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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. REHBERG).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 9. 2006.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DENNIS R. REHBERG 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:

''Love justice, you rulers of the earth. Set your mind upon the Lord, as is your duty. Seek the Lord with simplicity of heart.''

Given in the Book of Wisdom, You command those who govern to love, but to love as none of the others, to love above all else, to love justice. Such a love, always seeking the ways of justice, will put everything and every relationship in proper perspective.

Lord, You follow this command to those who govern with the directive on how to achieve and how to maintain this love of justice. ''Set your mind upon the Lord. Seek the Lord with your whole heart.''

For the rulers You call into being, Lord, You alone are the source, the guarantee and the regulator of justice. Because You are love, infinite and universal, You hold all peoples in the balance of justice. And You teach the ways of loving justly.

So in and through You, rulers of the earth can govern without ever failing their people. Because their hearts are fixed on You, transformative love can hold them and change everything, 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 Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GINGREY 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.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 7, 2006.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This letter is to inform you that I have sent a letter to Texas Governor Rick Perry dated June 7, 2006, informing him that I am resigning my House seat, the 22nd District of Texas, effective at the close of business on June 9, 2006.

Sincerely,

TOM DELAY,
Member of Congress.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 7, 2006.

Hon. RICK PERRY,
Governor of the State of Texas, Austin, Texas.

DEAR GOVERNOR PERRY: For more than twenty one years I have been honored to serve the people of the 22nd Congressional District of Texas in the great institution of the U.S. House of Representatives. I am deeply appreciative of the voters and constituents for the opportunity to serve.

During my career in public service, I am proud to have worked with an extraordinary number of dedicated people in the district, the state and the nation to ensure that America is set on a course toward achieving her brightest days.

I have recently made the decision to pursue new opportunities to engage in the important cultural and political battles of our day from outside the arena of the U.S. House of Representatives. As a result, I hereby wish to tender my resignation as Texas' 22nd Congressional District Representative effective at the close of business on June 9, 2006.

May God continue to bless you and the people of the Great State of Texas.

Sincerely,

TOM DELAY,
Member of Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five 1-minute speeches from each side.

REPUBLICANS ARE WORKING TO ADDRESS ENERGY NEEDS

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans are continuing to work to lower the cost of gasoline over the mid and long-term.

On Wednesday, House Republicans passed the Refinery Permit Process Schedule Act to help reduce America's

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dependence on foreign oil. Despite our country's increasing demand for fuel, the United States has not built an oil refinery in over 30 years. Total capacity of current refineries is roughly 17 million barrels per day, while demand is nearly 21 million barrels per day.

We cannot continue this trend of using more refined petroleum products than we produce. It is vital that we move away from our dependence on foreign sources to fill this gap. I am pleased that this week's long overdue legislation helps remove red tape preventing construction of new refineries.

House Republicans have also taken other actions to ban price gouging, promote conservation efforts, reduce the cost of energy, encourage the use of alternative power sources and improve our electricity transmission capability.

Republicans have also repeatedly supported legislation to open up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas exploration.

And the Democrats? They have voted ''no'' on nearly every measure that would offer relief to hardworking Americans.

THE CASE FOR LEAVING IRAQ

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Hussein is in jail. Zarqawi is dead. Now we should leave Iraq.

Zarqawi represented a small portion of a large and growing anti-American insurgency in Iraq, a sliver of the non-Baathist insurgency while Baathists make up a majority of armed insurgents. So his killing is unlikely to end the violence in Iraq.

Those who say we must prevail until victory are not themselves paying the price. Nearly 2,500 Americans dead, over 10,000 innocent Iraqis dead, our national honor tainted by a false case for war, Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo, Haditha. When will we understand that you can bomb the world to pieces, but you can't bomb the world to peace?

DESERT OUTLAW

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, this morning, freedom has found a victory. Like the days of the Old West, an outlaw has been eliminated and we can take down the wanted posters.

We weren't looking for a bank robber, a railroad bandit or even a horse thief. We were tracking a terrorist, a war criminal. High-tech helped find his hideout.

Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, militant mastermind who planned and ordered hundreds of bombings, kidnappings and beheadings of Iraqis and Americans, is dead. The prince of the forces of evil, the most wanted man in the desert of destruction, died like the outlaw that he was. He wasn't hung at the courthouse square like the days of the Old West, but he was the recipient of a U.S. military air strike, a strike that all but wiped out his desert gang of bad men, cutthroats and outlaws.

But like the days of the Old West, there are more outlaws in hideouts in the hot hills of Iraq, and they, too, will be brought to a fitting end. Their reign of terror will be brought to justice.

Freedom must always fight to survive, but freedom will prevail when the desert dust settles.

And that's just the way it is.

VA MUST RESPOND APPROPRIATELY TO ID THEFT

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, this body and the American public should be outraged by the continuing reports of the theft of personal identification of America's finest, our veterans and our brave men and women who are serving in uniform today here at home and abroad.

As a result of the Department of Veterans Affairs incompetence, the well-being of millions of our military families has been compromised today.

Congress must act now to provide appropriate oversight. I have worked with my colleagues to demand accountability and full disclosure of the VA. I support my friend Congressman SALAZAR's legislation to provide veterans credit monitoring services. I have joined with those who demand that not one penny of the funding to pay for the VA's debacle be diverted from veterans health care or other sorely needed services.

The House must demand more of the Veterans Administration than its unacceptable response of hand-wringing and wrist-slapping. We owe our veterans and our active military personnel nothing less than to respond appropriately.

FUND THE BYRNE-JAG GRANTS

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

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, at a time when 80 percent or more of the meth in this country is pouring in from international superlabs like those in Mexico, the Federal Government has a duty to help local law enforcement to keep this poison off our streets. That is why I cannot understand why some, including the administration, would propose to eliminate the Byrne-JAG program.

For those of us that represent highly rural and exurban districts, these vital grants and the police officers that they support are critical to efforts to keep drugs out of our communities and away from our children.

Last year, the Byrne-JAG program took a significant hit, despite our best efforts. The effect was predictable. Many States had to cut or eliminate their drug task force.

We cannot afford these cuts again. We must fund the Byrne-JAG program at no less than $900 million in FY 07.

QUESTIONING THE STRENGTH OF THE ECONOMY

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleagues like to say the economy is ''robust.'' But for middle-class families it's the best of times, it's the worst of times. While the gross domestic product increases, Americans are drowning in a sea of debt in this wageless recovery.

New data released by the Federal Reserve today indicated that household debt grew at a faster rate in the first quarter of this year than in the previous quarter. Why is it increasing? Because middle-class families are taking on more debt just to make ends meet.

Wages in 2006 were actually lower than they were in November of 2001 when the recovery began. Monthly job growth is a measly 0.4 percent since March 2001, the weakest of any business cycle since World War II. At the same time, the cost for gasoline is up, tuition is up 38 percent, health care premiums have increased 73 percent.

What is the end result? America has a negative savings rate.

Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleagues like to say the economy is booming, and that is certainly true for the credit card companies. But for middle-class families, these are hardly the best of times.

It is time for a change. It is time for a new direction.

AL-ZARQAWI IS DEAD

(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 congratulate our United States military for eliminating a ruthless and brutal terrorist in Iraq.

Late Wednesday night, it was announced that Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, al Qaeda's leader in Iraq, had been killed in an air raid. This is a tremendous victory in our war on terrorism and a tremendous day for the Iraqi people. In fact, the air strike resulted from tips given to Iraqi Security Forces by residents in Diyala.

Mr. Speaker, al-Zarqawi was responsible for an untold number of bombings and kidnappings. He is even believed to have personally beheaded two American hostages. His death lets our enemies know we will not bow to their ruthless tactics.

America, our allies and the Iraqi people are committed to the triumph of liberty over terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, our military is doing an outstanding job protecting our Nation from those who wish us harm. I ask that you join me in thanking our servicemen and women for their selfless courage and congratulate them on their most recent victory, the elimination of the brutal terrorist leader, al-Zarqawi.

□ 0915

REPUBLICAN HYPOCRISY

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

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, some of the things that happen in this place are enough to give hypocrisy a bad name. Example: I got a letter just 3 days ago from about 30 Republican Members of the House demanding that we add funding back for the Corporation For Public Broadcasting.

All but one of those Republican Members voted for a budget resolution that makes it impossible for us to do what they ask us to do in that letter. That is what I call posing for political holy pictures in the most cynical way.

Mr. Speaker, the second thing I would say is for any Member to come to the floor and ask that we fully fund programs like the Byrne Grant or any other grant, I would simply say this: Those who voted against the budget resolution have a perfect right to do that. Those who voted for the budget resolution need to simply look in the mirror to see why we do not have the money to do what they have just come to the floor and asked us to do.

HOUSE DEMOCRATS FORECAST ECONOMIC DOOM AND GLOOM

(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. Mr. Speaker, I continue to be amazed that House Democrats always manage to find doom and gloom in the face of success on the battlefield and at home. Last week, the Department of Labor announced that over 75,000 Americans had achieved jobs, created in May, and that the unemployment rate dropped to 4.6 percent.

Mr. Speaker, while most people would celebrate this economic growth, Minority Leader PELOSI actually said this was proof that the Bush economic policies continue to go in the wrong direction. Can she seriously believe that over 33 consecutive months of economic growth, and the creation of 5.2 million American jobs hurts our country?

Additionally, PELOSI promised that House Democrats have a plan to take America in a new direction. After witnessing 181 House Democrats vote against tax reductions, I am confident they will rely upon their old same tax-and-spend strategies to chart their course.

American voters recognize that Democrats impose higher taxes and have demonstrated their trust in Republican economic policies this week by electing Republican BRIAN BILBRAY to Congress.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KOLBE. 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 further consideration of H.R. 5522, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

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

There was no objection.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 851 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 5522.

□ 0918

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5522) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes, with Mr. THORNBERRY in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Thursday, June 8, 2006, the amendment by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) had been disposed of and the bill had been read through page 14, line 3.

Pursuant to the order of House of that day, no further amendment to the bill may be offered except those specified in the previous order of the House of that day, which is at the desk.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

TRANSITION INITIATIVES

For necessary expenses for international disaster rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance pursuant to section 491 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, $40,000,000, to remain available until expended, to support transition to democracy and to long-term development of countries in crisis: *Provided*, That such support may include assistance to develop, strengthen, or preserve democratic institutions and processes, revitalize basic infrastructure, and foster the peaceful resolution of conflict: *Provided further*, That the United States Agency for International Development shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations at least 5 days prior to beginning a new program of assistance: *Provided further*, That if the President determines that it is important to the national interests of the United States to provide transition assistance in excess of the amount appropriated under this heading, up to $15,000,000 of the funds appropriated by this Act to carry out the provisions of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 may be used for purposes of this heading and under the authorities applicable to funds appropriated under this heading: *Provided further*, That funds made available pursuant to the previous proviso shall be made available subject to prior consultation with the Committees on Appropriations.

DEVELOPMENT CREDIT AUTHORITY

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the cost of direct loans and loan guarantees provided by the United States Agency for International Development, as authorized by sections 256 and 635 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, up to $21,000,000 may be derived by transfer from funds appropriated by this Act to carry out part I of such Act and under the heading ''Assistance for Eastern Europe and the Baltic States'': *Provided*, That such funds shall be made available only for micro and small enterprise programs, urban programs, and other programs which further the purposes of part I of the Act: *Provided further*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such direct and guaranteed loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended: *Provided further*, That funds made available by this paragraph may be used for the cost of modifying any such guaranteed loans under this Act or prior Acts, and funds used for such costs shall be subject to the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That the provisions of section 107A(d) (relating to general provisions applicable to the Development Credit Authority) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as contained in section 306 of H.R. 1486 as reported by the House Committee on International Relations on May 9, 1997, shall be applicable to direct loans and loan guarantees provided under this heading: *Provided further*, That these funds are available to subsidize total loan principal, any portion of which is to be guaranteed, of up to $700,000,000.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out credit programs administered by the United States Agency for International Development, $8,400,000, which may be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for Operating Expenses of the United States Agency for International Development: *Provided*, That funds made available under this heading shall remain available until September 30, 2009.

PAYMENT TO THE FOREIGN SERVICE RETIREMENT AND DISABILITY FUND

For payment to the ''Foreign Service Retirement and Disability Fund'', as authorized by the Foreign Service Act of 1980, $38,700,000.

OPERATING EXPENSES OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

For necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of section 667 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, $646,000,000, of which up to $25,000,000 may remain available until September 30, 2008: *Provided*, That none of the funds appropriated under this heading and under the heading ''Capital Investment Fund'' may be made available to finance the construction (including architect and engineering services), purchase, or long-term lease of offices for use by the United States Agency for International Development, unless the Administrator has identified such proposed construction (including architect and engineering services), purchase, or long-

term lease of offices in a report submitted to the Committees on Appropriations at least 15 days prior to the obligation of these funds for such purposes: *Provided further*, That the previous proviso shall not apply where the total cost of construction (including architect and engineering services), purchase, or long-term lease of offices does not exceed $1,000,000: *Provided further*, That contracts or agreements entered into with funds appropriated under this heading may entail commitments for the expenditure of such funds through fiscal year 2008: *Provided further*, That none of the funds in this Act may be used to open a new overseas mission of the United States Agency for International Development without the prior written notification to the Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That the authority of sections 610 and 109 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 may be exercised by the Secretary of State to transfer funds appropriated to carry out chapter 1 of part I of such Act to ''Operating Expenses of the United States Agency for International Development'' in accordance with the provisions of those sections: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated by this Act or any prior Act making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, or related programs may be used by the United States Agency for International Development for the rent of buildings and space in buildings in the United States pursuant to the authority of section 636(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961: *Provided further*, That the previous proviso shall not apply to any lease, agreement, or other instrument executed for the purpose of maintaining United States Agency for International Development continuity of operations and to the cost of terminating the domestic lease executed on September 30, 2005.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUND OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

For necessary expenses for overseas construction and related costs, and for the procurement and enhancement of information technology and related capital investments, pursuant to section 667 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, $105,300,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That this amount is in addition to funds otherwise available for such purposes: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated under this heading shall be available for obligation only pursuant to the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, not to exceed $89,000,000 may be made available for the purposes of implementing the Capital Security Cost Sharing Program.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of section 667 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, $39,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008, which sum shall be available for the Office of the Inspector General of the United States Agency for International Development.

