. Speaker. And I do not expect that kind a change to take place in the Middle East that fast, but we are seeing those yearnings for freedom and yearnings for democracy. We have seen Libya give up their weapons of mass destruction and openly show that they are were further along on their process of developing nuclear than one had ever imagined. Our intelligence did not get that one right either. And intelligence, by the way, is never perfect, and I do not mean to be critical of our intelligence. It is the inspiration that Iraq was becoming a free nation, that American and coalition presence in that region comprised a threat that might have deposed Qadaffi, I think was his motive to turn his nuclear cards over face up and drop and eliminate any weapons of mass destruction.

We have seen Lebanon for the first time since 1979 throw off the yoke of

Syrian occupation and move towards freedom. And we have watched some things change in Saudi Arabia and in Egypt. So it is happening, Mr. Speaker. There is progress that it is being made and the inspiration that is there, the inspiration of a free Iraq is an important inspiration.

But 108 of those polling booths were attacked in January of 2005. And the following October, the security situation in Iraq had improved so much that that number became 19 polling booths attacked as opposed to 108 just the previous January, 10 months before.

So that is an indicator, I think, Mr. Speaker, of the progress that has been made in Iraq. There are a number of other indicators and some of them are, we need the cooperation for intelligence of the Iraqi people. And so what are we getting for tips? Where are they coming from? We are finding about 50 percent of the improvised explosive devices, about 50 percent. Almost all of those IEDs are being found because of tips from the Iraqi people. The tips that we were getting in March, 483 in the month of March of 2005. In April, 1,591, it has grown five times better, a little greater than that, just from March to April. That is the sign that they have more confidence, that they can take the risk, that their country needs them to weigh in and put their neck on the line to give tips that will protect the lives of American and coalition forces. So March, 483, April of 2005, 1,591, May of 2005 up to 1,740 tips in that month, in June 2,519, in July 3,303 tips, and in August, 3,341. This trend is a fantastic trend line that shows that the Iraqi people see the future and they are committing themselves to helping save and protect the lives of the American soldiers. This goes on.

There is more and more good news. And Mr. BRADLEY talked about 210,000 Iraqis in uniform that are trained or in training to defend their own country. And that is what needs to happen. Of that 210,000, there are quite a lot of battalions that are really combat ready. We keep hearing that there is only one battalion that has no American advisors in it and that can operate in a combat situation, Mr. Speaker, without having U.S. support.

Well, I do not know that we want to be in that situation where we do not have any U.S. involvement in combat battalions in Iraq. There is too much at stake there. And we have handed over 20 bases that were coalition American controlled that now it is all Iraqis that control those 20 bases. And at least a third of the battalions that are there are ready for combat. And a lot of them are engaged in combat. And they are going in with American forces. And so the question of whether they are totally 100 percent independent, it is just a moot point. And the question of what is our exit strategy, when are we going to leave, you know, when the previous President sent our troops into Kosovo, he told

America they would be out in a year. I never hear that from the other side of the aisle, Mr. Speaker, as to this is the longest year.

I think this year is over 3,000 days long, and we are still waiting to get the troops out of Kosovo. Well, no one raises that issue because the situation is stabilized there. And American casualties are not zero, but they are very, very low. And I support our efforts there to provide peace in that region. But look around the world, Mr. Speaker. We have troops in nearly every place that they have been engaged over the last 60 to more years, and those troops remain in Germany. They remain in Korea. We have other troops in other locations around the world because we need them there strategically.

And so, you know, when are we going to get out of Iraq? Why would we want to leave? Why would it be our goal to go there and pull the troops out, especially if it risked the goal of the mission entirely? And I heard Mr. BRADLEY address the importance of supporting our troops and their mission. And I want to emphasize that, Mr. Speaker, that you cannot send a soldier off to war, ask him to defend your freedom, put his life on the line for you, and then say, I support you, soldier, I am with you, but I do not like your mission. You cannot ask somebody to put their life on the line and tell them you support them but you oppose their mission.

And that is what I am hearing over here. That is what I am hearing from the liberal news media. That is what this fellow right here, Muqtada al-Sadr hears. It is what Osama bin Laden hears, it is what Zawahiri hears, and it is what Zarkawi hears. They hear I am with you, troops. I think you ought to be home but I do not support your mission, and if something happens to you, then you know, you were a casualty of a failed and flawed mission. Not true. This is, I believe, one of the most noble things that the United States of America has ever done.

Many, many times we have sent our soldiers off into foreign lands and here in this city, Mr. Speaker, if one would go down to the Korean Memorial and there in the sidewalk, etched in that stone in the sidewalk is a message at the Korean War Memorial that says, our country honors the men and women who answered the call to defend a country they never knew and a people they never met. A very profound statement etched in the sidewalk there at the Korean Memorial. It definitely reflects the sacrifice of the Korean war. It reflects, I believe, Mr. Speaker, the character of the American people, the American soldier and marine. The history of this country has always been to reach out and promote our freedom.

I think about a speech that I heard here in Washington, D.C. a couple of years ago about this time of year. It was given by President Arroyo of the Philippines, and as she delivered that

speech, it was in a hotel downtown and I was not before a Congressional delegation. I may have been the only Member of Congress that was there. But I point this out because she was not speaking to Congress. She was speaking to a gathering of people that showed up for a dinner in a downtown hotel in Washington, D.C. and we went out of respect and her message was that she said, thank you America, thank you America for sending the Marines to the Philippines to liberate us and free us in 1898.

Thank you for sending over your interests that taught us your way of life, free enterprise and the freedoms that you have and the constitutional structure that you have. Thank you for sending the missionaries to the Philippines where we learned Christianity, and thank you for sending 10,000 teachers to the Philippines.

□ 2350

She had a Filipino name for those teachers, and one day I will learn that name.

Thank you for sending 10,000 teachers who taught us the English language, who taught us the American culture, who educated us, and today we have over 1.6 million Filipinos that travel elsewhere in the world that can get a job anywhere because the universal language of business is English and they make good money, and they send that money back to the Philippines in significant dollars. She is grateful. She made that message to the United States of America 103 years at least, probably 105 years, since the time that the Marine Corps landed on the shores of the Philippines in 1898.

That is a profound message, and I believe the gratitude that I heard from President Arroyo will come from the mouths of the Prime Minister of Iraq 100 years from now. It will come here to the United States, and Iraq will have established this image, this vision, of a free Arab country; and I believe that the rest of the Arab countries will see the prosperity that comes and they will adopt that same kind of freedom hopefully through a peaceful change rather than a violent change. But I expect the people of Iraq will express their gratitude to our descendants 100 years from now.

So a loss of 2,000 American lives in Iraq, painful, every one, a personal loss to every family, a real profound sacrifice on the part of every soldier and Marine. We have lost over 200 of them also in Afghanistan. I have heard nothing from the other side of the aisle about why it is right to be in Afghanistan and wrong to be in Iraq. It is just on their part wrong to be in Iraq, and it seems to be that the number of casualties is the measuring stick.

So I would submit that it is time now for the people on the left side of the aisle to give us a number of how many casualties they are willing to sustain in Afghanistan before they say we ought to get out of there too. This is

not a cause that is measured simply in direct relationship with casualties. It is far more important. It is far more timeless. It is far more profound. It is something that the echoes of this will flow throughout history.

Beyond 100 years from now, the world will be a different place because of the nobility of the American soldiers and Marine Corps. And the voices of Muqtada Al-Sadr and Zarqawi and Zawahiri and bin Laden, those voices that are saying things like, if we keep attacking Americans, they will leave Iraq-Afghanistan, name your country, the same way they left Vietnam, the same way they left Lebanon, the same way they left Mogadishu. Those voices must be silenced. They must be silenced in this place at this time.

