

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND
SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, today this House will consider the Homeland Security Appropriations bill, a bill I support for funding the safety of our communities and the security of our country.

While I am proud this Congress is putting real dollars behind homeland security preparedness programs, it is not enough for us to simply write a check. We must play a more active role. We must engage, discuss, and oversee how that check is being spent.

To that end I am working on legislation to authorize in law within the Department the programs most needed back home: the grants for all-hazards emergency planning, supplies needed to carry out those plans, medical and search and rescue support, and antiterrorism and urban area security grants. These grant programs deserve our careful attention, not just simply a brief line in our budget.

We all agree that we need to refocus on all-hazards emergency preparedness. I look forward to working with my colleagues to authorize these programs so that our first responders can depend on us.

ABC NEWS REPORT REGARDING
THE HON. DENNIS HASTERT,
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

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

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, as a journalism student at the University of Alabama in the late 1970s and early 1980s, I was a member of Sigma Delta Chi, the Society of Professional Journalists. Sigma Delta Chi is the gold standard upon which the journalism profession is based. Among other ideals, Sigma Delta Chi, in its mission statement, encourages excellence among journalists and the need to stimulate high standards and ethical behavior in the practice of journalism.

Sadly, Madam Speaker, ABC News, both last night and again this morning, is guilty of throwing high standards and ethical behavior out the window. Their report that our Speaker, DENNY HASTERT of Illinois, is being investigated by the Justice Department lacks one essential element to a good news story: the facts. Even after the Justice Department issued a 10-word statement that said "Speaker HASTERT is not under investigation by the Justice Department," ABC refuses to retract this story. Instead, they cite an unnamed source in the Justice Department as the only evidence they need to throw trash into the mainstream.

Freedom of the press is a precious liberty. It should never be taken for

granted, nor, my friends, should it be trampled on by people who stand behind this ideal instead of standing on the bedrock principle of getting the facts right and reporting the truth.

DRILLING IN THE ALASKA
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, in the Book of Genesis, Esau, hungry and believing he was about to die, sold his birthright to Jacob for a pot of red stew. The Alaska National Wildlife Refuge is the birthright of the Gwich'in Tribe as well as a national treasure of natural beauty.

Are we, like Esau, about to sell our birthright to corporations for a mess of oily pottage? Are we ready to despoil our natural heritage in search of liquid fool's gold?

It is time for new thinking. Instead of the oil companies taking over ANWR for drilling, we ought to be talking about taking over the oil companies. They have gouged the American people. They control our politics. They have ignored the growing global environmental crisis. They have defeated alternative energies. The lust for oil has put us on a path toward war.

It is time for new thinking. We should be talking about a windfall profits tax, breaking up the oil monopolies, or even taking over the oil companies, not sacrificing ANWR. Esau thought his birthright didn't mean much. Will we, like Esau, come to regret that we never claimed our right to control over our natural resources, our own environment, our own Nation?

IN SUPPORT OF THE SPEAKER OF
THE HOUSE, THE HON. DENNIS
HASTERT

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

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of our Speaker, DENNY HASTERT, a gentleman whom I wholeheartedly trust and believe that he is one of the most ethical stand-up people I have ever met in my life. And most of us know that around here, and that is why a story about his being investigated is so unbelievable that it should not run.

Now, in Washington when a Speaker has criticized an action of the Justice Department on a constitutional ground, I guess we should not be surprised that there is retaliation from those that have been criticized. But let us realize what that is: retaliation.

Now, what frustrates me even more or frightens me even more than retaliation by an executive agency like this is the fact that a news station so desirous of bringing down Washington, DC and the representatives here would run a

false story about an investigation on the Speaker when the Justice Department said there is no investigation. This noncredible journalism, I think, degrades freedom of speech and the reputation of journalists.

HONORING FORMER SENATOR
LLOYD BENTSEN AND OUR VET-
ERANS

(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. Madam Speaker, first, I would like to take just a moment to acknowledge the passing of Senator Lloyd Bentsen, the former vice presidential candidate and as well, the former Secretary of the Treasury and a dear beloved friend of this institution. To his wife and his family, I offer my deepest reflection of his leadership, his service to this country as a World War II veteran. We will always remember him and for a moment I will be silent in his honor.

On another matter in keeping with the spirit of acknowledging our veterans, I rise today to express enormous concern as we honor those fallen in battle. Yet we must remember those who are here, injured, harmed, traumatized by wars like Vietnam, Iraq, and others. It is shameful that we have found that in this body we have depleted the TRICARE system and, for one, we have forgotten the military families and we are constantly taking moneys away from the veterans hospital and veterans' health care. And I guess the ultimate concern as I go home to interact with my community and my veterans is the stealing of records of our veterans. The identity theft that has put them in such jeopardy.

My office will be open to any veteran who has a concern, and we will be standing with the families to protect their identity, and that identity theft against our Nation's veterans will be investigated. Shame. Shame. Shame. In their time of honor we owe the loved ones of the fallen soldiers our debt of gratitude; and we owe our veterans and their families our continued support.

AMERICAN VOICE: ERNEST
FICHTNER

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, we have seen the protests of illegals who have colonized our Nation, parading through our streets, trying to intimidate America.

But they are not alone. Their shouts and demands are being met by a silent revolution. Countless native citizens and naturalized citizens are demanding to be heard as well. Their voice is being echoed across these lands.

Ernest Fichtner writes: "My heart goes out to the Mexican people who