OTHER BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of chapter 4 of part II, $2,650,740,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008: *Provided*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, not less than $120,000,000 shall be available only for Israel, which sum shall be available on a grant basis as a cash transfer and shall be disbursed within 30 days of the enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That not less than $455,000,000 shall be available only for Egypt, which sum shall be provided on a grant basis, and of which sum cash transfer assistance shall be provided with the understanding that Egypt will undertake significant economic and political reforms which are additional to those which were undertaken in previous fiscal years: *Provided further*, That with respect to the provision of assistance for Egypt for democracy and governance activities, the organizations implementing such assistance and the specific nature of that assistance shall not be subject to the prior approval by the Government of Egypt: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading for assistance for Egypt, not less than $135,000,000 shall be made available for project assistance, of which not less than $50,000,000 shall be made available for democracy, human rights and governance programs and not less than $50,000,000 shall be used for education programs: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading for assistance for Egypt for economic reform activities, $200,000,000 shall be withheld from obligation until the Secretary of State determines and reports to the Committees on Appropriations that Egypt has met the calendar year 2005 benchmarks accompanying the ''Financial Sector Reform Memorandum of Understanding'' dated March 20, 2005: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, $135,000,000 is available only to carry out programs in Colombia and may be transferred to ''Development Assistance'' to continue programs administered by the United States Agency for International Development: *Provided further*, That $15,000,000 of the funds appropriated under this heading should be made available for Cyprus to be used only for scholarships, administrative support of the scholarship program, bicommunal projects, and measures aimed at reunification of the island and designed to reduce tensions and promote peace and cooperation between the two communities on Cyprus: *Provided further*, That in exercising the authority to provide cash transfer assistance for Israel, the President shall ensure that the level of such assistance does not cause an adverse impact on the total level of nonmilitary exports from the United States to such country and that Israel enters into a side letter agreement in an amount proportional to the fiscal year 1999 agreement: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, not less than $250,500,000 should be made available only for assistance for Jordan: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated under this heading may be made available for assistance for the West Bank and Gaza: *Provided further*, That $35,500,000 of the funds appropriated under this heading shall be made available for assistance for Lebanon, of which not less than $6,000,000 should be made available for scholarships and direct support of American educational institutions in Lebanon: *Provided further*, That not more than $225,000,000 of the funds made available for assistance for Afghanistan under this heading may be obligated for such assistance until the Secretary of State certifies to the Committees on Appropriations that the Government of Afghanistan at both the national and local level is cooperating fully with United States funded poppy eradication and interdiction efforts in Afghanistan: *Provided further*, That such report shall include an analysis of the steps being taken by the Government of Afghanistan, at the national and local level, to cooperate fully with United States funded poppy eradication and interdiction efforts in Afghanistan: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading that are available for assistance for the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, up to $1,000,000 may be available for administrative expenses of the United States Agency for International Development: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated under this heading may be made available for programs and activities for the Central Highlands of Vietnam: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated under this heading that are made available for a Middle East Financing Facility, Middle East Enterprise Fund, or any other similar entity in the Middle East shall be subject to the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations.

Mr. KOLBE (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the remainder of the bill through page 23, line 7 be considered as read, printed in the RECORD, and open to amendment at any point.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR IRELAND

For necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of chapter 4 of part II of teh Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, $10,800,000, which shall be available for the United States contribution to the International Fund for Ireland and shall be made available in accordance with the provisions of the Anglo-Irish Agreement Support Act of 1986 (Public Law 99–415): *Provided*, That such amount shall be expended at the minimum rate necessary to make timely payment for projects and activities: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading shall remain available until September 30, 2008.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MS. GINNY BROWN-WAITE OF FLORIDA

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 2 offered by Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida:

Page 23, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert the following: ''(reduced to $0)''.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman reserves a point of order against the amendment.

Pursuant to the order of the House of June 8, 2006, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Chairman, Ronald Reagan had a wonderful statement, and that was, if you want to live forever become a Government program because they never, ever go away.

When the British and Iraq governments established the International Fund for Ireland in 1986, as part of the Anglo-Irish Accord, Ireland's per capita gross domestic product was relatively low. It certainly was a very good program.

Since then, Ireland has grown at a pace more rapid even than ours, and is

known as the Celtic Tiger. Today, Ireland's GDP is on par with the United States, and its unemployment rate is 4.7 percent. Yet we still continue want to appropriate $10 million for the International Fund for Ireland.

In a decade of increasing deficits, the United States must stop sending money to programs that are not necessary. Actually, most recently they used some of our money for the Chef Development Program and the construction of a 3,000 foot cafe, and also to help fund the World Toilet Summit. So obviously we have got to stop flushing away some of this money.

I have spoken to several individuals who were very, very involved in establishing this fund and feel very, very strongly about the fund. And I have assurances from the Representative from New York (Mr. WALSH) along with several others that the funding for this is going to be reduced in further appropriations.

I had thought that one of them would be here for a colloquy. And I had told the great Mr. WALSH from New York, as well as others, that I would withdraw this amendment with the assurance that future funding would be reduced and eliminated over the next few years.

Mr. Chairman, I ask for unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Chairman, I object for the purposes of claiming the time in opposition.

The CHAIRMAN. Objection is heard. The gentlewoman reserves the balance of her time.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I withdraw my point of order on the amendment and I would allow Mr. CROWLEY to claim the time in opposition.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman withdraws his reservation of a point of order.

The gentleman from New York claims the time in opposition to the amendment and is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Chairman, I thank my friend from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE) for withdrawing the point and allowing for this discussion.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate that gentlewoman from Florida has the right to bring this amendment to the floor. But what I am concerned about is possibly, and I do not know enough about the gentlewoman's involvement in the peace process as it pertains to Northern Ireland.

And, yes, it is quite true that the Republic of Ireland is having an incredibly strong economy and it is the Celtic Tiger, it is doing remarkably well. But this is not about the south of Ireland, or the Republic of Ireland, this is about the Northern Irish peace process.

As you so point out, created in 1986, under the Irish Peace Agreement, the IFI has been a fund that has helped develop businesses within Northern Ireland and attract business to Northern Ireland that is supported by both Unionists and Nationalists in the north of Ireland.

Because Ireland is doing well, it does not mean that all parts of Ireland are doing well. In particular, in those areas where the communities are interfaced, amongst the Protestant and Catholics, Nationalists and Unionists communities where there is still tremendous strife, a lack of opportunity for growth, for young people within the north of Ireland.

And symbolically this is America's involvement in this peace process, one of the most successful peace processes in modern history. This is still an ongoing process, though. The government has not devolved back to the north of Ireland. People are not involved in a real Democratic society there.

To withdrew this money with the understanding that this money is in a phase-out program right now, I think is unfair. And to point to one particular aspect of this as the reason or the cause to do that, the World Toilet Summit, well, quite frankly, I think are people who may be interested in purchasing toilets, the creation of toilets.

If that is something that is drawing tourism and is drawing industry to the north of Ireland, who are we to criticize? So be it. Using it as a catch phrase, I think is unfortunate, because it trivializes what has been taking place over the last decade in both Republican and Democratic administrations, and that is the advancement of opportunities for peace in the north of Ireland.

So with that, I am happy that the gentlewoman is going to withdraw this amendment. I hope that she learns more about even the toilet summit. I am not so sure she is all that familiar with that. I know I am not. Nor do I have the authority to speak on it.

But I am glad that she is going to withdraw this, and I hope in the future that we have the opportunity for more discussion prior to such amendments coming to the floor.

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

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I certainly thank the gentleman from New York for this opportunity to exchange views. I would encourage him to look into the World Toilet Summit.

Americans are tired of money being flushing down the toilet. I am delighted that the program is going to be phased out, and also very happy that the economy of Ireland has improved. There is no better way to have peace than to have prosperity.

The fact that general economy of Ireland has improved certainly is a very great benefit to that part of the world. Mr. Chairman, I withdrew this with the information that the program is being phased out in future years.

Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Chairman, I object.

The CHAIRMAN. Objection is heard.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield the gentleman from Massachusetts the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 30 seconds.

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from New York for yielding me time.

Mr. Chairman, this discussion is ill-considered and ill-advised. At a time when America foreign policy is under question everywhere across the globe, this is a remarkable achievement for our State Department and for Members of Congress.

In fact, the American role has been indefensible in bringing about a new day. This has had brought support cross Congress and across America, reminding ourselves that the European Union participates, Australia participates, and sectarian murders have almost been gone. We are down to a couple of small issues.

But the Good Friday Agreement is the way forward, and America and Members of this Congress can take great satisfaction in this achievement. It has worked extraordinarily well.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I ask for unanimous consent to withdraw this amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the right to object.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from New Jersey reserves the right to object.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chairman, will the gentlewoman from Florida yield?

The CHAIRMAN. The gentlewoman from Florida withdraws her unanimous consent request, and is recognized.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chairman, let me just say, I appreciate the gentlewoman's willingness to withdraw this amendment.

I, like many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, have worked for years going back to the creation of the International Fund for Ireland in the 1980s on providing funding and direction for the IFI. I have visited its projects and witnessed the cross community cooperation. As a direct result of the IFI and U.S. support for the fund, we have seen tremendous job creation. I would agree, in the Republic of Ireland there has been a significant growth, economic recovery, particularly in the Dublin area, not necessarily in western Ireland, but certainly in the Dublin area.

But in Northern Ireland, in Belfast, and in the counties in the north, there remains serious problems, problems that fuel social unrest. One of the things that I find so encouraging is that, we have worked well with the leaders of the IFI. They are on a glide path to ending foreign support for this program. But they are doing so in a way that encourages police corporation and sustains good programs. They did it frankly directly at our request.

□ 0930

The remaining problem is that the Catholics and the Protestants still haven't collaborated enough where prejudices have broken down. There are 5,700 projects that have been funded under the IFI, and I am glad the gentlewoman is withdrawing her amendment.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak on behalf of the International Fund for Ireland (IFI) and I am pleased that the gentlelady from Florida has withdrawn the amendment to eliminate it's funding.

The International Fund for Ireland is widely recognized for creating comprehensive programs that have helped promote peace and reconciliation in the north of Ireland and the border counties in the Republic of Ireland.

Twenty years ago the U.S. Congress, with overwhelming bi-partisan support, passed the Anglo-Irish Support Act of 1986. This landmark legislation created the means for the U.S. to contribute to the IFI—a Fund established by the Irish and British governments to promote economic development and peace in Northern Ireland. The Fund receives support from the United States, EU, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. it's been a most effective way for the international community to help end the terrible war raging in Northern Ireland.

Four U.S. Presidents and 10 Congresses have endorsed the efforts of the IFI. At the joint hearing I held this March—the eleventh I have convened on the peace process in Northern Ireland—U.S. Special Envoy for Northern Ireland Ambassador Mitchell Reiss strongly praised the outstanding work being done by the IFI, and urged continued support for it.

Since the inception of the IFI, the United States has contributed nearly $460 million and the results have been remarkable. As of 2004, the IFI has created nearly 38,000 direct jobs, and 18,000 indirect ones. In the 1990s Northern Ireland's GDP increased 53 percent, employment increased 17 percent and unemployment fell by 40 percent. Eighty percent of these investments have been in disadvantaged areas. The IFI has contributed to over 5,700 projects in Northern Ireland and the bordering counties of the Republic of Ireland and has provided 17,000 young people from cross-community areas with jobs. This is a tangible success in our struggle to end the conditions of despair and hopelessness which are the breeding grounds for terrorism.

Earlier in this Congress, and also in the 108th Congress, the House passed my legislation (H.R. 2601 and H.R. 1208 respectively) reauthorizing the program at more than $20 million and urging the Fund to shift its focus from primarily economic programs to those that have a greater emphasis on peace and reconciliation.

I am pleased to say, the Fund has responded. This year they released a Strategic Framework of Action 2006–2010 which strongly emphasizes cross community and reconciliation programs. The strategic plan also puts in place an exit strategy in which the Fund will wind down its reliance on international support. With this strategic plan in place, we cannot falter on our commitment. We are near to lasting peace in Ireland, but this is no time to falter in our efforts or rest on our laurels.

Much remains to be done as Irish Foreign Minister Dermot Ahem has said, "The next five years will be vital to ensure a lasting legacy for the Fund and for 25 years of international engagement with the peace process. . . . Once again the United States has demonstrated the importance of its relationship with Ireland and of our efforts to bring the peace process to a conclusion." Among the most important work it is doing now, in response to urgent requests from this Congress, are programs that enhance relations between the police and the communities they serve and promote human rights training for police. Without our continued funding, it will be near impossible for the IFI to do this vital work for lasting peace and finish the work it has begun.

As IFI Chairman Rooney has stated, "(The Appropriation Committee's) recommendation is a real vote of confidence in the young people and communities which benefit from the programs of the IFI. These programs address the root causes of conflict in our society: economic and social disadvantage, sectarianism and marginalisation. With a contribution of this level (i.e., $10.8 million) we can continue to target the areas of greatest need and ensure the goals we set ourselves. . . . The goodwill and support of the American people will be critical to our efforts. I would like to thank the many friends of Ireland in Congress for their continued generosity."

Now is not the time for the United States to pull the plug on our support for this successful peace and reconciliation program; such a move would have a dramatic impact on programs that emphasize reconciliation among school children and young adults. The IFI has developed its own exist strategy enabling a thoughtful transition to self-reliant cross-community and social advancement. It is a good strategy and one that deserves our support until the end.

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Chairman, I oppose this amendment which would eliminate funding for the IFI.

The violence in Ireland has devastated families and too many men, women and children have lost their lives.

The road to peace has been a long one with many bumps in that road.

But, Mr. Chairman, we are making progress.

By all indications we are on the verge of peace, which is nice for a change.

Now is not the time to cut this important funding, as it has been critical in the peace efforts and it is still needed particularly in places like Belfast.

Cutting U.S. funding now would send a message that the IFI is not internationally supported.

It is important that the people in Ireland who are working toward peace know that they have the support of the United States in these efforts.

I understand that my colleague will offer and withdraw this amendment.

Having said that, I strongly oppose this amendment and will oppose any future similar efforts.

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to an amendment offered by Representative GINNY BROWN-WAITE to H.R. 5522, the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act. The proposed amendment would effectively cut $10.8 million in funding for the International Fund for Ireland from the Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill for FY 2007.