I picked up a quote from the chairman of the Democratic National Committee, Mr. Howard Dean, and I listened to him campaign in Iowa for 1½ years as he sought the Presidency and I heard some of these things then too. But in typical fashion he said, "The idea that we are going to win the war in Iraq is an idea which is just plain wrong." He said that to more than 150,000 Americans who are there in Iraq and the numbers of coalition forces that are there.

And they hear that and he compares it to Vietnam. Even Zarqawi describes the difference between Vietnam and Iraq. He said there are no mountains to hide in in Iraq. There are no forests to hide in in Iraq. This is in a letter that he wrote, I think, a year ago last April. And he lamented that they cannot stay in Iraq very long because they do not have places to hide. And he said that the only place that they can hide and operate out of would be houses, the homes of the Iraqi people that would be willing to take them in and let them run their operations out of there, and that the Iraqis that would be willing to let them do that are "rarer than red sulfur."

Now, I have been to a lot of places in that country, and I looked all over for red sulfur and I did not see any, and I asked some of those pilots that flew helicopters if they have seen any red sulfur, and they said no. No one I know has been able to identify that; so I am going to tell you that is pretty rare. I do not think there are very many Iraqis that are willing to let Zarqawi operate. In fact, there are a lot less of Zarqawi's allies. We do not hear these numbers, Mr. Speaker.

We see the American casualties, the coalition casualties, and we see the Iraqi civilian casualties; but the numbers come down to how many of the enemy are being taken off the streets out of the operation, how many per day, per week, per month? And per month I can tell the Members, Mr. Speaker, that number, and the number was last brought to me in August of this year, I will say very close to 3,000 of our enemy are taken off the streets both in those killed and those captured, 3,000.

The Iraqi people are losing about 600 a month. We are losing about 73 a month on average. A painful loss for all of us, but the enemy is losing more by far than we are, Mr. Speaker. And it is wrong on the part of Howard Dean. We are a long ways away from losing this war. Where he says that we are going to lose it is just plain wrong, that is just undermining the President, that is undermining our foreign policy, and it is undermining our military. And he identified it with Vietnam. I laid out the difference.

He suggests that we redeploy our troops to Afghanistan because that is where we are welcome. Now, when in history has it been important to deploy troops to a place where the troops are welcome? It is nice to have them there for security reasons, but a strategic redeployment of troops because that is a place where they are welcome? And he suggests we ought to pull our troops all out of Iraq and take them to a friendly Middle Eastern country where they can have a strategic redeployment and they can be someplace where there is support for our troops there, Mr. Speaker.

Another point that was made on this floor by the gentleman that was the purpose of our debate, he, Mr. Dean, both say that 80 percent of Iraqis want us to leave. Mr. Speaker, it is not 80 percent of the Iraqis that want us to leave. I do not know where that number comes from. I asked that question over and over again. We have had surveys over there that come a little bit different, but it depends on how they ask the question. Now, if we would ask the Iraqis someday sometime when they get full control of their country and they have safety and security and their freedom is established and the economy is flowing and they are not worried about enemies from without and enemies from within, they would like to have the last American soldier pull out of Iraq, maybe 80 percent would say yes, I think that would be a good idea.

I think the responsible people in Iraq do not look forward to the day that American troops pull out anytime soon because they know that their future and their freedom is contingent upon American and coalition troops being there to guarantee it for now, as the 2,010 Iraqi numbers grow and increase and their training increases and their commitment increases, and, in fact, their courage has been increasing substantially too, and they do have the courage to fight for their country. I am hearing that from our generals over there now too.

But I asked the question of the Iraqi people, if there is a referendum today, the same referendum that was on the floor of this House of Representatives, Mr. Speaker, that only found three Members of this 435-Member body that would vote to move our troops out immediately, if that referendum were laid out before the Iraqi people, the Iraqis that I talked to say that 90 to 95 percent would say stay, please stay, we

are so grateful for our freedom. When we come home, we expect our family to be there instead of wondering if Saddam has taken and spirited them away.

I met with a Kurdish young lady who is here now on a scholarship, that has been here several months. She said up in that region around Kirkuk, every household that has boys has a crawl space for the boys to hide in when Saddam's henchmen came to conscript them into the military. She grew up with brothers and could not admit to the neighborhood that she had brothers because they would be conscripted into the military. The list goes on and on.

The testimony that is taking place now in the trial of Saddam and his fellow henchmen that are there are bringing out atrocity after atrocity, Mr. Speaker. We will hear more about these atrocities as this trial unfolds. And when this trial is over and a new one begins and the history of Saddam's regime is written into the court records of those courageous jurists that put their lives on the line to provide a fair trial for a person whom I believe is a murdering tyrant, they need to be honored. They need to be respected. They need to put that in the history, and the American people need to watch it, Mr. Speaker. We need to all understand this, and we need to understand that when we speak up and we speak out and when we undermine our American troops, meanwhile posturing that we support them but not their mission, what happens is people like Muqtada Al-Sadr say on Aljazeera TV, "If we keep attacking Americans, they will leave Iraq the same way they left Vietnam, the same way they left Lebanon, the same way they left Mogadishu."

Never again, Mr. Speaker. This is where that stops. This is where the bright line in history gets drawn. This is where the legacy of the freedom that emanates from America is established in the Middle East and where the lone star of Iraq inspires the rest of the Arab world and eliminates the habitat that breeds terror.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to address the Members in the Chamber this evening.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. LARSEN of Washington (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business in the district.

Mr. REYES (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

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. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. WYNN, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. MEEHAN, for 5 minutes, today.
(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BURGESS) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, today and December 7 and 8.

Mr. BURGESS, for 5 minutes, today and December 7 and 8.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and December 7 and 8.

Mr. FORTENBERRY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes, December 7 and 8.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, December 7.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for 5 minutes, today and December 7.

Mr. OSBORNE, for 5 minutes, today and December 7.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, for 5 minutes, December 7.

Mr. CHABOT, for 5 minutes, December 7.

Mr. GOHMERT, for 5 minutes, today and December 7 and 8.

(The following Members (at their own request) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. PELOSI, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 584. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to allow the continued occupancy and use of certain land and improvements within Rocky Mountain National Park, to the Committee on Resources.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Mr. Trandahl, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 4133. An act to temporarily increase the borrowing authority of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for carrying out the national flood insurance program.

Mrs. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker pro tempore, Mr. WOLF:

H.R. 680. An act to direct the Secretary of Interior to convey certain land held in trust for the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah to the City of Richfield, Utah, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2062. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located

at 57 West Street in Newville, Pennsylvania as the "Randall D. Shughart Post Office Building."

H.R. 2183. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 567 Tompkins Avenue in Staten Island, New York, as the "Vincent Palladino Post Office."

H.R. 2528. An act making appropriations for military quality of life functions of the Department of Defense, military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3058. An act making appropriations for the Department of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3853. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 208 South Main Street in Parkdale, Arkansas, as the "Willie Vaughn Post Office."

H.R. 4145. An act to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to obtain a statue of Rosa Parks and to place the statue in the United States Capitol in National Statuary Hall, and for other purposes.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House reports that on November 21, 2005, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 4133. National Flood Insurance Program Further Enhanced Borrowing Authority Act of 2005

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House also reports that on November 28, 2005, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.R. 126. To amend Public Law 89-366 to allow for an adjustment in the number of free roaming horses permitted in Cape Lookout National Seashore.

H.R. 539. Caribbean National Forest Act of 2005.

H.R. 584. Department of the Interior Volunteer Recruitment Act of 2005.

H.R. 606. Angel Island Immigration Station Restoration and Preservation Act.

H.R. 680. To direct the Secretary of Interior to convey certain land held in trust for the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah to the City of Richfield, Utah, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1101. To revoke a Public Land Order with respect to certain lands erroneously included in the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge, California.

H.R. 1972. Franklin National Battlefield Study Act.

H.R. 1973. Water for the Poor Act of 2005.