The Fund was created by the Irish and British governments 20 years ago to foster economic and social advancement and to encourage dialogue, contact, and reconciliation between unionists and nationalists throughout Ireland. The Fund appropriates its money to address the root causes of deprivation in the most vulnerable regions by using shared economic concerns as a platform for regeneration and cross-community activity.

If the Fund was dissolved, its pioneering work with children and youth throughout the North and border counties would end just as there is progress towards the implementation of the Good Friday Accords. A termination of U.S. funding would undermine the perception of the IFI as an internationally supported body and may impede its ability to secure funding elsewhere.

The IFI has been integral in the progress towards peace and prosperity throughout Ireland, acting in good faith to employ successful measures to alleviate areas of disadvantage. It is with our help that the IFI can continue to achieve these praiseworthy goals in the future.

I hope my colleagues join me in opposition to this amendment so that together, we can move towards peace and prosperity for all of Ireland.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Again, Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw this amendment with the proviso that future amounts for this program will be reduced. It is obviously a great success, and at this point we want to make sure Ronald Reagan's prediction wasn't right and that future funding will be reduced.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the amendment is withdrawn.

There was no objection.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

ASSISTANCE FOR EASTERN EUROPE AND THE BALTIC STATES

(a) For necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the Support for East European Democracy (SEED) Act of 1989, $227,900,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008, which shall be available, notwithstanding any other provision of law, for assistance and for related programs for Eastern Europe and the Baltic States.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise to strike the last word, and yield to my distinguished member of the subcommittee, Mr. FATTAH.

Mr. FATTAH. I want to thank the gentlewoman from New York, and I want to thank and congratulate the chairman. I wanted to submit for the RECORD letters from the Secretary General of the U.N., the Ambassador for the European Union, and from Prime Minister Tony Blair in support of a Safe Blood for Africa Initiative

that the chairman and the ranking woman from New York have agreed to insert into the report that will accompany this bill which has to do with an initiative to make healthier the blood supply throughout sub-Saharan Africa. It has the potential of saving millions of lives, and these letters illustrate international support for it. So for Secretary Kofi Annan and Tony Blair and the European Union, I want to submit these letters for the RECORD.

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL,
May 30, 2006.

Hon. CHAKA FATTAH,
Congressman, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN FATTAH, Thank you for your important efforts in support of improving the blood supply in Africa. The HIV/AIDS pandemic poses an unprecedented threat to human security and development in the continent. The epidemic demands an exceptional response and your Initiative on Safe Blood will play an invaluable role in benefiting the lives of millions of Africans.

I commend your leadership on this issue and look forward to hearing more about it in the weeks and months ahead.

Yours sincerely,

KOFI A. ANNAN.

EUROPEAN UNION, DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,
Washington, DC, May 15, 2006.

Hon. CHAKA FATTAH,
Member of Congress, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. FATTAH, I very much enjoyed the discussion we had on 9th March in your offices on various issues of common concern and in particular on how best to help Africa reach the Millennium Development Goals in the Health Sector. I consider that your Safe Blood Initiative is a very timely and important effort towards these goals, and I would be glad to support you in this.

The European Commission, as you know, is committed to working in partnership with the United States and the international community to reach the Millennium Development Goals, three of which relate directly or indirectly to health. In external action, our policy tackles the three infectious diseases related to poverty, namely, HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis.

The Commission's Action plan in this area emphasizes the need to strengthen country health systems and to support country led strategies. At global level, the Action Plan focuses on affordability, strengthening regulatory capacity, and the need to work in partnership. We support and work closely with other private partners such as the Global Initiative for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI).

We are partners with the United States in the fight against contagious diseases and participate in the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFHTM). To date, the Commission has pledged a total of € 522 million for the Fund, covering the period of 2001–2006 of which € 432 million have already been disbursed.

We see your Initiative to protect the safety of blood in Africa as closely related to the fight of contagious diseases. In fact, we advocate that blood safety should be an integral part of any national strategy for HIV/AIDS prevention, as well as a standard component of national health policies. We believe that blood safety should be addressed as part of efforts to strengthen the national health systems, and that specific action to reduce the risk of HIV transmission should include financing for strengthening systems for blood safety.

I trust that you will receive congressional support for your very crucial Initiative. It is my hope that this will raise awareness of the wider health system issues and that Africa—and the world as a whole—will be a safer place as a result.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN BRUTON
Ambassador.

THE PRIME MINISTER,
London, March 31, 2006.

DEAR MR. FATTAH, Thank you for your letter of 1 March about the Fattah initiative on Safe Blood.

During 2005, G8 leaders agreed to a set of commitments which should have a real impact on poverty in Africa and across the world. I believe it is vital to assist African countries to strengthen their health services—and this includes the provision of safe blood, integrated with comprehensive national HIV prevention strategies. We are committed to playing our part and have committed £1.5 billion over the next three years to tackling HIV and AIDS across the world.

The Department for International Development (DFID) takes the lead on this and other overseas development issues. I have asked the Secretary of State for International Development to ensure DFID officials follow up with you to discuss further and gain a better understanding of your initiative.

I wish you well with your efforts.

Yours sincerely,

TONY BLAIR.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the remainder of the bill through page 32, line 20 be considered as read, printed in the RECORD, and open to amendment at any point.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

The text of the remainder of the bill through page 32, line 20 is as follows:

(b) Funds appropriated under this heading shall be considered to be economic assistance under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 for purposes of making available the administrative authorities contained in that Act for the use of economic assistance.

(c) The provisions of section 529 of this Act shall apply to funds appropriated under this heading: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any provision of this or any other Act, including provisions in this subsection regarding the application of section 529 of this Act, local currencies generated by, or converted from, funds appropriated by this Act and by previous appropriations Acts and made available for the economic revitalization program in Bosnia may be used in Eastern Europe and the Baltic States to carry out the provisions of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the SEED Act.

(d) The President is authorized to withhold funds appropriated under this heading made available for economic revitalization programs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, if he determines and certifies to the Committees on Appropriations that the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina has not complied with article III of annex 1–A of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning the withdrawal of foreign forces, and that intelligence cooperation on training, investigations, and related activities between state sponsors of terrorism and terrorist organizations and Bosnian officials has not been terminated.

ASSISTANCE FOR THE INDEPENDENT STATES OF THE FORMER SOVIET UNION

(a) For necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of chapters 11 and 12 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the FREEDOM Support Act, for assistance for the Independent States of the former Soviet Union and for related programs, $371,280,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008: *Provided*, That the provisions of such chapters shall apply to funds appropriated by this paragraph: *Provided further*, That funds made available for the Southern Caucasus region may be used, notwithstanding any other provision of law, for confidence-building measures and other activities in furtherance of the peaceful resolution of the regional conflicts, especially those in the vicinity of Abkhazia and Nagorno-Karabagh: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated under this heading in this Act or prior Acts making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs, that are made available pursuant to the provisions of section 807 of Public Law 102–511 shall be subject to a 6 percent ceiling on administrative expenses.

(b) Of the funds appropriated under this heading, not less than $41,000,000 should be made available, in addition to funds otherwise available for such purposes, for assistance for child survival, environmental and reproductive health, and to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases, and for related activities.

(c)(1) Of the funds appropriated under this heading that are allocated for assistance for the Government of the Russian Federation, 60 percent shall be withheld from obligation until the President determines and certifies in writing to the Committees on Appropriations that the Government of the Russian Federation—

(A) has terminated implementation of arrangements to provide Iran with technical expertise, training, technology, or equipment necessary to develop a nuclear reactor, related nuclear research facilities or programs, or ballistic missile capability; and

(B) is providing full access to international non-government organizations providing humanitarian relief to refugees and internally displaced persons in Chechnya.

(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to—

(A) assistance to combat infectious diseases, child survival activities, or assistance for victims of trafficking in persons; and

(B) activities authorized under title V (Nonproliferation and Disarmament Programs and Activities) of the FREEDOM Support Act.

(d) Section 907 of the FREEDOM Support Act shall not apply to—

(1) activities to support democracy or assistance under title V of the FREEDOM Support Act and section 1424 of Public Law 104–201 or non-proliferation assistance;

(2) any assistance provided by the Trade and Development Agency under section 661 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961;

(3) any activity carried out by a member of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service while acting within his or her official capacity;

(4) any insurance, reinsurance, guarantee or other assistance provided by the Overseas Private Investment Corporation under title IV of chapter 2 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961;

(5) any financing provided under the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945; or

(6) humanitarian assistance.

TRADE CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of the Foreign Assistance Act of

1961 for the enhancement of trade capacity in foreign countries, $522,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008: *Provided*, That these funds shall be available to the Director of Trade Capacity Enhancement to be used only for enhancing trade capacity, most especially to assist a country in efforts to qualify for, implement and benefit from free trade agreements with the United States: *Provided further*, That in order to accomplish the purposes provided herein, funds appropriated under this heading may be transferred to and merged with funds appropriated by this Act under the headings ''Development Assistance'', ''Economic Support Fund'', ''Assistance for Eastern Europe and the Baltic States'', ''Assistance to Independent States of the Former Soviet Union'', and ''Andean Counterdrug Initiative'': *Provided further*, That any such transfers shall be subject to the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated under this heading are in addition to funds otherwise available for such purposes.

INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION

For necessary expenses to carry out the functions of the Inter-American Foundation in accordance with the provisions of section 401 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1969, $19,268,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008.

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

For necessary expenses to carry out title V of the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1980, Public Law 96–533, $22,726,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008: *Provided*, That funds made available to grantees may be invested pending expenditure for project purposes when authorized by the Board of Directors of the Foundation: *Provided further*, That interest earned shall be used only for the purposes for which the grant was made: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 505(a)(2) of the African Development Foundation Act, (1) in exceptional circumstances the Board of Directors of the Foundation may waive the $250,000 limitation contained in that section with respect to a project and (2) a project may exceed the limitation by up to $10,000 if the increase is due solely to foreign currency fluctuation: *Provided further*, That the Foundation shall provide a report to the Committees on Appropriations after each time such authority is exercised.

PEACE CORPS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of the Peace Corps Act (75 Stat. 612), including the purchase of not to exceed five passenger motor vehicles for administrative purposes for use outside of the United States, $324,587,000, to remain available until September 30, 2008: *Provided*, That none of the funds appropriated under this heading shall be used to pay for abortions: *Provided further*, That the Director may transfer to the Foreign Currency Fluctuations Account, as authorized by 22 U.S.C. 2515, an amount not to exceed $2,000,000: *Provided further*, That funds transferred pursuant to the previous proviso may not be derived from amounts made available for Peace Corps overseas operations.

MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION

For necessary expenses for the ''Millennium Challenge Corporation'', $2,000,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, up to $95,000,000 may be available for administrative expenses of the Millennium Challenge Corporation: *Provided further*, That up to 10 percent of the funds appropriated under this heading may be made available to carry out the purposes of section 616 of the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003 for candidate countries for fiscal year 2007: *Provided further*, That none of the funds available to carry out section 616 of such Act may be made available until the Chief Executive Officer of the Millennium Challenge Corporation provides a report to the Committees on Appropriations listing the candidate countries that will be receiving assistance under section 616 of such Act, the level of assistance proposed for each such country, a description of the proposed programs, projects and activities, and the implementing agency or agencies of the United States Government: *Provided further*, That section 605(e)(4) of the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003 shall apply to funds appropriated under this heading: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated under this heading may be made available for a Millennium Challenge Compact entered into pursuant to section 609 of the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003 only if such Compact obligates, or contains a commitment to obligate subject to the availability of funds and the mutual agreement of the parties to the Compact to proceed, the entire amount of the United States Government funding anticipated for the duration of the Compact.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

GLOBAL HIV/AIDS INITIATIVE

For necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 for the prevention, treatment, and control of, and research on, HIV/AIDS, including administrative expenses of the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator, $2,772,500,000, to remain available until expended, of which $244,500,000 shall be made available, notwithstanding any other provision of law, except for the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–25) for a United States contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and shall be expended at the minimum rate necessary to make timely payment for projects and activities: *Provided*, That up to 5 percent of the aggregate amount of funds made available to the Global Fund in fiscal year 2007 may be made available to the Office of the United States Global AIDS Coordinator for technical assistance related to the activities of the Global Fund.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

For necessary expenses to carry out section 481 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, $703,600,000, to remain available until September 30, 2009: *Provided*, That during fiscal year 2007, the Department of State may also use the authority of section 608 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, without regard to its restrictions, to receive excess property from an agency of the United States Government for the purpose of providing it to a foreign country under chapter 8 of part I of that Act subject to the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of State shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations not later than 45 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and prior to the initial obligation of funds appropriated under this heading, a report on the proposed uses of all funds under this heading on a country-by-country basis for each proposed program, project, or activity: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, not less than $16,250,000 shall be made available for training programs and activities of the International Law Enforcement Academies: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, $26,100,000 shall be made available to carry out programs in Colombia: *Provided further*, That $10,000,000 of the funds appropriated under this heading shall be made available for demand reduction programs: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, not more than $33,484,000 may be available for administrative expenses.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. HOOLEY

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment offered by Ms. HOOLEY:

Page 32, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert the following: ''(increased by $10,000,000) (reduced by $10,000,000)''.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of June 8, 2006, the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOOLEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon.

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, communities across this country are facing an increasing problem with methamphetamine, a drug that is cheap, easy to make, and gives addicts an intense longlasting high, but one that destroys their brains, causes them to abuse and neglect their children, and can lead to paranoid acts of violence. And while we have taken action to cut off pseudoephedrine sales to the mom and pop meth labs, the vast majority of meth consumed in this country is made in Mexico and smuggled into the U.S. by Mexican drug cartels. My amendment would help address this issue by designating $10 million in the international narcotics control and law enforcement for counter-methamphetamine efforts in Mexico.

International narcotics control and law enforcement is funded in this bill at $703 million, a $231 million increase over last year's funding. While the overall account is adequately funded within this program, the committee report designates only $40 million for Mexico, with the money being spread among a number of narcotic control and law enforcement efforts, including strengthening the northern border infrastructure and fighting drug and weapons smuggling.

The amendment simply increases funding for international narcotics control and law enforcement by $10 million and immediately reduces it again. The intent of the amendment is to redirect these funds to the designation for Mexico, devoting the $10 million specifically toward the counter of methamphetamine efforts. The money should not come from any other already designated account within international narcotics and law enforcement, but from those funds which have not yet been allocated either through the legislative language or committee report. We must provide the State Department with additional resources so

they can better stem the rising influx of methamphetamines produced by these Mexican drug cartels. My amendment would ensure that the State Department devotes its resources specifically toward stemming the rising influx of methamphetamine produced by these Mexican drug cartels.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. HOOLEY. I yield to the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. KOLBE. The gentlewoman from Oregon has described this precisely. We all recognize that methamphetamine is a terrible problem. I represent a border district in a border State; we have a terrible problem with that with Mexico. The gentlewoman has described this amendment accurately, in that while it increases and decreases the same time, it does not change the structure of any of the accounts or any of the programs; and, therefore, I am willing to accept this amendment.

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOOLEY).

The amendment was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

ANDEAN COUNTERDRUG INITIATIVE

For necessary expenses to carry out section 481 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to support counterdrug activities in the Andean region of South America, $506,850,000, to remain available until September 30, 2009: *Provided*, That in fiscal year 2007, funds available to the Department of State for assistance to the Government of Colombia shall be available to support a unified campaign against narcotics trafficking, against activities by organizations designated as terrorist organizations such as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the National Liberation Army (ELN), and the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC), and to take actions to protect human health and welfare in emergency circumstances, including undertaking rescue operations: *Provided further*, That this authority shall cease to be effective if the Secretary of State has credible evidence that the Colombian Armed Forces are not conducting vigorous operations to restore government authority and respect for human rights in areas under the effective control of paramilitary and guerrilla organizations: *Provided further*, That the President shall ensure that if any helicopter procured with funds under this heading is used to aid or abet the operations of any illegal self-defense group or illegal security cooperative, such helicopter shall be immediately returned to the United States: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations not later than 45 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and prior to the initial obligation of funds appropriated under this heading, a report on the proposed uses of all funds under this heading on a country-by-country basis for each proposed program, project, or activity: *Provided further*, That funds made available in this Act for demobilization/reintegration of members of foreign terrorist organizations in Colombia shall be subject to prior consultation with, and the regular notification procedures of, the Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That section 482(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 shall not apply to funds appropriated under this heading: *Provided further*, That assistance provided with funds appropriated under this heading that is made available notwithstanding section 482(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 shall be made available subject to the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading that are available for alternative development/institution building, not less than $85,400,000 shall be apportioned directly to the United States Agency for International Development: *Provided further*, That with respect to funds apportioned to the United States Agency for International Development under the previous proviso, the responsibility for policy decisions for the use of such funds, including what activities will be funded and the amount of funds that will be provided for each of those activities, shall be the responsibility of the Director of Foreign Assistance in consultation with the Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs: *Provided further*, That no United States Armed Forces personnel or United States civilian contractor employed by the United States will participate in any combat operation in connection with assistance made available by this Act for Colombia: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated under this heading that are made available for assistance for the Bolivian military may be made available for such purposes only if the Secretary of State certifies that the Bolivian military is respecting human rights, and civilian judicial authorities are investigating and prosecuting, with the military's cooperation, military personnel who have been implicated in gross violations of human rights: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, not more than $18,060,000 may be available for administrative expenses of the Department of State, and not more than $7,800,000 may be available, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes, for administrative expenses of the United States Agency for International Development.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. MCGOVERN

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 7 offered by Mr. MCGOVERN:

In the item relating to ''ANDEAN COUNTERDRUG INITIATIVE'' (page ____, line ____), after the aggregate dollar amount, insert the following: ''(reduced by $30,000,000)''.

In the item relating to ''UNITED STATES EMERGENCY REFUGEE AND MIGRATION ASSISTANCE FUND'' (page ____, line ____), after the dollar amount, insert the following: ''(increased by $30,000,000)''.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of June 8, 2006, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) and a Member opposed each will control 30 minutes.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I rise to claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Arizona will control the time in opposition.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 4 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, this is a very straightforward amendment. It increases funding by $30 million for the U.S. Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund, and it decreases the Andean Counter Drug Initiative by the same amount. The reduction in the ACI account should come from eradication and military related aid above the President's request level. It is my understanding from figures provided by the Foreign Operations Subcommittee that, under the ACI, the President requested $506.2 million for Colombia; the committee provided $545.2 million for all these categories of aid. So even after this amount is reduced by $30 million, aid for Colombia requested by the President would still total $515.2 million, or $9 million above the President's fiscal year 2007 request.

Mr. Chairman, I have been on this House floor before expressing my concerns about our policy in Colombia. The drug eradication policy, to be blunt, has been a miserable failure. The Colombian military continues to commit heinous acts with impunity.

Now, I know that some of my esteemed colleagues who oppose this amendment will once again come to the House floor with their charts and graphs and arrows pointing this way and that, but no matter how you slice and dice it, the bottom line is that after 6 years and $4.7 billion for Colombia, we are exactly where we started out as far as drug cultivation is concerned. The same amount of coca is being grown today in Colombia as in 1999. And this isn't JIM MCGOVERN just saying this; this fact comes from our own Office of Narcotics Control and Drug Policy. It is their figures, their findings, their conclusion; the State Department backs them up on this. $4.7 billion.

As the committee report accompanying this bill states so eloquently on page 62: after a massive increase in fumigation from 47,000 hectares at the start of Plan Colombia to today when we fumigated 138,775 hectares last year, we have accomplished zilch, Mr. Chairman. Coca cultivation in Columbia is at the same level or maybe slightly above from where it was when we started.

On Monday, Mr. Chairman, headlines in the newspapers informed us that a Colombian military unit murdered in a deliberate cold-blooded ambush one of the most successful U.S.-trained anti-drug units in Colombia. Yesterday the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee froze $30 million in military aid because it was so enraged over these murders and the State Department's recent human rights certification.

Mr. Chairman, we have to respond to this. This House has to respond, and this is the moment to do so. We are not undermining President Uribe by adopting this amendment. Colombia will still receive more than what the President of the United States of America

asked for in fiscal year 2007. But we can send a powerful message to the Colombian Armed Forces that we won't keep writing blank checks, we won't keep turning a blind eye, we aren't a cheap date you can take advantage of.

Mr. Chairman, we have the opportunity to do some real good with this amendment. We can fund the President's request for U.S. Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance fund. The fund currently stands at its lowest balance in over a decade. The State Department generally draws down between $60 million and $70 million in ERMA funds each year. There are just too many unexpected emergencies happening around the world. Without the increase provided by the amendment, we could be threatening the life-saving assistance that can mean the difference of life and death to persons caught in tragic violence or natural disaster. Whether we are looking at an increasingly explosive border between Chad and Sudan to preventing food aid pipeline breaks in Kenya and Uganda, to being able to respond quickly to victims of earthquakes or volcanoes, this fund is one of the President's most effective tools. With this amendment we can give the President what he has requested and needs for Colombia and ACI, and we can give him what he asked for and needs to meet emergency refugee crises. And at the same time, Mr. Chairman, and for the first time, we can send a powerful message to the Colombian military that our pockets and our patience are wearing thin.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in the strongest possible opposition to this amendment offered by the gentleman. There are few things in this hemisphere that are more important for us than the Andean Counterdrug Initiative. In our effort to try and fight drugs abroad we can fight drugs here at home.

The gentleman has suggested this money would go to the International Refugee and Migration account, and we believe we have funded that in a fair and reasonable way and will have accounted for the needs of that account.

Let me tell you why my concern is more not that we couldn't use more money in ERMA; my concern here is taking this money out of the Andean Counterdrug Initiative. Let me tell you why I think this is the wrong thing to do at this time.

We have rewarded in this bill good performers and taken action against those who have not done so well. As I described in my opening statement, we have restructured the accounts that go to Colombia. They are an important strategic partner in the region, and our bill recognizes that by normalizing how we fund Colombia. We move funds for the Colombia Alternative Development programs to the ESF account and to the other accounts; we have moved funds for Colombia rule of law to the INCLE account, the narcotics account. These are the accounts we use to fund similar activities for all of our other strategic partners.

So we have basically said to Colombia, you have graduated. It is time for you to become a strategic partner and for our funding of foreign assistance to fall into normal categories.

I firmly believe that, contrary to what the gentleman said, that Colombia stands as the most successful model of democracy in this region. It is not without its problems, but I think it has made enormous and positive strides in recent years. With our support it has been transformed into a much more secure democratic and economically prosperous country.

So why do I say that? How do I measure the success that we have had? Well, we have got more than 200,000 acres of legal crops that have been planted, 64,000 farm families provided legal farming options, coca eradication through spraying has gone from 47,000 hectares of the first year of Plan Colombian to 138,000 last year, and manual eradication also increased substantially. An additional 1,600 hectares of poppies were eradicated in the year 2005. We have regained Colombian sovereignty over most of the air space, and that has led to a 56 percent decrease in suspected trafficker flights. The drug flow by air to the United States has dropped by about 7 percent. Kidnappings are down 51 percent. Homicides are down 13 percent. All 1,098 Colombian municipalities have a permanent government presence. These are just some of the measures of the things that we have done that I think are very significant.

The bill from which this would take funds also rewards Peru by increasing the funds allocated it by $10.5 million. And I did this because we have decreased over the years the funds to Peru and we have experienced the balloon effect of having drug production move from one part of the region to another part, and that is why we have proposed a $7 million increase to Peru's interdiction and eradication program. The last thing in the world we should be doing right now is making a reduction in these overall accounts.

On the other hand, we have reduced some of the funds provided to Bolivia. We have reduced the President's request by 44 percent. Of course, that request was drafted very early in this year before the problems that we are seeing with the current government in Bolivia have occurred. There, the eradication efforts have gone absolutely the wrong direction, from an historic high in 1999 of 17,000 hectares of coca eradicated, to a goal in 2006 of only 5,000; and they are not on track to even meet that very reduced goal in Bolivia.

And so those are just some of the reasons why we are, as I said, trying to reward those who are doing the right thing in the region, but also make sure that our money is not used inappropriately in countries that are not doing the right thing.

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So these are just some of the reasons why I think that this amendment would be absolutely the wrong signal at the wrong time and could be the best possible message that we could send to drug traffickers to reduce this Andean counterdrug initiative by the amount that the amendment calls for. I urge my colleagues to vote against this amendment.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 30 seconds.

Mr. Chairman, my colleague is absolutely right, eradication has dramatically increased in Colombia, but it has achieved absolutely nothing. There is even more coca in Colombia today than there was in Plan Colombia's first year. We have gone from 336,000 acres in 2000 to 355,000 acres, and that is actually a 6 percent increase. How is that success?

When Plan Colombia started, it was supposed to decrease coca growing by 50 percent over 5 years. That is what we were promised. Well, $4.7 billion later, we have a 6 percent increase over 5 years the amount of coca being grown in Colombia.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR) who is a Colombian expert and who was also a Peace Corps volunteer in Colombia.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for yielding.

I rise in strong support of the McGovern amendment and in incredibly strong appreciation for the great job that Chairman KOLBE does on this committee. I do not think there is anybody that knows these issues better than he does, but I am just in disagreement with the approach here, and I do not think it is Mr. KOLBE's approach. It is the administration's approach and it comes under Plan Colombia.

The problem that we have, and as I say, I am speaking from some experience having lived in Colombia several years as a Peace Corps volunteer in the 1960s, is if you do not deal with people on the ground, who are struggling with the culture of poverty, you cannot wipe out an agricultural crop by just bombing it. You wipe it out by creating economic opportunities that are alternatives to coca growing. You do not have to retain as much money as you can get from growing coca, because what you do is you build infrastructure, school and health care, and just like this community, most people will do things as long as people will have a better life, as long as there are resources there.

I think what America fails to look at, whether it is in Iraq or other areas, is how poorly we do at developing post-country capacity, and that is what this amendment is all about. It is the use of money to better build host country capacity to sustain themselves other than having to grow illicit crops.

Alternative development programs have enabled Colombians to move to

alternatives, and when they did, they were very successful with it, but we are not putting enough effort into it.

Colombia is a huge country. It is the second most biodiverse country in the planet. It can grow just about anything. You just have to put energy and get people access to places to grow, and in this case, because we are not doing enough in the alternative, they are going to go into growing more coca, as Mr. MCGOVERN's pointed out.

After 6 years of sustained, robust U.S. assistance, 40 percent of the Colombians still remain underemployed in a formal Colombian economy.

So I rise in strong support because I think this is moving money to what we really need to invest in which is investing in host country capacity.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA), one of the members of the Drug Task Force.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Chairman, thank you for yielding me time on this.

I have worked on this issue for a number of years in Congress. I have seen failed policies and I have seen successful policies. The worst thing we could do today would be to cut the funds to Colombia. What a horrible message we would send. Let me just describe what is taking place, the policy of failure, the policy of success.

I chaired the Criminal Justice, Drug Policy Subcommittee. That was one of the responsibilities Speaker HASTERT had before I inherited it from him. He chaired the National Security Subcommittee that had that responsibility. We did everything we could during the Clinton administration to get resources to Colombia. The liberals did everything they could to keep resources going to Colombia. The policy was a policy of failure. It was a policy of death and destruction. Thousands of people were slaughtered while the liberals in Congress and the administration denied aid to Colombia. Policemen were killed by the thousands. Members of the legislature, members of the Cabinet, people on the street, villages were wiped out because they did not want to send the necessary aid to Colombia.

President Bush, thank God for President Bush and his action and his policy of success. He took a policy of success. He put the resources there. The murders are down dramatically. The last speaker spoke about creating economic opportunity. How can you create economic opportunity or economic activity when there is slaughter and chaos in the streets?

I went down with President Pastrana, and he wanted to sing Kumbayah with the terrorists and the leftists, and that approach did not work. People continued to get slaughtered, and the drugs came into this country in unprecedented amounts.

Ask DEA about drugs, about heroin. At the beginning of the Clinton administration, you know how much heroin was produced in Colombia? Zero. Look at it now, and look at it over the past years. It flooded into our streets and killed our children and our most productive citizens and those with potential in this country by the thousands and has left thousands being destroyed in Colombia.

This is a horrible amendment. It would be a horrible step backwards to bring drugs into this country to stop a policy, and now we have been blessed not only with a President with strong determination and a good, successful policy in this country, but one in that country who just got reelected, and to cut his legs out from under him at this juncture, when he has experienced success, not only have we stopped the killings and the murders and the slaughters there and stopped people from dying in our streets, the economy has dramatically increased, almost doubled in Colombia since Presidents Bush and Uribe's policies have taken place.