H.R. 2062. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 57 West Street in Newville, Pennsylvania, as the "Randall D. Shughart Post Office Building".

H.R. 2183. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 567 Tompkins Avenue in Staten Island, New York, as the "Vincent Palladino Post Office".

H.R. 2528. Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2006.

H.R. 3058. Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, the District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006.

H.R. 3853. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 208 South Main Street in Parkdale, Arkansas, as the Willie Vaughn Post Office.

H.R. 4145. To direct the Joint Committee on the Library to obtain a statue of Rosa Parks and to place the statue in the United States Capitol in National Statuary Hall, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at midnight), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, December 7, 2005, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5321. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Syria that was declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004; to the Committee on International Relations.

5322. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the Development Fund for Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); to the Committee on International Relations.

5323. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

5324. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, Transmittal No. 06-15, concerning the Department of the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to Kuwait for defense articles and services; to the Committee on International Relations.

5325. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, Transmittal No. 06-14, concerning the Department of the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to Finland for defense articles and services; to the Committee on International Relations.

5326. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, Transmittal No. 06-13, concerning the Department of the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to India for defense articles and services; to the Committee on International Relations.

5327. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency

Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Burma that was declared in Executive Order 13047 of May 20, 1997; to the Committee on International Relations.

5328. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification regarding the proposed license for the export of defense articles and equipment to the Government of Kazakhstan (Transmittal No. DDTC 033-05); to the Committee on International Relations.

5329. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification regarding the proposed license for the export of defense articles and services to the Government of Korea (Transmittal No. DDTC 042-05); to the Committee on International Relations.

5330. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification regarding the proposed license for the export of defense articles and services to the Government of Singapore (Transmittal No. DDTC 051-05); to the Committee on International Relations.

5331. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification regarding the proposed license for the export of defense articles and equipment to the Government of Mexico (Transmittal No. DDTC 050-05); to the Committee on International Relations.

5332. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification regarding the proposed license for the export of defense articles and services to the Government of the United Kingdom (Transmittal No. DDTC 032-05); to the Committee on International Relations.

5333. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification regarding the proposed license for the export of defense articles and equipment to the Government of Korea (Transmittal No. DDTC 044-05); to the Committee on International Relations.

5334. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification regarding the proposed license for the export of defense articles and services to the Government of Japan (Transmittal No. DDTC 049-05); to the Committee on International Relations.

5335. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification regarding the proposed license for the manufacture of defense equipment from the Government of the United Kingdom (Transmittal No. DDTC 036-05); to the Committee on International Relations.

5336. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification regarding the proposed license for the manufacture of defense equipment from the Government of Sweden and the Government of the United Kingdom (Transmittal No. DDTC 006-05); to the Committee on International Relations.

5337. A letter from the Under Secretary for Political Affairs, Department of State, transmitting consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-243), the Authorization for the Use of Force Against Iraq Resolution (Pub. L. 102-1), and in order to keep the Congress fully informed, a report prepared by the Department of State for the June 15, 2005 — August 15, 2005 reporting period including matters relating to post-liberation Iraq under Section 7 of the Iraq Liberation Act of 1998 (Pub. L. 105-338); to the Committee on International Relations.

5338. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the fourth annual report on the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program; to the Committee on International Relations.

5339. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification regarding the proposed license for the export of defense articles and equipment to the Government of Austria, the Government of Canada, the Government of France, the Government of Switzerland and the Government of the United Kingdom (Transmittal No. DDTC 037-05); to the Committee on International Relations.

5340. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification regarding the proposed license for the export of defense articles and equipment to the Government of Taiwan (Transmittal No. DDTC 040-05); to the Committee on International Relations.

5341. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification regarding the proposed license for the export of defense articles and equipment to the Government of France and the Government of Austria (Transmittal No. DDTC 046-05); to the Committee on International Relations.

5342. A letter from the Chairman and Vice Chairman, U.S.-China Commission, transmitting the Commission's third annual report, pursuant to Pub. L. 106-398, as amended by Division P of Pub. L. 108-7; to the Committee on International Relations.

5343. A letter from the Special Assistant to the President and Director, Office of Administration, Executive Office of the President, transmitting the White House personnel report for the fiscal year 2005, pursuant to 3 U.S.C. 113; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5344. A letter from the President, African Development Foundation, transmitting a letter fulfilling the annual requirements contained in the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

5345. A letter from the Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the six-month period ending September 30, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

5346. A letter from the Chairman, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's FY 2005 Performance and Accountability Report; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5347. A letter from the Employee Benefits Program Manager, Department of the Navy, transmitting the annual report for 2005 of the Retirement Plan for Civilian Employees of the United States Marine Corps Personal

and Family Readiness Division, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9503(a)(1)(B); to the Committee on Government Reform.

5348. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

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5366. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5367. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Commerce, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

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5371. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Commerce, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5372. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's Fiscal Year 2005 Performance and Accountability Report; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5373. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's FY 2005 Report on Performance and Accountability; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5374. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General for Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's FY 2005 Performance and Accountability Report; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5375. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting the FY 2005 Annual Report on Performance and Accountability; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5376. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's FY 2005 Performance and Accountability Report; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5377. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's Management Report on Management Decisions and Final Actions on Office of Inspector General Audit Recommendations for the period ending March 31, 2005, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5378. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Departments' Report on Management Decisions and Final Actions on Office of Inspector General Audit Recommendations for the period ending September 30, 2004, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5379. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's Annual Performance and Accountability Report for FY 2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5380. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's Fiscal Year 2005 Performance and Accountability Report; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5381. A letter from the Deputy Director of Communications and Legislative Affairs,

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting the Commission's FY 2005 Performance and Accountability Report; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5382. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 2005 through September 30, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 8G(h)(2); to the Committee on Government Reform.

5383. A letter from the Chairman, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting the FY 2005 report pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act and the Inspector General Act Amendments of 1978, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform.

5384. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's Fiscal Year 2005 Performance and Accountability Report required under the Accountability for Tax Dollars Act of 2002; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5385. A letter from the Director, Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting a copy of the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for FY 2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5386. A letter from the Chairman, International Trade Commission, transmitting a copy of the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for FY 2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5387. A letter from the Chairman, International Trade Commission, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 2005 through September 30, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 8G(h)(2); to the Committee on Government Reform.

5388. A letter from the Director of Administration, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting the Board's Performance and Accountability Report for FY 2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5389. A letter from the Chairman, National Mediation Board, transmitting the FY 2005 report pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform.

5390. A letter from the Director, National Science Foundation, transmitting the Foundation's Performance and Accountability Report for FY 2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5391. A letter from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the FY 2005 Performance and Accountability Report, prepared in accordance with the Reports Consolidation Act of 2000 and the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5392. A letter from the Inspector General, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's Fiscal Year 2005 Performance Report, in accordance with the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5393. A letter from the Chairman, Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting the 2005 annual report on the Agency's compliance with the Inspector General Act and the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform.

5394. A letter from the Chairman, Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting the FY 2005 Annual Program Accountability Report, required by the

Government Performance and Results Act; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5395. A letter from the Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled, "Audit of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1A for Fiscal Years 2003 Through 2005, as of March 31, 2005"; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5396. A letter from the Executive Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2005, as required under OMB Circular No. A-11, section 230-3; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5397. A letter from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting a copy of the Board's Performance and Accountability Report for Fiscal Year 2005, including the Office of Inspector General's Auditor's Report, Report on Internal Control, and Report on Compliance with Laws and Regulations; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5398. A letter from the Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5399. A letter from the Executive Secretary and Chief of Staff, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5400. A letter from the Chairman, U.S. Postal Service, transmitting the semiannual report on activities of the Inspector General for the period ending September 30, 2005 and the Management Response for the same period, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 8G(h)(2); to the Committee on Government Reform.