This would be a step backward. This is a step towards death, destruction and drugs coming into our country. I have had it with the liberals who allowed this to happen and let thousands of people go to their deaths in Colombia, who allowed drugs to proliferate in that country and create and finance narco-terrorism which destroyed some of that region and thousands of lives there and thousands of lives here.

If we pass that amendment, it is a horrible step back. I cannot tell you how important this amendment is, not only to the lives in Colombia, but to the lives of the young men and women and those in this country that have been victims. I urge people to vote this down in huge numbers.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I will insert in the RECORD at this point an article that recently appeared in the Financial Times entitled, ''Colombia 'most dangerous' place for trade unionists'' in the world.

[From the Financial Times, June 6, 2006]

COLOMBIA ''MOST DANGEROUS'' PLACE FOR TRADE UNIONISTS

(By Frances Williams)

Colombia remains the most dangerous place on earth to be a trade unionist, with 70 people killed there last year for union activities.

In addition, 260 Colombian trade unionists received death threats ''in a climate of continuing impunity for the assassins, according to the annual survey released today by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

Right-wing paramilitary groups and the state security forces have been blamed for most of the violence in Colombia. The ICFTU also records slayings in Brazil and Honduras, and a ''pervasive climate of violence and fear'' in Guatemala.

Worldwide, a total of 115 people were murdered for defending workers' rights in 2005, more than 1,600 were subjected to violent assaults and some 9,000 were arrested. Apart from Colombia, the report highlights violence and repression in Iraq, Iran, El Salvador, Djibouti, China, Cambodia, Guatemala, Zimbabwe and Burma.

Though the death toll was down from 145 in 2004, almost entirely due to fewer killings in Colombia, ''we are nevertheless witnessing increasingly severe violence and hostility against working people who stand up for their rights,'' said Guy Ryder, ICFTU general secretary.

Even in the industrialised world workers' rights are frequently violated or eroded, the report says. The Bush administration is accused of encouraging ''union-busting'' through measures via its National Labour Relations Board to reduce the influence of trade unions.

The ICFTU also notes aggressive publicity campaigns in the US aimed at weakening workers' trust in trade unions.

Australia is criticised for a wave of anti-union laws that it said would deprive most workers of protection from unfair dismissal.

Publication of the report by Brussels-based ICFTU, whose 233 affiliated organisations represent 145m workers, is timed to coincide with the annual conference of the International Labour Organisation now underway in Geneva.

The conference is expected to condemn Belarus for persistent interference in trade union affairs and to consider action against Burma for its refusal to end forced labour.

In Asia, violence against trade unionists by police and security forces was documented last year in Burma, South Korea, India, Cambodia and China, where dozens of trade union activists continue to be incarcerated.

In the Middle East, 13 union representatives were assassinated in Iraq and there were reports of torture and violence against strikers in Iran. In several other countries trade unions are outlawed or severely restricted.

In Africa, the report singles out Djibouti and Zimbabwe, where the trade union movements suffer constant harassment by the government of President Robert Mugabe.

Mr. Chairman, I would also insert in the RECORD an article that I referred to earlier that appeared in the Boston Globe about how ''Colombia says soldiers killed antidrug police.'' That Colombia's military unit assassinated a U.S.-trained, elite antinarcotics team at the bidding of the drug mafia 2 weeks ago. And what is the response of this House? Nothing. The United States Senate froze $30 million in military aid because they were so outraged that the Colombian military, who we finance, went out and killed in cold blood this anti-drug police unit.

Mr. Chairman, we need to send a strong signal that we are not a cheap date, that we are watching, that we care and we demand accountability.

[From the Boston Globe, June 6, 2006]

COLOMBIA SAYS SOLDIERS KILLED ANTIDRUG POLICE

AUTHORITIES PROBE COLONEL FOR LINK TO MAJOR TRAFFICKER

(By Indira A.R. Lakshmanan)

BOGOTA.—Suspicions that a Colombian military unit assassinated a US-trained, elite antinarcotics team at the bidding of the drug mafia two weeks ago have proven true, officials say, in a case that has badly shaken public confidence in the military.

On May 22, 10 of the country's most successful antidrug police were killed by a military platoon in the outskirts of Jamundí, an area under the influence of narco-traffickers 195 miles southwest of the capital, near Cali.

Two military officers and six soldiers were arrested Thursday on the basis of incriminating cellphone text messages and crimescene evidence that investigators say

prove the eight men planned the killings. The suspects insist the shootings were a ''friendly fire'' mistake.

''This was not a mistake, this was a crime; this was a deliberate decision, a criminal decision,'' Attorney General Mario Iguarán said last week. ''They were doing the bidding of a drug trafficker.''

Authorities are investigating bank accounts allegedly containing $44,000 belonging to Army Colonel Bayron Carvajal, the most senior officer arrested, as well as his alleged links to Omar García Varela, according to Colombian newspaper El Tiempo. Varela is accused of being right-hand man of drug boss Diego Montoya, one of the United States' 10 most-wanted narcotraffickers, who is believed to control properties and drug laboratories near the site of fatal attack. The United States has offered $5 million for information leading to Montoya's capture.

Questions remain in the Jamundí case about the extent of alleged collusion with drug traffickers within the armed forces, and how high up it may go. The arrests came days after the US State Department certified Colombia's human rights record, ensuring the flow of most US military aid to this country. Last year, Congress withheld some military assistance on worries that the Colombian government, which has waged a nearly decade-long campaign against drug corruption, was ignoring extrajudicial killings or cooperation between the military and right-wing death squads.

The Jamundí case has sparked a national outcry that has reached up to President Álvaro Uribe, but Uribe on Friday said he was not ready to oust generals to hold them responsible for the killings. The best way to restore military credibility, he said, would be to clarify events and impose sanctions on the guilty.

Among the most damning evidence against the arrested soldiers are text messages allegedly sent by Carvajal on the day of the killing to the lieutenant and sergeant in charge of the platoon.

''Pull back the ambush. . . . Everything is set for tonight,'' read one message leaked by authorities to El Tiempo and the newsmagazine Semana.

That afternoon, Carvajal sent another message, the media reported: ''Get ready for the group to come with the chicken so you can get it.''

''Chicken'' was the nickname of civilian informant Luis Eduardo Betancur, who was leading police to a suspected 440-pound stash of cocaine. Betancur was also a registered informant of Carvajal, authorities say. He was found shot in the neck, with his balaclava removed, investigators say.

Eight of the 10 police killed were shot in the back, and ''the crime scene was contaminated before investigators arrived,'' said an investigative official yesterday who spoke on condition of anonymity. Investigators suspect soldiers may have fired shots from the police officers' weapons after they died, in an effort to make it look like there was a confrontation, El Tiempo reported.

Fewer than half of the soldiers in the 28-man platoon fired at the police. Witnesses interviewed by telephone from Jamundí say the police identified themselves during the attack and begged the soldiers not to shoot.

More than half of the shots fired originated from a military sniper who was hidden from view, said an investigative official.

When colleagues of the slain police arrived at the scene to investigate, another text message allegedly demanded to know why they had been allowed to pass a military roadblock.

The police unit had been trained by the Drug Enforcement Administration and was responsible for more than 200 arrests of drug traffickers, including 23 wanted for extradition to the United States.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), who is an expert on Colombian's eradication policy.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the bipartisan McGovern amendment which I am also proud to cosponsor.

That passionate speech against liberals and against this piece of legislation might be interesting, but it is absolutely wrong. The fact that we have spent billions and billions of dollars in Colombia, and the gentleman talked about success and failure, and all of the evidence, the objective evidence, shows that this policy of fumigation and drug eradication unfortunately has been an abject failure. As far as ending violence in Colombia, I want to just give a couple of facts that the gentleman from Massachusetts mentioned.

On May 22 of this year, soldiers of the Army's Third Brigade killed 10 members of Colombia's most elite police unit against narco-trafficking, trained by the DEA, in what evidence shows was a premeditated ambush. The police unit members who were killed had captured 205 drug traffickers, 23 of whom had been sent to the United States for trial. Armed Forces chief Mario Montoya initially called the killings a case of friendly fire.

On June 1, two officers and six soldiers were arrested for the massacre. Colombian Attorney General Mario Iguaran said in announcing the arrests: ''It was not a mistake. It was an ambush planned as a favor to the drug traffickers.'' The Army officers apparently were working for the mafia.

The International Committee of the Red Cross found that 13.6 percent increase in forced disappearances between 2004 and 2005. According to CODHES, the Colombian nongovernment organization that maintains data on forced displacement, the number of people forced from their homes by violence increased by 8 percent from 2004 to 2005.

But you know what, we are not really having a debate about that because the modest offsets that we are talking about still leaves the accounts for drug eradication at $9 million above the President's request, but let us look at how that money has been spent.

In Colombia and in the Andean region, as I said, the U.S. has invested billions of dollars, hundreds of millions year after year of our taxpayers dollars, and what have we gotten? Plan Colombia was supposed to reduce Colombia's cultivation and distribution of drugs by 50 percent, but 6 years and $4.7 billion later, the drug control results are meager at best. If you look at the U.S. government data, our own data, there is as much coca today in Colombia and as much cocaine in the United States as there was 6 years ago.

But I want to get back to the point. What we are trying to do is to have a commonsense and compassionate effort to produce modest additional resources to help President Bush alleviate some of the world's most dire humanitarian crises. There is a lot that happens around the world we cannot control. We cannot stop earthquakes, we cannot prevent droughts, and we cannot prevent all conflict, but when we know where the hungry, the homeless and the sick exist, then we can help. That is what this is about.

I have travelled to places like Colombia and places where people are suffering. We are asking for a modest amount of money to be transferred out of this account, and the simple choice is should we overfund our efforts in Colombia by a lot or a little or should we do all we can to maximize the President's power to help the powerless suffering as a result of genocide and other crises.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume to respond to what the gentlewoman from Illinois said.

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First of all, with regard to the accounts. It is true that the total amount in here for Colombia is above where the President requested. But in the ACI, that is absolutely not true.

I would just remind the gentlewoman from Illinois that the amount we have in this bill is $384 million. If you cut another $30 million, you would be at $354. The President requested $506 million for the ACI account. So the gentlewoman is absolutely incorrect in stating the amount that goes for the ACI. She just had her figures incorrect because she wasn't aware, I think, of the restructuring that we have done of this account.

Now, I want to just respond to what she was saying about the failures that we have had. I would stipulate to the gentlewoman from Illinois that our eradication programs have not been as good as we would like. She is wrong about the interdiction. We are having success with the interdiction. And we are having success with the interdiction because we have a president down there that is committed to making it work, committed to making Colombians more secure, and committed to providing people with economic well-being in the country.

Now, do bad things happen still? Yes. There are still too many homicides and there are still too many kidnappings. Sadly, we know our own troops have sometimes strayed and done things wrong. We know in our own cities that police departments sometimes stray and do things that are not right. But things are getting better in Colombia. There is more security in Colombia. There are fewer homicides. There are fewer kidnappings. The presence of the government in municipalities, of police in municipalities has increased. Roads are open and commerce is moving again in the country.

What a time to send a signal to them that we are going to cut them; that we

are going to say you are not successful. What we have done in this bill is to restructure the accounts so that much of the aid now flows through traditional accounts of the Economic Support Fund, the Development Assistance, the INCLE funds, and those kinds of accounts. And we are saying to Colombia, you are a strategic partner. We believe that you are succeeding and we are going to put the aid, as we do with other countries, in these kinds of categories.

But this is not the time to be cutting the funding for drug interdiction. And I hope this body will reject this amendment very soundly.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Chairman, we are very much committed to Colombia and committed to success, but the fact of the matter is that after $4.7 billion there is even more coca in Colombia today than there was in Plan Colombia's first year. We want success. We want to achieve results. We just don't want to go along because we don't want to admit that maybe we can improve this policy.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2½ minutes to the distinguished ranking Democrat on the House Committee on Armed Services (Mr. SKELTON).

Mr. SKELTON. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I might point out, Mr. Chairman, that I take a back seat to no one regarding fighting the scourge of illegal drugs. And being a former prosecuting attorney, I know full well the scourge of that problem.

However, Mr. Chairman, the American taxpayers have spent over $4.7 billion on the Andean Counterdrug Initiative since the year 2000. Despite that commitment, the production in that country is higher now than ever. We need to ensure we are spending money wisely. We must ensure we are addressing the root causes of the drug problem in Colombia.

Let me point out that the committee provides $545 million for this program and we are diverting, by way of this amendment, a very good amendment, only $30 million, which, by the way, if you subtract carefully, still leaves more than the President recommended for this program.

I am glad that we have been able to support President Uribe and the Colombian military against guerrilla groups, but I still question the stability of our military efforts in that country. And I think we are also working our special operation forces very, very hard during this time of war elsewhere.

It has been a long time since the House Armed Services Committee has seriously focused any attention on the security changes in Latin America. We ought to take our congressional oversight role seriously. We should hold hearings, give full consideration to American policy in this critical part of the world. If we are not careful, the gathering storm in Latin America could come back to bite us in years to come.

This amendment, which I support, sends a clear message to Colombian and other Andean countries that while the American people will support their governments to a point, the financial assistance is not unlimited and should not go unchecked. Colombia must decrease coca production and better account for human rights concerns.

This amendment transfers $30 million out of the Andean Counterdrug Initiative account to humanitarian assistance in the Sudan and in Darfur, which is highly needed and necessary, in my opinion, and it still leaves more money than what the President recommended for this antidrug program in the Andean area.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, what is the time remaining on both sides?

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Arizona has 18½ minutes remaining, the gentleman from Massachusetts has 16 minutes remaining.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS).

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to any attempts to cut funding for the Andean Counterdrug Initiative. President Uribe's reelection to a historic second term reaffirms the Colombian people's commitment to his program of democratic security and the war on drugs. His popularity among Colombians illustrates how important the struggle against narcoterrorism is and it helps measure success over the last few years.

Under Uribe's leadership, Colombians finally have the courage to fight back against the FARC and the drug traffickers. And as the rest of the continent is moving away from the United States, Colombia remains our staunchest ally in South America. We need to reaffirm, not dismantle, our commitment to this program, to the people of Colombia, and to American citizens who want illegal drugs off their streets.