5401. A letter from the Director, U.S. Trade and Development Agency, transmitting the Agency's Performance and Accountability Report including audited financial statements for fiscal year 2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.

5402. A letter from the Staff Director, United States Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting the FY 2004 annual report under the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act (FMFIA), pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform.

5403. A letter from the Executive Director, Election Assistance Commission, transmitting the Commission's report entitled, "The Impact of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 on the Administration of Elections for Federal Office 2003-2004"; to the Committee on House Administration.

5404. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the 2004 annual report on the activities and operations of the Public Integrity Section, Criminal Division, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 529; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5405. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report on the status of petitions for designating classes of employees as members of the Special Exposure Cohort under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (EEOCPA), pursuant to Public Law 108-375; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5406. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting a draft legislative proposal to improve restitution for victims of crime by amending the Mandatory Victims' Restitution Act (MVRA); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5407. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Civil Works, Department of the Army, transmitting the Department's rec-

ommended authorization of the Napa River Salt Marsh Restoration Project, California for the purposes of ecosystem restoration and recreation; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5408. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulated Navigation Area; San Diego Bay, Mission Bay and Their Approaches, California [CGD11-05-002] (RIN: 1625-AA11) received November 29, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5409. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Cape Fear River, Eagle Island, North Carolina State Port Authority Terminal, Wilmington, NC [CGD05-05-123] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received November 29, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5410. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Escort Vessels for Certain Tankers [CGD 91-202] (RIN: 1625-AA05) (Formerly RIN: 2115-AE10); Escort Vessels for Certain Tankers — Crash Stop Criteria [USCG-2003-14734] (RIN: 1625-AA65) received November 29, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5411. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Sturgeon Bay Ship Canal; Sturgeon Bay, WI [CGD09-05-080] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received November 14, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5412. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Fox River, Green Bay, WI and DePere, WI [CGD09-05-081] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received November 14, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5413. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Hackensack River, NJ [CGD01-05-061] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received November 14, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5414. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Dorchester Bay, MA [CGD01-05-020] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received November 14, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5415. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Passaic River, NJ [CGD01-05-029] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received November 14, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5416. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, Unalaska Island, AK [COTP Western Alaska-04-003] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received November 29, 2005, pursuant

to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5417. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone Regulation; Tampa Bay, FL [COTP St. Petersburg 05-120] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received November 29, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5418. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Elizabeth River, Eastern Branch, VA [CGD05-05-049] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received November 29, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5419. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Tennessee River, Chattanooga, TN [CGD08-05-041] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received November 29, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5420. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Saugus River, MA [CGD01-05-074] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received November 29, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5421. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Elizabeth River, Eastern Branch, Virginia [CGD05-05-129] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received November 29, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5422. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Berwick Bay, Morgan City, LA [CGD08-05-052] received November 29, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5423. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Upper Mississippi River, Ft. Madison, Burlington, and Dubuque, IA, and Rock Island Arsenal, IL [USCG-2005-22853] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received November 29, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5424. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Newton Creek, Dutch Kills, English Kills, and their tributaries, NY [CGD01-05-098] received November 29, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5425. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Taunton, MA [CGD01-05-097] received November 29, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5426. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department

of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations: Jamaica Bay and Connecting Waterways, NY [CGD01-05-099] received November 29, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5427. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company CT7-5, -7, and -9 Series Turboprop Engines [Docket No. FAA-2005-20944; Directorate Identifier 2003-NE-64-AD; Amendment 39-14247; AD 2005-18-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5428. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Gippsland Aeronautics Pty. Ltd. Model GA8 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2005-22639; Directorate Identifier 2005-CE-48-AD; Amendment 39-14346; AD 2005-22-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5429. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 737-600, -700, -700C, -800, and -900 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2005-21086; Directorate Identifier 2004-NM-217-AD; Amendment 39-14344; AD 2005-21-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5430. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd & Co KG (Formerly Rolls-Royce Deutschland GmbH, formerly BMW Rolls-Royce) Models BR700-710A1-10 and BR700-710A2-20 Turbofan Engines [Docket No. 2000-NE-48-AD; Amendment 39-14343; AD 2005-21-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5431. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 757-200, -200PF, and -300 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2005-20473; Directorate Identifier 2004-NM-156-AD; Amendment 39-14351; AD 2005-22-07] received November 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5432. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A320-111, -211, -212, and -231 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2005-22170; Directorate Identifier 2005-NM-073-AD; Amendment 39-14349; AD 2005-22-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5433. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation Model S-76A, B, and C Helicopters [Docket No. FAA-2005-22757; Directorate Identifier 2005-SW-32-AD; Amendment 39-14345; AD 2005-22-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5434. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Air-

worthiness Directives; Pilatus Aircraft Ltd. Models PC-12 and PC-12/45 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2005-22018; Directorate Identifier 2005-CE-41-AD; Amendment 39-14348; AD 2005-22-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5435. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Corporation (formerly Allison Engine Company) 501-D22A, 501-D22C, and 501-D22G Turboprop Engines [Docket No. FAA-2005-20742; Directorate Identifier 2005-NE-03-AD; Amendment 39-14347; AD 2005-22-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5436. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 747-100, 747-100B, 747-100B SUD, 747-200B, 747-200C, 747-200F, 747-300, 747SR, and 747SP Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2005-20692; Directorate Identifier 2004-NM-229-AD; Amendment 39-14350; AD 2005-22-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5437. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (EMBRAER) Model EMB-135BJ, -135ER, -135KE, -135KL, -135LR, -145, -145ER, -145MR, -145LR, -145XR, -145MP, and -145EP Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2004-18564; Directorate Identifier 2004-NM-16-AD; Amendment 39-14352; AD 2005-22-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5438. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd. & Co KG (Formerly Rolls-Royce Deutschland GmbH, formerly BMW Rolls-Royce) Models BR700-710A1-10 and BR700-710A2-20 Turbofan Engines [Docket No. 2000-NE-48-AD; Amendment 39-14343; AD 2005-21-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5439. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 747-100, 747-100B, 747-100B SUD, 747-200B, 747-200C, 747-200F, 747-300, 747SR, and 747SP Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2005-20692; Directorate Identifier 2004-NM-229-AD; Amendment 39-14350; AD 2005-22-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5440. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (EMBRAER) Model EMB-135BJ, -135ER, -135KE, -135KL, -135LR, -145, -145ER, -145MR, -145LR, -145XR, -145MP, and -145EP Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2004-18564; Directorate Identifier 2004-NM-16-AD; Amendment 39-14352; AD 2005-22-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5441. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron Canada Model 206A, A-1, B, B-1, L, L-1,

L-3, L-4 Helicopters [Docket No. FAA-2005-21680; Directorate Identifier 2004-SW-48-AD; Amendment 39-14341; AD 2005-21-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5442. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Reservation System for Unscheduled Arrivals at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport [Docket No. FAA-2005-19411; SFAR No. 105] (RIN: 2120-AI47) received November 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5443. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron Canada Model 206A, A-1, B, B-1, L, L-1, L-3, L-4 Helicopters [Docket No. FAA-2005-21680; Directorate Identifier 2004-SW-48-AD; Amendment 39-14341; AD 2005-21-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5444. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; MD Helicopters, Inc. Model 369D, 369E, 369F, 369FF, 500N, and 600N Helicopters [Docket No. 2004-SW-13-AD; Amendment 39-14340; AD 2005-21-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5445. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron Model 47D1, 47G, 47G-2, 47G-2A, 47G-2A-1, 47G-3, 47G-3B, 47G-3B-1, 47G-3B-2, 47G-3B-2A, 47G-4, 47G-4A, 47G-5, 47G-5A, and Coastal Helicopters, Inc. Model OH-13H (Tomcat Mark 5A, 6B, 6C) Helicopters [Docket No. FAA-2005-21725; Directorate Identifier 2004-SW-45-AD; Amendment 39-14342; AD 2005-21-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5446. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company CT7-5, -7, and -9 Series Turboprop Engines [Docket No. FAA-2005-20944; Directorate Identifier 2003-NE-64-AD Amendment 39-14247; AD 2005-18-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5447. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Aerospaiale Model ATR42 and ATR72 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2005-22795; Directorate Identifier 2005-NM-193-AD; Amendment 39-14353; AD 2005-22-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5448. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; MD Helicopters, Inc. Model 369D, 369E, 369F, 369FF, 500N, and 600N Helicopters [Docket No. 2004-SW-13-AD; Amendment 39-14340; AD 2005-21-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5449. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Implementing the Maintenance Provisions of Bilateral Agreements [Docket No. FAA-2004-