I have led several congressional delegations to Colombia during my time as chairman of the Government Reform Committee, and I can say firsthand that our significant investment is paying dividends. Together, with the strong commitments of the Uribe administration and historic levels of support from the Colombian people, U.S. involvement in Colombia is beginning to hit narcoterrorism where it hurts.

Mr. Chairman, how can we cut funding when we are seeing tremendous results in illegal crop eradication and record reductions in coca productions and the destruction of drug labs? Coca eradication through spraying have gone from 47,000 hectares the first year of Plan Colombia to 138,000 last year. As a result of ACI funding, we are seeing unprecedented levels of drug interdictions. Drug flow to the U.S. has dropped by 7 percent, making American streets safer for our youth. Progress like this would not be possible under the amendment.

The Colombian Government is reestablishing state presence in areas of the country that for decades have lacked it. All 1,098 Colombian municipalities now have a permanent presence thanks to President Uribe's fearless efforts. Criminals who have remained at bay for years are being captured and extradited to the U.S. for prosecution. Colombia has extradited over 300 Colombian citizens to the U.S. since August of 2002, mostly on narcotics-related charges. How can we justify pulling the plug on the ACI funding when we are seeing record numbers of extraditions to the U.S. of FARC and drug cartel members?

Over 30,000 paramilitaries have now been demobilized since President Uribe took office. Thousands of weapons and rounds of ammunition have been surrendered. The demobilization and reincorporation of illegal armed groups is part of a peace process that is providing stability to the entire Andean region. Colombians are finally beginning to feel safe and secure in their own country. Kidnappings are down by 51 percent and the murder rate has dropped to 13 percent.

Mr. Chairman, Plan Colombia is working. I have seen firsthand the devastation that drug production and trafficking has on Colombia. To those who question our investment, I would ask them to visit, as I have, Colombian soldiers who have lost their limbs or eyesight or sustained permanent disability in their battle to return peace to their nation and to keep drugs off American streets.

I would also ask them to visit Barrio Nelson Mandela, a USAID-sponsored facility for internally displaced people who have been forced from their homes by drug traffickers and guerrillas. This facility showed me how work on behalf of Colombia's millions of internally displaced people is offering suffering men, women, and children a second chance at a violence-free and productive life.

On a trip to Colombia last year, I accompanied the Colombian National Police to a manual eradication site in the Andean mountains and helped them pull the coca crop from the mountainous terrain that helicopters can't reach. These are dedicated people who literally risk their lives to destroy the drug trade and rid their country of drugs and violence.

My travels to Colombia have shown me just how critical U.S. assistance is to their government. With such promising results over the last 5 years, we have to sustain this momentum, not wipe it out. Of course obstacles remain. The progress is slower than we would like it to be. But now is not the time to turn our backs on this battle that is so intrinsically tied to the war on terrorism and the scourge of illegal drug use.

The Uribe administration, reelected with 62 percent of the vote last week, needs U.S. assistance to improve mobility, intelligence, and training. Make

no mistake, Colombia today is doing its share. Spending on security forces has increased under President Uribe and continues in his second term. We simply cannot afford for President Uribe to fail in this heroic effort to rid his country of the narcoterrorist threat, nor would Colombians understand such a step if this amendment prevails. Full funding of the Andean Counterdrug Initiative for FY 2007 is critical to sustaining our success in Colombia.

It is simple, Mr. Chairman. Now is not the time to turn our backs on the progress we are making against narcoterrorism in Colombia. We can't win this war on drugs and drug-supported terrorism without the proper tools and resources. And the message this sends to our allies would be devastating.

I ask my colleagues to vote ''no'' on the McGovern amendment.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Chairman, I think it is important to put this debate in perspective. Nobody is talking about the dismantling our support for Colombia. Nobody is talking about withdrawing all of our support to Colombia. What we are talking about is sending the appropriate message at this appropriate time.

I will agree with the gentleman that fumigation has never been higher. But the problem is that there is even more coca in Colombia today than there was in Plan Colombia's first year. So maybe we need to rethink our strategy. Maybe it is not working. I think any reasonable person who looks at the statistics, provided by our own government, would come to that conclusion.

I will agree with the gentleman that President Uribe deserves credit for lowering the number of kidnappings in Colombia. But I am not prepared to give him a pat on the back in the face of what just happened, where U.S.-funded Colombian military soldiers went out and killed in cold blood antinarcotic policemen who are dedicated to combating drugs in Colombia.

What kind of message are we sending when we respond to that by doing nothing, by saying you have to continue to get everything that you expect? The United States Senate understands what is at stake. They froze $30 million in military aid in response to that. We need to send a signal too: we are not a cheap date. We want to support you, but we want there to be accountability. We want an end to the violence. We want the military not to be above the law.

Having said that, Mr. Chairman, I yield at this time 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chairman, let me thank the gentleman for yielding and also just thank you for your strong advocacy for human rights, global refugees on so many fronts.

I am pleased to be a cosponsor of this effort. This amendment simply provides an additional $30 million to the Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Account, and it still includes, and I have to reiterate, it still includes $515 million for Colombia, and it is still $9 million more than the President's 2007 request for Colombia.

To my colleague Mr. MICA and his comments with regard to liberals, and I do not know if you said you were tired of liberals or fed up with liberals, but let me just say to you that if helping our country respond quickly and flexibly to humanitarian disasters, if rethinking a policy and making sure that we are trying to really reduce the kidnappings and violence in Colombia, if that is what we are trying to do, then I am very proud, I am very proud to be a liberal.

In recent years, ERMA was used to help drought-ridden Somalis and provide refugee aid to Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In Sudan, where more than 3.4 million people are displaced, urgent needs are there for ERMA funding. The funding need is very clear.

After Sudan, Colombia has the largest number of internally displaced persons. Estimates range from 2 to 3.6 million individuals. Less than a third of Colombia's IDPs receive emergency assistance, and many, many have to wait months to receive that emergency aid. And let me tell you, of those traditionally marginalized Afro Colombians and indigenous communities, these individuals, these communities have been disproportionately affected.

In Burundi, 2.2 million people, including refugees and returnees, need immediate aid to cope with malnourishment and disease. In Northern Uganda, there are more than 1.8 million internally displaced persons desperately in need of assistance.

□ 1015

These statistics just really touch the surface of an expanding global refugee crisis.

Due to the critical need, the account reached its lowest point in a decade. We can and we must do more to help global victims of violence cope with the loss of everything that they know and love. Even if the additional $30 million that this amendment provides only allows ERMA to ensure food deliveries to helpless refugees, countless lives will be saved. Innumerable people will feel the goodwill and support of the United States.

This is about helping persons who have been stripped of family, friends, homes, and their basic protections. Today we need to stand by the victims of violence by supporting this amendment.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the very distinguished gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) who has certainly been at the forefront of this issue.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the gentleman for yielding.

I cannot understand why anybody would want to start cutting funding to Colombia for the war against terror. It would be a terrible mistake to do that right now. President Uribe was just reelected. He is doing everything possible to stop the drug cartels from sending drugs to the United States and other parts of the world. After just being reelected and meeting with many of us in Costa Rica a few weeks ago, for us to start cutting funding when they need more resources to fight the war against drugs is absolutely insane, in my opinion.

The Speaker of the House is very aware of this issue. He just worked with me to get three additional platform aircraft to police the drugs coming through the Caribbean. If we didn't have those resources, the drug cartels would have a free rein to go through the Caribbean. We need additional helicopters and there is additional money in there for that. And for us to start cutting that right now would give the drug cartels all kinds of reasons to invest more money to start expanding the drug operation down there.

In addition, let me say that we have talked about these 11 policemen who were murdered by the Colombian military. I am confident, and I have talked to President Uribe about this, they are going to investigate this thoroughly. And if there are military personnel that actually did the killing, and we believe that is the case, they will be brought to justice. And no money, none of this money is going to go to any military unit that is involved in any activity like this.

So the bottom line is it is extremely important if we believe in keeping drugs off the streets of America that this fight continue. And to start cutting back dramatically and sending this money someplace else because of budgetary constraints is the wrong thing to do.

Visitors from across this country will tell you the number one issue facing this country is the drug problem, and the drugs which are killing our kids and ruining their lives.

This is a very important issue, and it must not take a back seat to any other issue. We must make sure that the resources to continue the war against drugs are given to the people that need it. Colombia is in the forefront, and President Uribe has done an outstanding job, and he needs all of the help he can get and we need to give it to him.

I rise in very strong opposition to the proposed cut in narco-terrorism fighting assistance to our good friend and ally Colombia, especially so, at this critical point in the global war on terror.

While the amendment's author wants to talk about more and more coca, he doesn't want to talk about the more than a half dozen helicopters the Committee has wisely provided the new means for the world renowned Colombian National Police (CNP) anti-drug unit to use to take on the increased coca we have now discovered. The committee also wisely

freed up at least 10 more helicopters to be used by the Colombian Army for drug interdiction and additional eradication to take on the new coca challenge as well. That is a total of 16 more helicopters for the drug fight.

We found the coca in more remote areas of Colombia where the narco-terrorists flee our joint aerial eradication. This new helicopter allocation will permit us to go after that new crop. They may well soon run out of places to hide if we do our job right. We cannot cut and run now.

In addition, I note also little reference by the gentleman from Massachusetts to opium and heroin and the progress and lives saved from our eradication and other efforts against that even more deadly and addictive drug (14 percent more addictive) from nearby Colombia. Until we went after the heroin at the source in Colombia, South American heroin was spreading rapidly across America from New York, Baltimore, Boston and other areas on the East Coast, on into places like Chicago in the Midwest, and further west.

There was a major breakup in December 2005 of a Colombian heroin ring in the Boston, Lawrence, Lynn, and Everett Massachusetts area by our DEA and local police with the cooperation of the Colombian National Police (CNP), who benefit from Plan Colombia aid. We cannot and ought not end those law enforcement efforts as well in places like the Boston area.

Prices have risen by 30 percent and purity has fallen 22 percent from 2003 to 2004 in the once deadly heroin from Colombia according to ONDCP data released this past November.

Young lives have been saved and many overdoses avoided here because of our eradication and other Plan Colombia efforts against South American heroin.

Unlike cocaine, which you can interdict in the multiton loads, heroin comes in concealed, one deadly kilo at a time in shoes, cloths, or baggage, and is nearly impossible to interdict after it leaves Colombia. Either spray it, or you will find it on the streets and communities of America taking lives and creating havoc. We have done this with South American heroin. The critics are silent on that part of Plan Colombia and the success we have witnessed.

"Just say no" to this ill-advised and unproductive cut in aid for Colombia, a key strategic partner in the global war on terrorism in our own backyard and around the globe, including in Afghanistan where the Colombian National Police will soon be helping train the Afghan anti-drug units.

We owe them, and our kids as well, a Stay-the-Course Approach. Vote "no."

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Facts are stubborn things, and maybe I haven't been clear in this debate, but when the opposition here talks about we are cutting aid to Colombia, that is not true.

The bottom line is we are providing Colombia everything that the President of the United States has requested, plus $9 million more. That is not cutting Colombia. That is not walking away from the drug war.

What we are frustrated with is the billions that we are spending are not accomplishing the goals we were promised. We are concerned there could continue to be gross human rights violations by the Colombian military. We want to send a signal and strengthen President Uribe's hands in helping to bring those military men to justice who committed those terrible murders against those police officers. We also want to call attention to the fact that all of this money that we have been sending down there has done nothing to reduce the amount of coca cultivation and growth in that country.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ZOE LOFGREN), the co-chair of the Refugee Caucus.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Chairman, not only as the co-chair of the Refugee Caucus, but as a member of the Immigration Border Security and Claims Subcommittee, which has oversight over U.S. refugee programs, I am a strong supporter and, indeed, cosponsor of this amendment.

Members have said they would like to give a message to Colombia. Well, I would like to send a message to the refugees who are sitting in camps in Darfur who have been notified that their pathetic rations have been cut in half to the point where they do not have enough food to actually survive. I would like to focus in on where the funds are going.

The ERMA account is authorized, has a permanent level of authorization of $100 million. So this amendment, which would put ERMA at $60 million, would only bring ERMA to 60 percent of the authorized level. It is worth noting that we are at $24 million today in the ERMA account. That is the lowest level at this point in the fiscal year over a decade, and because a drawdown is in the works, our refugee program is going to start the new fiscal year with close to zero funds.

It has been noted by others that the funds to Colombia are not being slashed, they are being authorized at above what the President has requested. But we need to take a look at what not funding refugee programs does not only for the people who are suffering, but for stability in the world.

We know if refugee situations completely get out of control, that we create little pockets of instability around the world that can then form areas where al Qaeda can move in and organize terrorist training camps. So to form an argument that somehow funding our moral obligation to the refugees of the world is also adverse to our security interests is a false analysis.

I was struck about 2 years ago when the Darfur crisis really hit the public consciousness. We had an ad hoc meeting, and it was liberals and conservatives. And I thought this is a unique situation where Members of this body who ordinarily do not agree on anything have come together out of a sense of moral obligation to refugees around the world. I would hope that that morality that led us to stand together facing the Darfur situation will join us once again when this vote comes up, to take a stand for morality and to help those who are helpless around the world who are refugees that we, as moral people, owe a debt to.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I just want to respond to one thing that the gentlewoman said before I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas. I just want to respond to what she said about the Migration and Refugee account and Darfur. She made a reference to the fact that food rations in Darfur might be cut in half. We have provided in the fiscal year 2006, the current year's bill, we have $320 million for Darfur for food programs. When the United Nations said they might still have to cut the rations in half, the President, out of Public Law 480, pledged another $200 million. That is $520 million that the United States has pledged for food in Darfur. You know what the next largest country is? Libya at $4 million.

So I hardly think the United States has been delinquent in the amount of money that we have provided in Darfur.

Meanwhile, we have problems in our own hemisphere and we have problems on our own streets. We have problems in our schools and in our families with drugs that run rampant in our society. We do have an obligation to ourselves to try to prevent that from happening. We have a partner in Colombia that is attempting to do that.

This amendment is a signal to that partner that we do not believe his country should be a partner in our attack on drugs in this country. This would be the wrong thing for us to do at this time.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN).

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Chairman, I am a member of the Committee on International Relations Subcommittee on Africa and Global Human Rights, and I have great sympathy for what you are trying to accomplish in the sense that I think the Emergency Refugee Migration Assistance fund does a great job.