17683; Amendment No. 43-40] (RIN: 2120-AI19) received August 2, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5450. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron Model 47D1, 47G, 47G-2, 47G-2A, 47G-2A-1, 47G-3, 47G-3B, 47G-3B-1, 47G-3B-2, 47G-3B-2A, 47G-4, 47G-4A, 47G-5, 47G-5A and Coastal Helicopters, Inc. Model OH-13H (Tomcat Mark 5A, 6B, 6C) Helicopters [Docket No. FAA-2005-21275; Directorate Identifier 2004-SW-45-AD; Amendment 39-14342; AD 2005-21-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5451. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Aerospaciale Model ATR42 and ATR72 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2005-22795; Directorate Identifier 2005-NM-193-AD; Amendment 39-14353; AD 2005-22-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5452. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Corporation (formerly Allison Engine Company) 501-D22A, 501-D22C, and 501-D22G Turbo-prop Engines [Docket No. FAA-2005-20742; Directorate Identifier 2005-NE-03-AD; Amendment 39-14347; AD 2005-22-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5453. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Deering, AK [Docket No. FAA-2005-21449; Airspace Docket No. 05-AAL-15] received November 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5454. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Legal Description of Class D Airspace; Rapid City, SD; Modification of Legal Description of Class D Airspace; Rapid City Ellsworth, AFB, SD [Docket No. FAA-2005-22514; Airspace Docket No. 05-AGL-07] received November 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5455. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class E Airspace; Madison, IN [Docket No. FAA-2005-21255; Airspace Docket No. 05-AGL-03] received November 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5456. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class E Airspace; Akron, OH [Docket No. FAA-2005-21257; Airspace Docket No. 05-AGL-05] received November 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5457. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A300 B4-600 and A300 B4-600R Series Airplanes; and A300 F4-605R and A300 C4-605R Variant F Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2005-22110; Directorate Identifier 2004-NM-205-AD; Amend-

ment 39-14366; AD 2005-23-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 29, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5458. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Learjet Model 23, 24, 24A, 24B, 24B-A, 24D, 24D-A, 24E, 24F, 25, 25A, 25B, 25C, 25D, and 25F Airplanes Modified by Supplemental Type Certificate SA1731SW, SA1669SW, or SA1670SW [Docket No. FAA-2005-20947; Directorate Identifier 2004-NM-245-AD; Amendment 39-14364; AD 2005-23-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 29, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5459. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Saab Model SAAB 2000 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2005-22255; Directorate Identifier 2005-NM-106-AD; Amendment 39-14362; AD 2005-23-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 29, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5460. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A319-100, A320-200, and A321-100 and -200 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2004-19863; Directorate Identifier 2003-NM-29-AD; Amendment 39-14363; AD 2005-23-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 29, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5461. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A330-200 and A330-300 Series Airplanes; and Model A340-200 and A340-300 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2005-22881; Directorate Identifier 2005-NM-202-AD; Amendment 39-14368; AD 2005-23-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 29, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5462. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A319-100 Series Airplanes, Model A320-111 Airplanes, Model A320-200 Series Airplanes, and Model A321-100 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2005-22120; Directorate Identifier 2004-NM-92-AD; Amendment 39-14360; AD 2005-23-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 29, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5463. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Learjet Model 23, 24, 24A, 24B, 24B-A, 24C, 24D, 24D-A, 24E, 24F, 24F-A, 25, 25A, 25B, 25C, 25D, and 25F Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2005-22169; Directorate Identifier 2005-NM-094-AD; Amendment 39-14361; AD 2005-23-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 29, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5464. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (EMBRAER) Model EMB-135 Airplanes, and Model EMB-145, -145ER, -145MR, -145LR, -145XR, -145MP, and -145EP Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2005-22147; Directorate Identifier 2005-NM-114-AD; Amendment 39-14371; AD 2005-23-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 29, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5465. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, trans-

mitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Model CL-600-2B19 (Regional Jet Series 100 & 400) Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2005-22867; Directorate Identifier 2005-NM-209-AD; Amendment 39-14359; AD 2005-23-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 29, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5466. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (EMBRAER) Model ERJ 170 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2005-22910; Directorate Identifier 2005-NM-208-AD; Amendment 39-14372; AD 2005-23-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 29, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5467. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 737-600, -700, -700C, -800, and -900 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2005-21714; Directorate Identifier 2005-NM-065-AD; Amendment 39-14374; AD 2005-23-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 29, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5468. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 737 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2004-19539; Directorate Identifier 2004-NM-06-AD; Amendment 39-14375; AD 2005-23-17] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 29, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5469. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Model F27 Mark 050 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2005-22972; Directorate Identifier 2003-NM-265-AD; Amendment 39-14376; AD 2005-23-18] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 29, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5470. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; British Aerospace Model BAC 1-11 200 and 400 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2005-22427; Directorate Identifier 2004-NM-263-AD; Amendment 39-14373; AD 2005-23-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 29, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5471. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company CF6-80E1 Series Turbofan Engines [Docket No. FAA-2005-22701; Directorate Identifier 2005-NE-37-AD; Amendment 39-14356; AD 2005-22-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5472. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Mitsubishi Model YS-11 Airplanes, and Model YS-11A-200, YS-11A-300, YS-11A-500, and YS-11A-600 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 98-NM-300-AD; Amendment 39-14355; AD 2005-22-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5473. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A320-111

Airplanes, and Model A320-200 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 2002-NM-298-AD; Amendment 39-14354; AD 2005-22-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5474. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 727 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2005-21975; Directorate Identifier 2005-NM-122-AD; Amendment 39-14365; AD 2005-23-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5475. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Honeywell Flight Management System (FMS) One Million Word (1M or 700K) Data Bases (9104 Cycle or Earlier), as Installed in, but Not Limited to, McDonnell Douglas Model MD-11 and MD-11F Airplanes, Boeing Model 747-400 Series Airplanes, and Boeing Model 757 and 767 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2005-22585; Directorate Identifier 2005-NM-041-AD; Amendment 39-14328; AD 2005-20-31] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5476. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company CT7-5, -7, and -9 Series Turboprop Engines [Docket No. FAA-2005-20944; Directorate Identifier 2003-NE-64-AD; Amendment 39-14247; AD 2005-18-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5477. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney JT8D-200 Series Turbofan Engines [Docket No. 96-ANE-35-AD; Amendment 39-14339; AD 2005-21-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5478. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; GROB-WERKE Model G120A Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2005-21998; Directorate Identifier 2005-CE-40-AD; Amendment 39-14358; AD 2005-22-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5479. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E3 Airspace, Riverside March Field, CA [Docket No. FAA 2005-21523; Airspace Docket No. 05-AWP-07] received November 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5480. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment and Revision of Area Navigation (RNAV) Routes; Western United States [Docket No. FAA-2005-20322; Airspace Docket No. 05-ANM-1] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received November 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5481. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment and Revision of Area Navigation (RNAV) Routes; Western United States [Docket No. FAA-2005-20322; Airspace Docket

No. 05-ANM-1] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received November 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5482. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Colored Federal Airways; AK [Docket No. FAA-2002-13994; Airspace Docket No. 02-AAL-10] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received November 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5483. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class E Airspace; Dodge City Regional Airport, KS [Docket No. FAA-2005-21874; Airspace Docket No. 05-ACE-28] received November 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5484. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class D and Class E Airspace; Toppeka, Forbes Field, KS [Docket No. FAA-2005-21703; Airspace Docket No. 05-ACE-19] received November 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5485. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class D and Class E Airspace; Salina Municipal Airport, KS; Correction [Docket No. FAA-2005-21873; Airspace Docket No. 05-ACE-27] received November 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5486. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Eagle, CO [Docket FAA 2005-21078; Airspace Docket 05-ANM-07] received November 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5487. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revision of Class E Airspace; Cheyenne, WY [Docket FAA-2003-16329; Airspace Docket No. 02-ANM-01] received November 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5488. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revision of Class E Airspace; Yakutat, AK [Docket No. FAA-2005-21529; Airspace Docket No. 05-AAL-19] received November 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5489. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Change of Controlling Agency for Restricted Areas; HI [Docket No. FAA-2005-22600; Airspace Docket No. 05-AWP-11] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received November 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5490. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revision of VOR Federal Airway V-343; MT [Docket No. FAA-2005-22047; Airspace Docket No. 05-ANM-10] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received November 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5491. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A320-

111, -211, -212, and -231 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2005-22170; Directorate Identifier 2005-NM-073-AD; Amendment 39-14349; AD 2005-22-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5492. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pilatus Aircraft Ltd. Models PC-12 and PC-12/45 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2005-22018; Directorate Identifier 2005-CE-41-AD; Amendment 39-14348; AD 2005-22-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5493. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 757-200, -200PF, and -300 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2005-20473; Directorate Identifier 2004-NM-156-AD; Amendment 39-14351; AD 2005-22-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5494. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 737-600, -700, -700C, -800, and -900 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2005-21086; Directorate Identifier 2004-NM-217-AD; Amendment 39-14344; AD 2005-21-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5495. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Gippsland Aeronautics Pty. Ltd. Model GA8 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2005-22639; Directorate Identifier 2005-CE-48-AD; Amendment 39-14346; AD 2005-22-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5496. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Area Navigation Instrument Flight Rules Terminal Transition Routes (RITTR); Jacksonville, FL [Docket No. FAA-2005-21694; Airspace Docket No. 04-ASO-16] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received November 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5497. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, Weather Takeoff Minimums; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. 30462; Amdt. No. 3138] received November 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5498. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. 30463; Amdt. No. 3139] received November 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5499. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Cortland, NY; Ithaca, NY; Elmira, NY; Endicott, NY; Sayre, PA [Docket No. FAA-2005-22494; Airspace Docket No. 05-AEA-22] received November 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5500. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Binghantamton, NY [Docket No. FAA-2005-22100; Airspace Docket No. 05-AEA-16] received November 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5501. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Area Navigation Instrument Flight Rules Terminal Transition Routes (RITTR); Cincinnati, OH [Docket No. FAA-2005-20699; Airspace Docket No. 04-ASO-19] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received November 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5502. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Deering, AK [Docket No. FAA-2005-21449; Airspace Docket No. 05-AAL-15] received November 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5503. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Legal Description of Class D Airspace; Rapid City, SD; Modification of Legal Description of Class D Airspace; Rapid City Ellsworth AFB, SD [Docket No. FAA-2005-22514; Airspace Docket No. 05-AGL-07] received November 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5504. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class E Airspace; Akron, OH [Docket No. FAA-2005-21257; Airspace Docket No. 05-AGL-05] received November 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5505. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class E Airspace; Madison, IN [Docket No. FAA-2005-21257; Airspace Docket No. 05-AGL-03] received November 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5506. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations: Connecticut River, CT [CGD01-05-100] received November 29, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5507. A letter from the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, transmitting in accordance with Section 645(a) of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, a report of the amount of acquisitions made from entities that manufacture articles, materials, or supplies outside the United States; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5508. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's report entitled, "Assets for Independence Demonstration Program: Status at the Conclusion of the Fifth Year," pursuant to Public Law 105-285, section 414(d)(1); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5509. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Border and Transportation Security, Department of Homeland Security,

transmitting the Department's Annual Report of the Task Force on the Prohibition of Importation of Products of Forced or Prison Labor from the People's Republic of China, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 6961 et seq.; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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. 2830. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the pension funding rules, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 109-232 Pt. 2). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. THOMAS: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 4340. A bill to implement the United States—Bahrain Free Trade Agreement (Rept. 109-318). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 452. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the Soldiers' Memorial Military Museum located in St. Louis, Missouri, as a unit of the National Park System (Rept. 109-319). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 1183. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to provide public access to Navassa National Wildlife Refuge and Desecheo National Wildlife Refuge (Rept. 109-320). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 1190. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a feasibility study to design and construct a four reservoir intertie system for the purposes of improving the water storage opportunities, water supply reliability, and water yield of San Vicente, El Capitan, Murray, and Loveland Reservoirs in San Diego County, California in consultation and cooperation with the City of San Diego and the Sweetwater Authority, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 109-321). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 4192. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to designate the President William Jefferson Clinton Birthplace Home in Hope, Arkansas, as a National Historic Site and unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes (Rept. 109-322). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 4195. A bill to authorize early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within Rogue River Valley Irrigation District or within Medford Irrigation District (Rept. 109-323). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 4292. A bill to amend Public Law 107-153 to further encourage the negotiated settlement of tribal claims (Rept. 109-324). Referred to the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 3818. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into partnership agreements with entities and local communities to encourage greater cooperation in the ad-

ministration of Forest Service activities on and near National Forest System lands, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 109-325 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. OXLEY: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 3909. A bill to provide emergency authority for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the National Credit Union Administration, in accordance with guidance issued by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, to guarantee checks cashed by insured depository institutions and insured credit unions for the benefit of noncustomers who are victims of certain 2005 hurricanes, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 109-326). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. OXLEY: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 4314. A bill to extend the applicability of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002; with an amendment (Rept. 109-327). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 583. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4340) to implement the United States—Bahrain Free Trade Agreement (Rept. 109-328). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. KING of New York: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 4312. A bill to establish operational control over the international land and maritime borders of the United States, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 109-329 Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the Committees on the Judiciary and Armed Services discharged from further consideration. H.R. 4312 committed to the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. ROGERS of Alabama (for himself and Mr. MCCAUL of Texas):

H.R. 4433. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct outreach to and consult with members of the private sector with respect to the Secure Border Initiative and for the purposes of strengthening security along the international and maritime borders of the United States; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. GORDON (for himself, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. HONDA, Mr. EMANUEL,

Mr. INSLEE, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. COSTA, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado):

H.R. 4434. A bill to authorize science scholarships for educating mathematics and science teachers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science.

By Mr. GORDON (for himself, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. HONDA, Mr. EMANUEL,

Mr. INSLEE, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. COSTA, Mr.