On the other hand, as a member of the Speaker's drug task force, and very active in the war against drugs, this is not the vehicle to do this in. I have had an opportunity to go to Colombia and see the progress that is being made. I very strongly oppose the McGovern amendment. I have had an opportunity to visit with the police and the armed services in Colombia, and they are doing a good job and tremendous progress is being made.

We had an opportunity to go out on a mock drug expedition where we went out in the cigar boats and saw firsthand how they go after the drug traffickers. Probably 2 hours after we left, they actually captured a boat that had several hundred pounds of illegal drugs on it. So they are doing a good job.

Again, I very strongly disagree that the money needs to be reduced.

In regard to the Colombian police situation, as we know on May 22, 2006, 10

members of the Colombian Judicial Police force, known as the DIJIN, were murdered by members of the Colombian army. These brave police officers were investigating a drug trafficking incident when they were captured and shot execution-style by army soldiers.

Since the incident, the Uribe government has moved quickly to launch an aggressive independent inquiry by the attorney general's office in Colombia. Because of these actions and because of the fact that Colombians are doing the right thing in this instance, we need to vote ''no'' on this amendment.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I want to put in perspective what this amendment is trying to do. As I understand the situation, this bill raises the eradication funds in Colombia by $30 million. It also cuts $103 million from refugees.

All Mr. MCGOVERN is trying to do is to take that $30 million increase that the committee has provided for eradication in Colombia and move it back into an account that has already been cut by almost three times as much as the amount of money he is trying to put back in the refugee account.

I remember when Bill Lehman from Florida used to take this floor every year. There was no better human being I have ever met in this place than Bill Lehman, and he used to routinely remind us that there is no more miserable person in the world than a refugee. They live in often abominable conditions, and they have nowhere to turn.

We have Members in this House who will engage in all kinds of meaningless gestures when it comes to Darfur. They will sign onto a letter to the President, and they will sign onto a bill that they know is going nowhere, and then they will put out their press releases posing for political holy pictures on how much they care about refugees and how much they care about Darfur. And yet what they do doesn't produce one plugged nickel.

If you want to do something real for those wretched creatures, you will do what Mr. MCGOVERN is trying to do: You will add this tiny little dollop of money back to the refugee account.

I mean, if you want a perfect example of money that isn't working, it's money that is spent on eradication.

□ 1030

I remember when we had a huge fight under the Reagan administration about how we were going to pull money into eradication and interdiction. And then I had one of the people in charge of the program come to me silently and say, ''Don't believe what we are saying. We only interdict 2 percent of the drugs.''

I thought conservatives routinely gave liberals lectures about looking at the effectiveness of programs. Well, I can tell you right now, we are not being effective when you have to cut half the food rations for refugees in Darfur. We are not being very effective in meeting our obligations there.

So I would suggest if anybody thinks we are harming the program in Colombia, all we are doing is saying return that budget request to the same level that was requested by that well-known liberal leftist, George W. Bush. That is all this amendment is doing. I would urge its adoption.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to just correct, for the record, a couple of comments that the gentleman from Wisconsin made for whom I have the greatest respect. He talked about a $107 million cut in these accounts. Let me just make it clear what we are really talking about. There is an $82 million reduction in the migration refugee assistance account. That $82 million, however, has nothing to do with refugees abroad. That is for admissions to the United States. And the numbers, 55,000 persons that are coming in, are exactly the same as last year. So we are continuing the program exactly as we have it.

I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. OBEY. I thank the gentleman, and he is my good friend. But the fact is that the refugee count is being cut.

Mr. KOLBE. I am trying to explain what it is.

Mr. OBEY. I understand you are saying it is in a different pocket, but the overall account is being cut, right?

Mr. KOLBE. It is not the money, however, that goes to assist refugees overseas. It is admissions.

Mr. OBEY. This House thought of it yesterday that we wouldn't do anything about them, didn't they? This House denied the funds for fixing that problem yesterday, didn't they?

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, the point that I am trying to make is that it is the processing of refugees inside of United States. We are not talking about people who are in camps overseas, who might not have food, might not have sanitation. That is not what is being cut.

The other account that is being cut $25 million is the ERMA account. And that is because they have a carryover of about 15 million. The 30 million that we have provided here brings them up to 45 million, and that is the average of what they have spent. It is an emergency drawdown account and they have spent that amount each year. So we are adequately covering the migration, the refugee and migration issues in our bill.

I yield once more to the gentleman.

Mr. OBEY. I thank the gentleman. I would simply say the fact is, you don't just have to look at what this bill does today on this amendment. You have to look at the whole and what it did yesterday on the Egypt amendment, coupled with what it is doing here today, and that means we have shortchanged those refugees.

Mr. KOLBE. And reclaiming my time, Mr. Chairman, I would say that yes, we are looking at it on the whole, and I believe that on the whole we are adequately covering these accounts.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I just want to alert the Members that there is broad support for this amendment. The support ranges from the American Refugee Committee to Amnesty International to the International Crisis Group, International Rescue Committee, the Jesuit Conference, Mercy Corps, Refugees International, the Steel Workers, the United Methodist Church. I could go on and on and on.

Support for this amendment ranges from—The American Refugee Committee, Amnesty International, The International Crisis Group, International Rescue Committee, The Jesuit Conference, Mercy Corps,

To—Refugees International, The Steelworkers, The United Methodist Church.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN MCGOVERN: We are writing to express our strong support for your efforts to increase funding for the Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance (ERMA) account during floor consideration of the Fiscal Year 2007 Foreign Operations Appropriations bill.

The ERMA account, managed by the State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM), is one of two refugee assistance accounts that help the United States meet its national interests by protecting and assisting refugees and internally displaced persons who have been victims of persecution and conflict. ERMA funding supports programs that relieve explosive international tensions and set an example for the rest of the world. In addition to helping address unexpected refugee and displacement crises, ERMA supports humanitarian agencies on the front lines of both new and longstanding crises around the world—stretching from Iraq and Sudan to Colombia and Haiti. Recent ERMA drawdowns have responded to the Pakistan earthquake; refugee repatriation in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo; the humanitarian crises in Somalia; and breakdowns in the food pipeline for refugees in Africa and elsewhere.

The ERMA balance currently stands at $24 million—the lowest level in a decade. PRM generally draws down between $60 million and $70 million in ERMA funding annually and requires a beginning-year balance of between $70 million and $100 million to have the flexibility needed to respond quickly to emergencies.

It is therefore difficult for us to understand the severe cuts in the ERMA, as well as other humanitarian accounts, being recommended by the House Appropriations Committee. The Committee's reduction of ERMA funding—to a level of 28 percent below the President's FY 07 request—comes at a time when PRM is struggling to cope with serious budgetary constraints. These cuts, which also have impacted the Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) account, threaten the life-saving assistance provided to persons caught in the tragic violence of Sudan, Colombia, and other conflict-affected areas.

We urge the House of Representatives to restore funding for these critical humanitarian programs and strongly support your efforts on the House floor to address the cuts in the ERMA account.

Sincerely,

Air Serv International.
American Jewish World Service.
American Refugee Committee.
Catholic Relief Services.
Episcopal Migration Ministries.

Ethiopian Community Development Council.
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society.
International Catholic Migration Commission.
International Rescue Committee.
Jesuit Refugee Service/USA.
Kurdish Human Rights Watch. Inc.
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service.
Mercy Corps.
National Peace Corps Association.
Oxfam America.
Refugees International.
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center.
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants.
Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children.
World Relief.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH).

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Chairman, at issue in this case are Colombia priorities, but in a different sense than is usually assumed. The priority debate today is not about whether stemming the drug trade is appropriate, but the methodology of going about it.

Quasi-military approaches fit war scenarios. Civil war is more problematic; criminal activities even more so. My concern is that when America becomes intertwined in internal conflicts, we change the nature of the ongoing struggle, as well as the motivation of various combatants. We become implicitly accountable for a panoply of policies of any side we back and, accordingly, answerable to the people for that side's allegiance or lack thereof to social fairness and sometimes the rule of law itself.

In this context, wouldn't it be better to limit our military involvement in this struggling, divided country and focus efforts on replenishing the Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance program? This assistance program allows the President to respond quickly to urgent, often unexpected, crises throughout the world. For instance, it is this program that the President tapped last year to provide assistance to the victims of the Pakistani earthquake.

Mr. Chairman, I support this amendment and I respect very much the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for enlightened leadership on a whole host of issues. But I don't support the amendment out of a conviction it is an answer to a real dilemma between both the Colombian and American people, but out of a belief that a military emphasis of this kind carries many counterproductive consequences.

There is no track record that this program has been particularly helpful, and some indications that the results have been disadvantageous to the United States. So I would argue that there are better uses for these very scarce resources.

And I would suggest again that when we think about realism in world affairs, the test is effectiveness. Here the effectiveness that the United States has exhibited in compassion for refugees is far more apparent than the tests that might be applied to this particular program based on any past record.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Chairman, I am the last remaining speaker on my side. I don't know whether you have any other speakers.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, if you will close on your side and yield back, I will close on our side.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Chairman, let me just kind of go over a few things here. First of all, on the issue that somehow we are withdrawing from our support for Colombia, let me remind my colleagues that the President of the United States asked for $506.2 million. The committee provided $545.2 million. My amendment would reduce that to $515.2 million, or $9 million above the President's request for Colombia. So we are not doing anything here to walk away from Colombia.

Secondly, on the issue of human rights, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights reported this year that more grave violations of human rights were committed directly by Colombia's military forces than in the past. The ICRC has recorded a 13.6 percent increase in disappearances. The number of people forced from their homes by violence increased by 8 percent over the past year.

I introduced into the RECORD earlier, and I will remind my colleagues about an article that appeared in the Financial Times. The headlines, Colombia, The Most Dangerous Place For Trade Unionists. And I also inserted into the RECORD, and I will remind my colleagues about this article that appeared in a number of newspapers that the Colombian military units assassinated U.S. trained antinarcotics teams at the bidding of the drug mafia. So in some areas, there is improvement, but Colombia is still near the top of any human rights watch list.

Let me, again, make one other point that I have made repeatedly here. We have invested $4.7 million in Colombia. We were promised that coca cultivation would be cut by 50 percent by the proponents of this. The bottom line is, according to this chart, that has not happened. In fact, coca cultivation has actually increased in Colombia.

I agree with my friend from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) when he says the conservatives are supposed to, they don't want to eliminate waste and demand more efficiency in government. Well, by any measure, this has not been an efficient use of taxpayer dollars.

So, Mr. Chairman, in conclusion, let me just say that we have heard the arguments on the other side. Massive increases in fumigation, overwhelming support for President Uribe, kidnappings down, cities and highways safer. Well, Mr. Chairman, that is all true. But massive increases in fumigation have not led to any reduction in coca cultivation. Overwhelming popular support for President Uribe has not resulted in even a dent in the impunity enjoyed by military officers tied to drug lords, mafia kings, paramilitaries and who carry out violent human rights crimes and other criminal acts. Kidnappings are down, but assassinations, disappearances and death threats against labor, religious indigenous Afro-Colombian and other community leaders is skyrocketing according to the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights, the International Committee of the Red Cross and every other reputable human rights organization in the world. And if cities and highways are safer, the rural country side is as dangerous, violent, bloody and as perilous as ever.

We can do something good with this amendment. We can do something right. We can provide the President with a little more than he asked for, both for refugee emergencies and for Colombia. So I would urge my colleagues to support the McGovern-Leach-Payne-Lofgren-McCollum-Grijalva-Schakowsky-Lee amendment.

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

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Arizona has 4 minutes remaining.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I won't take the time, but I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, I think we have had a thorough debate on this. I will be very quick in my close here simply to say this is the wrong policy and the wrong message at the wrong time. This is not what we need to be doing with Colombia. This is not what we need to be doing on drug interdiction. We need to be saying to this country which has stood strong, to this country which has been courageous in its efforts to provide security for its own citizens, to provide for drug eradication, to provide for drug interdiction, we need to say to this country, to its leadership, to its president who was just elected by the largest margin in modern history in Colombia, we need to say to them, we stand with you. We support you in your efforts, because what you are doing in Colombia is on behalf also of the American citizens in the United States that we can save our children from drugs. This is not the time to send the signal that we do not believe that Colombia is doing what it needs to be doing.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the McGovern amendment. Not only will this amendment hurt kids and families in the United States, but it makes the futures of kids and families in Colombia less secure.

Drug trafficking is a tough problem. I am not going to admit that it is not a tough problem. Rape is a tough problem. Child abuse is a tough problem. Spouse abuse is a tough problem, but we do not give up our efforts; we do not give in because we have not seen a drop in spouse abuse or child abuse.

Just like the others, the drug trafficking problem is difficult. Our policies, however, have pushed the narcoterrorists out into the jungle, away from the streets of Bogota where

they used to assassinate elected officials. Because of the steadfast assistance provided by the American people to the people of Colombia, we have seen a tremendous drop in kidnappings (down 51 percent last year) and a dramatic drop in murders (down 13 percent). Overall terrorist attacks were down by 21 percent. The number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) was down by 15 percent.

The fact is that now, for the first time in modern history, every one of the 1,098 municipalities has an elected official. Why? Because they are not worried about being murdered anymore.

Due to the improved security situation in Colombia, law enforcement and military personnel are able to broaden their reach in the country. This puts pressure on the operations of the narcotraffickers, exposing their operations and coca fields.

Increasing the reach of law enforcement is part of the reason why we have a better understanding this year on the extent of coca cultivation. Cultivation declined 8% in those areas surveyed both in 2004 and 2005, from 114,100 hectares in 2004 to 105,400 in 2005. Cultivation fell in nearly all growing areas where aerial eradication was employed, Putumayo being a key exception. But in those areas where no spraying takes place, cultivation increased. Growers are reacting to intense spray operations and are moving to non-sprayed on low-spray areas.

Critics of our drug policies in Colombia are correct in stating that the coca crop estimate is 26% higher than it was last year. True enough. But this was due to a substantial expansion of the survey area by 81%. As we expected, more fields were discovered in remote areas uncontrolled by the government or areas where spraying is prohibited (e.g. buffer zone along Ecuador border or national parks). The lesson, however, is that spraying works. Where there was not spraying there was an increase in coca; where spraying occurs, cultivation is declining.