CARNAHAN, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado):

H.R. 4435. A bill to provide for the establishment of the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy; to the Committee on Science.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 4436. A bill to provide certain authorities for the Department of State, and for other purposes; to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committee on Government Reform, 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. SENSENBRENNER (for himself, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Ms. FOXX, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. ISSA, and Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California):

H.R. 4437. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to strengthen enforcement of the immigration laws, to enhance border security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, 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. SHUSTER (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. JINDAL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. FORTUÑO, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. BAKER, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. BOUSTANY, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. BACHUS, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. DENT, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. HONDA, Mr. POE, Mr. HOLDEN, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas):

H.R. 4438. A bill to establish special rules with respect to certain disaster assistance provided for Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California (for himself, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. REICHERT, and Ms. HARRIS):

H.R. 4439. A bill to establish an Airport Screening Organization in the Transportation Security Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. MCCRERY (for himself, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. SHAW, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. JINDAL, Mr. BAKER, and Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 4440. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax benefits for the Gulf Opportunity Zone and certain areas affected by Hurricanes Rita and Wilma, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ANDREWS:

H.R. 4441. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against tax for certain expenses related to the use of recycled materials in qualified highway or surface freight transfer facilities; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BAKER:

H.R. 4442. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to reestablish the hazard mitigation program cap at 15 percent of major disaster assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 4443. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the deduction for qualified tuition and related expenses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. JINDAL:

H.R. 4444. A bill to authorize farmers in the State of Louisiana to operate certain commercial motor vehicles anywhere in the State without a commercial drivers license until January 1, 2006; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. JINDAL:

H.R. 4445. A bill to provide an exclusion from gross income for income earned in 2005 from sources within the Hurricanes Katrina and Rita core disaster area; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LAHOOD (for himself, Mr. NEY, and Mr. LEWIS of California):

H.R. 4446. A bill to establish a uniform appointment process and term of service for the Architect of the Capitol, the Comptroller General, and the Librarian of Congress, to prohibit the annual amount of payment of compensation to such officers to exceed the annual salary of a Member of Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Government Reform, 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. PALLONE (for himself and Mr. WAXMAN):

H.R. 4447. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide for fair treatment of services furnished to Indians under the Medicaid Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 4448. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to permit the admission to the United States of nonimmigrant students and visitors who are the spouses and children of United States permanent resident aliens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 4449. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a temporary windfall profit tax on crude oil, to allow a credit against tax for qualified fuel-efficient vehicles placed in service during the taxable year, to establish the Energy Assistance Trust Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, 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. SESSIONS:

H.R. 4450. A bill to require hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers to disclose charge-related information and to provide price protection for treatments not covered by insurance as conditions for receiving protection from charge-related legal actions; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on 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. TOWNS:

H.R. 4451. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make residents of Puerto Rico eligible for the refundable portion of the child tax credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia (for herself, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. GOODE, and Mr. JONES of North Carolina):

H. Res. 579. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the symbols and traditions of Christmas should be protected; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. BOSWELL:

H. Res. 584. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 752) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to deliver a meaningful benefit and lower prescription drug prices under the Medicare Program; to the Committee on Rules.

By Ms. HERSETH:

H. Res. 585. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3861) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide extended and additional protection to Medicare beneficiaries who enroll for the Medicare prescription drug benefit during 2006; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself, Mr. RAMSTAD, and Mr. OWENS):

H. Res. 586. A resolution commemorating the life, achievements, and contributions of Alan Reich; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. SODREL (for himself, Mr. PENCE, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. HOSTETTLER, and Ms. CARSON):

H. Res. 587. A resolution congratulating Tony Stewart on winning the 2005 NASCAR Nextel Cup Championship; to the Committee on Government Reform.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

- H.R. 11: Mr. BROWN of Ohio.
 H.R. 19: Mr. JONES of North Carolina and Mr. MCCOTTER.
 H.R. 65: Mr. MCCOTTER.
 H.R. 111: Mr. ALEXANDER.
 H.R. 176: Mr. STARK.
 H.R. 226: Ms. MATSUI and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.
 H.R. 284: Mr. FATTAH and Mr. GORDON.
 H.R. 303: Mr. CROWLEY and Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut.
 H.R. 333: Ms. BERKLEY.
 H.R. 363: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
 H.R. 501: Mr. PAYNE.
 H.R. 517: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
 H.R. 552: Mr. BACHUS and Mr. SULLIVAN.
 H.R. 558: Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. TIERNEY, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado.
 H.R. 583: Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, and Ms. SOLIS.
 H.R. 676: Mr. MCNULTY.
 H.R. 690: Mr. MOORE of Kansas.
 H.R. 752: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan.
 H.R. 759: Ms. WATSON.
 H.R. 769: Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. KUCINICH, and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
 H.R. 780: Mr. GORDON.
 H.R. 819: Mr. BECERRA.
 H.R. 884: Mr. SERRANO, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, and Mr. LATOURETTE.
 H.R. 896: Mr. TANNER, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. DUNCAN, and Mr. MENENDEZ.
 H.R. 916: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. WATSON, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, and Mr. STUPAK.
 H.R. 920: Mr. EVERETT.
 H.R. 925: Mr. MCKEON, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. MICA, Mr. AKIN, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mrs. EMERSON, and Mr. BURTON of Indiana.
 H.R. 972: Mr. REYES, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. TURNER, and Mr. PORTER.
 H.R. 997: Mr. KING of New York.

- H.R. 998: Mr. SMITH of Texas and Mr. POMBO.
- H.R. 1053: Mr. McNULTY, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. CROWLEY, and Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.
- H.R. 1059: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
- H.R. 1100: Mr. BOREN.
- H.R. 1156: Mr. McCOTTER.
- H.R. 1159: Mr. TANCREDO.
- H.R. 1259: Mr. WEINER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CUELLAR, and Ms. SOLIS.
- H.R. 1287: Mr. HASTERT.
- H.R. 1315: Mr. RENZI.
- H.R. 1356: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
- H.R. 1357: Mr. FORTENBERRY.
- H.R. 1414: Mr. ANDREWS.
- H.R. 1426: Mr. MOLLOHAN and Mr. RAHALL.
- H.R. 1498: Mr. CONYERS.
- H.R. 1518: Mr. FATTAH and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
- H.R. 1554: Mr. PAYNE.
- H.R. 1578: Mr. LANTOS, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MICA, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BASS, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. EHLERS, and Mr. FERGUSON.
- H.R. 1591: Mr. PETRI.
- H.R. 1602: Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania.
- H.R. 1615: Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts.
- H.R. 1671: Mr. BONNER of Texas.
- H.R. 1709: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
- H.R. 1898: Mr. KING of New York.
- H.R. 1946: Mr. LEACH.
- H.R. 2011: Mr. ETHERIDGE.
- H.R. 2037: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.
- H.R. 2059: Mr. MICHAUD.
- H.R. 2071: Mr. ENGEL.
- H.R. 2076: Mr. PAUL.
- H.R. 2106: Mrs. MALONEY.
- H.R. 2131: Mr. SANDERS.
- H.R. 2134: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.
- H.R. 2257: Mr. STRICKLAND.
- H.R. 2317: Mr. CARNAHAN and Mr. OLVER.
- H.R. 2429: Mr. FILNER.
- H.R. 2519: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
- H.R. 2533: Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut.
- H.R. 2669: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. HONDA, and Ms. WATSON.
- H.R. 2679: Mr. PENCE.
- H.R. 2694: Mr. STARK.
- H.R. 2719: Mr. RANGEL and Mr. LYNCH.
- H.R. 2793: Mr. KING of Iowa and Ms. SLAUGHTER.
- H.R. 2803: Mr. KING of Iowa.
- H.R. 2835: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.
- H.R. 2872: Mr. HOSTETTLER, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. RYUN of Kansas, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. CANNON, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. ISRAEL, and Ms. HOOLEY.
- H.R. 2892: Mr. HOLT, Mr. TIERNEY, and Mr. KUHL of New York.
- H.R. 2939: Mr. FILNER.
- H.R. 2961: Ms. HERSETH.
- H.R. 2962: Mr. ROTHMAN and Mr. ANDREWS.
- H.R. 2963: Mr. OBEY.
- H.R. 2990: Mr. McHENRY.
- H.R. 3017: Mr. GOODLATTE.
- H.R. 3042: Mr. HONDA, Mr. NADLER, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.
- H.R. 3044: Mr. GONZALEZ.
- H.R. 3127: Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. STARK, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. LANGEVIN, and Mr. PLATTS.
- H.R. 3145: Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. MICHAUD, and Mr. GUTIERREZ.
- H.R. 3146: Mr. GOHMERT.
- H.R. 3157: Mr. STUPAK.
- H.R. 3174: Ms. MCKINNEY.
- H.R. 3195: Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. GONZALEZ, and Mr. STRICKLAND.
- H.R. 3263: Mrs. MCCARTHY.
- H.R. 3267: Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. FATTAH.
- H.R. 3313: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. HERSETH, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. CONYERS.
- H.R. 3323: Mr. McNULTY and Mr. RAMSTAD.
- H.R. 3326: Ms. CARSON and Mr. FATTAH.
- H.R. 3334: Mr. RYUN of Kansas, Mr. WATT, Mr. FILNER, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. CANTOR, and Ms. LEE.
- H.R. 3360: Mr. POMEROY.
- H.R. 3361: Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. COSTA, Mr. POMBO, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. FILNER, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. GERLACH, and Ms. KAPTUR.
- H.R. 3373: Mr. LINDER, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, and Mr. CLEAVER.
- H.R. 3409: Mr. WELDON of Florida.
- H.R. 3476: Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts and Mr. CASE.
- H.R. 3561: Mr. NADLER and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
- H.R. 3563: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
- H.R. 3579: Mr. STEARNS and Mr. CUMMINGS.
- H.R. 3612: Mr. KILDEE.
- H.R. 3630: Mr. GRAVES.
- H.R. 3640: Mr. FATTAH, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. CONYERS, and Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota.
- H.R. 3641: Ms. CARSON, Mr. McNULTY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. FORTUÑO, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. BORDALLO, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.
- H.R. 3642: Mr. FATTAH, Mr. WEXLER, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
- H.R. 3690: Mr. CARDIN.
- H.R. 3709: Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, Ms. WOOLSEY, and Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky.
- H.R. 3731: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
- H.R. 3757: Mrs. DRAKE.
- H.R. 3758: Mr. PAYNE.
- H.R. 3762: Mr. LYNCH, Mr. McNULTY, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Mr. LANGEVIN.
- H.R. 3774: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER and Mr. WAXMAN.
- H.R. 3779: Ms. DELAURO, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. CONYERS.
- H.R. 3835: Mr. PALLONE.
- H.R. 3837: Ms. CARSON.
- H.R. 3858: Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts.
- H.R. 3861: Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania.
- H.R. 3876: Mr. OLVER, Mr. MCINTYRE, and Mr. PLATTS.
- H.R. 3883: Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. MYRICK, and Mr. BROWN of South Carolina.
- H.R. 3933: Mr. GERLACH.
- H.R. 3949: Ms. HARRIS.
- H.R. 3954: Mr. McNULTY.
- H.R. 3957: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and Mr. EMANUEL.
- H.R. 3984: Mr. BOOZMAN.
- H.R. 3985: Mr. ENGEL, Mr. FORD, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. BAIRD, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. McNULTY, and Mr. MICHAUD.
- H.R. 4005: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
- H.R. 4025: Mr. DEFazio, Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, Mr. GORDON, Mr. BOREN, Mr. RAHALL, and Mr. RANGEL.
- H.R. 4032: Mr. GORDON.
- H.R. 4033: Mr. MOLLOHAN.
- H.R. 4042: Mr. SHIMKUS and Mr. WICKER.
- H.R. 4047: Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida.
- H.R. 4049: Mrs. CAPPS.
- H.R. 4066: Mr. GONZALEZ.
- H.R. 4096: Mrs. BIGGEST.
- H.R. 4106: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
- H.R. 4120: Mr. MCCAUL of Texas.
- H.R. 4129: Mr. BAKER.
- H.R. 4157: Mr. McCOTTER.
- H.R. 4196: Mr. EVANS.
- H.R. 4212: Mr. FATTAH, Mr. McNULTY, and Mr. HONDA.
- H.R. 4217: Mr. CHOCOLA, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan, and Mr. HOSTETTLER.
- H.R. 4222: Mr. ANDREWS.
- H.R. 4223: Mr. RANGEL and Mr. CLAY.
- H.R. 4235: Mrs. MUSGRAVE.
- H.R. 4246: Mr. HALL, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. CUELLAR, and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.
- H.R. 4258: Mr. EVANS.
- H.R. 4259: Mr. FORTUÑO and Mr. FOLEY.
- H.R. 4268: Ms. HERSETH, Mr. SHIMKUS, and Mr. SHUSTER.
- H.R. 4272: Ms. BERKLEY.
- H.R. 4282: Mr. CANNON.
- H.R. 4295: Mr. OTTER.
- H.R. 4298: Mr. WOLF.
- H.R. 4312: Mr. GORDON, Mr. SHUSTER, and Mr. ISTOOK.
- H.R. 4314: Mr. KING of New York.
- H.R. 4330: Mr. EVERETT, Mr. KELLER, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
- H.R. 4338: Mr. FILNER.
- H.R. 4347: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. SOLIS, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. EVANS, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. RANGEL.
- H.R. 4349: Mr. RANGEL.
- H.R. 4351: Mr. ENGEL, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and Mr. OBERSTAR.
- H.R. 4353: Mr. FORTUÑO.
- H.R. 4357: Mr. INSLER, Mr. CASE, and Mr. BURTON of Indiana.
- H.R. 4358: Ms. HERSETH and Mr. WEXLER.
- H.R. 4366: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
- H.R. 4373: Mr. FORTUÑO.
- H.R. 4374: Mr. NADLER, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Mr. FORTUÑO.
- H.R. 4381: Mr. BURTON of Indiana.
- H.R. 4394: Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania.
- H.R. 4398: Mr. BACA, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. SCOTT of Georgia.
- H.R. 4410: Mr. WEINER.
- H.J. Res. 55: Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
- H. Con. Res. 42: Mr. FORTUÑO, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, and Mr. KIND.
- H. Con. Res. 172: Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. REICHERT, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
- H. Con. Res. 173: Ms. DELAURO.
- H. Con. Res. 197: Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. WAXMAN, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado.
- H. Con. Res. 207: Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.
- H. Con. Res. 222: Mr. HOLT.
- H. Con. Res. 278: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER and Mr. LEACH.
- H. Con. Res. 289: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. FORD.
- H. Con. Res. 302: Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. PENCE, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. FORD, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. HALL, Mr. WAMP, Mr. ADERHOLT, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
- H. Con. Res. 304: Mr. SIMMONS.
- H. Res. 97: Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. MCINTYRE, and Mr. WICKER.
- H. Res. 196: Mr. FARR, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. MEEHAN, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr.

TAYLOR of Mississippi, Mr. BERRY, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. HERSETH, and Mr. ETHERIDGE.
 H. Res. 223: Mr. ROTHMAN.
 H. Res. 367: Mr. ROTHMAN.
 H. Res. 456: Mr. STARK and Mr. CONYERS.
 H. Res. 471: Mr. LYNCH.
 H. Res. 489: Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. WYNN, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. HONDA, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. SHAW, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mr. EVANS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. ANDREWS.
 H. Res. 499: Mr. ISSA and Mr. BILIRAKIS.
 H. Res. 507: Mr. WAMP.
 H. Res. 517: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. EVANS, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. OWENS, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. KIND, Mr. ANDREWS, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, Ms. DELAURO, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
 H. Res. 526: Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. FILNER, Mr. HOLT, and Mr. LATOURETTE.
 H. Res. 535: Mr. HOLT.
 H. Res. 561: Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. MCKINNEY, Ms. BERKLEY, and Mr. FEENEY.
 H. Res. 574: Ms. HARMAN, Ms. WATSON, Mr. BACA, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. DICKS.
 H. Res. 575: Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. HERGER, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. WEINER, Mr. BONNER, Mr. POMBO, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, Mr. ANDREWS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. BEAN, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. GRAVES, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. FERGUSON, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. DENT, Mr. CHABOT, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CANNON, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. NUSSLE, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. WELLER, Mr. PENCE, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. KIRK, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. BARROW, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. REYNOLDS, and Mr. SHAW.
 H. Res. 578: Mr. MOORE of Kansas.