Let me conclude with this. This is not a Colombian problem; it is our problem. It is our addictions and Europe's addictions that have terrorized this 200-year-old democracy. Because drug abuse continues in America, Colombia has had 30,000 police killed. As our colleague JOE CROWLEY wrote to us earlier this year, "Plan Colombia has been a foreign policy success for the USA and a domestic security success for Colombia. Started by President Clinton and continued by President Bush, Plan Colombia has made measurable progress in Colombia's security, as seen through decreases in violence, murders and kidnappings, as well as the eradication of drug crops."

We need to stand behind the Colombia people. I ask, my colleagues to vote down the McGovern amendment.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the McGovern, Leach, Payne, Lofgren, McCollum Amendment that increases funding by $30 million for the U.S. Emergency Refugee & Migration Assistance Fund (ERMA). It will meet this additional expense by reducing funding for Plan Colombia by $30 million.

ERMA helps the United States respond rapidly to humanitarian disasters around the world. Unfortunately, as we have seen a number of humanitarian disasters recently such as the ongoing genocide in the Darfur region of the Sudan this funding is desperately needed. ERMA funds have been used to meet the needs of victims of the October 2005 earthquake in Pakistan, address the humanitarian crisis in the West Bank and Gaza, help stave off widespread starvation in drought-stricken Somalia, and aid refugee repatriation and reintegration in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. A $30 million increase in ERMA funding will greatly assist some of the poorest and most vulnerable individuals in the world today—displaced refugees.

In contrast, we have spent nearly $5 billion since 2000 on coca eradication in the Andes. This year we will over $800 million on the Colombia government's coca eradication efforts with 80% of this funding going to the Colombian military. Despite this enormous outlay of money, coca cultivation in the Andes has only increased over the last six years. Furthermore, the Colombian government and military have the dubious distinction of having among the worst human rights records in the world.

I am proud to support the McGovern, Leach, Payne, Lofgren, McCollum Amendment and encourage a "yes" vote.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the McGovern amendment. I was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Colombia. I know first hand that Colombians, if given the skills and opportunities, can develop a sustainable economy in rural areas. They don't need a continual hand-out.

That is why I am very appreciative to the Chairman for increasing funding for alternative development and institution building in Colombia. These tools will help Colombians help themselves. Alternative development programs lay the ground work for sustainable development and an economy based on legal crops.

Alternative development programs have enabled Colombian farmers to grow more specialty coffee, supported the growth of agricultural cooperatives, increased market access and taught marketing promotion to small growers. For the last six years under Plan Colombia I, and now with this installment of Plan Colombia: II, over 80% of US assistance goes toward military/police and aerial fumigation and only 20% goes toward economic and social assistance.

This is not a winning solution for peace and sustainable development in Colombia. After 6 years of sustained and robust US assistance, 40% of Colombians remained underemployed in the Colombian formal economy. I suggest we need a new paradigm for Colombia, one that brings greater parity between economic and military assistance that will enable a legal economy to flourish in rural Colombia.

The McGovern amendment recognizes this gross imbalance and shifts $30 million from, the Andean Counterdrug Initiative to the Emergency Migration and Refugee Account.

Data from the ONDCP proves that our drug fumigation policy is not working. If Plan Colombia I had been successful, the street price of cocaine would have skyrocketed, and purity would have decreased. The opposite has happened.

The McGovern amendment recognizes this flawed policy, and redirects a modest amount—$30 million out of a $384 million allocation—to an account that is desperately underfunded. ERMA provides funding for emergency humanitarian needs such as water, shelter and medical care for refugees under siege in places like Darfur, Congo, and Northern Uganda. The McGovern rights an egregious wrong on both accounts. I urge my colleagues to support the McGovern amendment.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN).

The question was taken; and the chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts will be postponed.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the remainder of the bill through page 60, line 18 be considered as read, printed in the RECORD, and open to amendment at any point.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

The text of the remainder of the bill through page 60, line 18 is as follows:

MIGRATION AND REFUGEE ASSISTANCE

For expenses, not otherwise provided for, necessary to enable the Secretary of State to provide, as authorized by law, a contribution to the International Committee of the Red Cross, assistance to refugees, including contributions to the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and other activities to meet refugee and migration needs; salaries and expenses of personnel and dependents as authorized by the Foreign Service Act of 1980; allowances as authorized by sections 5921 through 5925 of title 5, United States Code; purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles; and services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, $750,206,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That not more than $23,000,000 may be available for administrative expenses: *Provided further*, That not less than $40,000,000 of the funds made available under this heading shall be made available for refugees from the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe and other refugees resettling in Israel: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated under this heading may be made available for a headquarters contribution to the International Committee of the Red Cross only if the Secretary of State determines (and so reports to the appropriate committees of Congress) that the Magen David Adom Society of Israel is not being denied participation in the activities of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

UNITED STATES EMERGENCY REFUGEE AND MIGRATION ASSISTANCE FUND

For necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of section 2(c) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962, as amended (22 U.S.C. 2601(c)), $30,000,000, to remain available until expended.

NONPROLIFERATION, ANTI-TERRORISM, DEMINING AND RELATED PROGRAMS

For necessary expenses for nonproliferation, anti-terrorism, demining and related programs and activities, $425,010,000, to carry out the provisions of chapter 8 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 for anti-terrorism assistance, chapter 9 of part II of

the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, section 504 of the FREEDOM Support Act, section 23 of the Arms Export Control Act or the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 for demining activities, the clearance of unexploded ordnance, the destruction of small arms, and related activities, notwithstanding any other provision of law, including activities implemented through nongovernmental and international organizations, and section 301 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 for a voluntary contribution to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and for a United States contribution to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Preparatory Commission: *Provided*, That of this amount not to exceed $38,000,000, to remain available until expended, may be made available for the Nonproliferation and Disarmament Fund, notwithstanding any other provision of law, to promote bilateral and multilateral activities relating to nonproliferation and disarmament: *Provided further*, That such funds may also be used for such countries other than the Independent States of the former Soviet Union and international organizations when it is in the national security interest of the United States to do so: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated under this heading may be made available for the International Atomic Energy Agency only if the Secretary of State determines (and so reports to the Congress) that Israel is not being denied its right to participate in the activities of that Agency: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available for demining and related activities, not to exceed $700,000, in addition to funds otherwise available for such purposes, may be used for administrative expenses related to the operation and management of the demining program: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated under this heading that are available for ''Anti-terrorism Assistance'' and ''Export Control and Border Security'' shall remain available until September 30, 2008.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

For necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of section 129 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, $23,700,000, to remain available until September 30, 2009, which shall be available notwithstanding any other provision of law that restricts assistance to foreign countries.

DEBT RESTRUCTURING

For the cost, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, of modifying loans and loan guarantees, as the President may determine, for which funds have been appropriated or otherwise made available for programs within the International Affairs Budget Function 150, including the cost of selling, reducing, or canceling amounts owed to the United States as a result of concessional loans made to eligible countries, pursuant to parts IV and V of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, of modifying concessional credit agreements with least developed countries, as authorized under section 411 of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954, as amended, of concessional loans, guarantees and credit agreements, as authorized under section 572 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1989 (Public Law 100–461), and of canceling amounts owed, as a result of loans or guarantees made pursuant to the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, by countries that are eligible for debt reduction pursuant to title V of H.R. 3425 as enacted into law by section 1000(a)(5) of Public Law 106–113, $20,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2009: *Provided*, That not less than $20,000,000 of the funds appropriated under this heading shall be made available to carry out the provisions of part V of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961: *Provided further*, That amounts paid to the HIPC Trust Fund may be used only to fund debt reduction under the enhanced HIPC initiative by—

(1) the Inter-American Development Bank;

(2) the African Development Fund;

(3) the African Development Bank; and

(4) the Central American Bank for Economic Integration:

Provided further, That funds may not be paid to the HIPC Trust Fund for the benefit of any country if the Secretary of State has credible evidence that the government of such country is engaged in a consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights or in military or civil conflict that undermines its ability to develop and implement measures to alleviate poverty and to devote adequate human and financial resources to that end: *Provided further*, That on the basis of final appropriations, the Secretary of the Treasury shall consult with the Committees on Appropriations concerning which countries and international financial institutions are expected to benefit from a United States contribution to the HIPC Trust Fund during the fiscal year: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the Treasury shall inform the Committees on Appropriations not less than 15 days in advance of the signature of an agreement by the United States to make payments to the HIPC Trust Fund of amounts for such countries and institutions: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the Treasury may disburse funds designated for debt reduction through the HIPC Trust Fund only for the benefit of countries that—

(1) have committed, for a period of 24 months, not to accept new market-rate loans from the international financial institution receiving debt repayment as a result of such disbursement, other than loans made by such institutions to export-oriented commercial projects that generate foreign exchange which are generally referred to as ''enclave'' loans; and

(2) have documented and demonstrated their commitment to redirect their budgetary resources from international debt repayments to programs to alleviate poverty and promote economic growth that are additional to or expand upon those previously available for such purposes:

Provided further, That any limitation of subsection (e) of section 411 of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954 shall not apply to funds appropriated under this heading: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available under this heading in this or any other appropriations Act shall be made available for Sudan or Burma unless the Secretary of the Treasury determines and notifies the Committees on Appropriations that a democratically elected government has taken office.

TITLE III—MILITARY ASSISTANCE

FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING

For necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of section 541 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, $88,000,000, of which up to $3,000,000 may remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the civilian personnel for whom military education and training may be provided under this heading may include civilians who are not members of a government whose participation would contribute to improved civil-military relations, civilian control of the military, or respect for human rights.

FOREIGN MILITARY FINANCING PROGRAM

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For expenses necessary for grants to enable the President to carry out the provisions of section 23 of the Arms Export Control Act, $4,454,900,000: *Provided*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, not less than $2,340,000,000 shall be available for grants only for Israel, and not less than $1,300,000,000 shall be made available for grants only for Egypt: *Provided further*, That the funds appropriated by this paragraph for Israel shall be disbursed within 30 days of the enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That to the extent that the Government of Israel requests that funds be used for such purposes, grants made available for Israel by this paragraph shall, as agreed by Israel and the United States, be available for advanced weapons systems, of which not less than $610,000,000 shall be available for the procurement in Israel of defense articles and defense services, including research and development: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated by this paragraph, $216,000,000 shall be made available for assistance for Jordan: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this paragraph shall be nonrepayable notwithstanding any requirement in section 23 of the Arms Export Control Act: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this paragraph shall be obligated upon apportionment in accordance with paragraph (5)(C) of title 31, United States Code, section 1501(a).

None of the funds made available under this heading shall be available to finance the procurement of defense articles, defense services, or design and construction services that are not sold by the United States Government under the Arms Export Control Act unless the foreign country proposing to make such procurements has first signed an agreement with the United States Government specifying the conditions under which such procurements may be financed with such funds: *Provided*, That all country and funding level increases in allocations shall be submitted through the regular notification procedures of section 515 of this Act: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated under this heading shall be available for assistance for Sudan and Guatemala: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated under this heading may be made available for assistance for Haiti except pursuant to the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading may be used, notwithstanding any other provision of law, for demining, the clearance of unexploded ordnance, and related activities, and may include activities implemented through nongovernmental and international organizations: *Provided further*, That only those countries for which assistance was justified for the ''Foreign Military Sales Financing Program'' in the fiscal year 1989 congressional presentation for security assistance programs may utilize funds made available under this heading for procurement of defense articles, defense services or design and construction services that are not sold by the United States Government under the Arms Export Control Act: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated under this heading shall be expended at the minimum rate necessary to make timely payment for defense articles and services: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, $90,000,000 shall be available for Colombia and that within these funds, the Department of Defense should ensure sufficient resources are provided for the acquisition of additional aircraft for the Colombian Navy's maritime surveillance mission: *Provided further*, That

not more than $42,500,000 of the funds appropriated under this heading may be obligated for necessary expenses, including the purchase of passenger motor vehicles for replacement only for use outside of the United States, for the general costs of administering military assistance and sales: *Provided further*, That not more than $359,000,000 of funds realized pursuant to section 21(e)(1)(A) of the Arms Export Control Act may be obligated for expenses incurred by the Department of Defense during fiscal year 2007 pursuant to section 43(b) of the Arms Export Control Act, except that this limitation may be exceeded only through the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That foreign military financing program funds estimated to be outlayed for Egypt during fiscal year 2007 shall be transferred to an interest bearing account for Egypt in the Federal Reserve Bank of New York within 30 days of enactment of this Act.

PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of section 551 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, $170,000,000: *Provided*, That none of the funds appropriated under this heading shall be obligated or expended except as provided through the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations.

TITLE IV—MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

For the United States contribution for the Global Environment Facility, $56,250,000 to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development as trustee for the Global Environment Facility (GEF), by the Secretary of the Treasury, to remain available until expended.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

For payment to the International Development Association by the Secretary of the Treasury, $950,000,000, to remain available until expended.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE ENTERPRISE FOR THE AMERICAS MULTILATERAL INVESTMENT FUND

For payment to the Enterprise for the Americas Multilateral Investment Fund by the Secretary of the Treasury, for the United States contribution to the fund, $23,000,000, to remain available until expended.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT FUND

For the United States contribution by the Secretary of the Treasury to the increase in resources of the Asian Development Fund, as authorized by the Asian Development Bank Act, as amended, $115,250,000, to remain available until expended.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

For payment to the African Development Bank by the Secretary of the Treasury, $5,018,000, for the United States paid-in share of the increase in capital stock, to remain available until expended.

LIMITATION ON CALLABLE CAPITAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

The United States Governor of the African Development Bank may subscribe without fiscal year limitation for the callable capital portion of the United States share of such capital stock in an amount not to exceed $78,622,000.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND

For the United States contribution by the Secretary of the Treasury to the increase in resources of the African Development Fund, $135,700,000, to remain available until expended.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

For the United States contribution by the Secretary of the Treasury to increase the resources of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, $18,000,000, to remain available until expended.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMS

For necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of section 301 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, and of section 2 of the United Nations Environment Program Participation Act of 1973, $327,570,000: *Provided*, That none of the funds appropriated under this heading may be made available to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA): *Provided further*, That section 307(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act shall not apply to contributions to the United Nations Democracy Fund.

TITLE V—GENERAL PROVISIONS

COMPENSATION FOR UNITED STATES EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS TO INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

SEC. 501. (a) No funds appropriated by this Act may be made as payment to any international financial institution while the United States Executive Director to such institution is compensated by the institution at a rate which, together with whatever compensation such Director receives from the United States, is in excess of the rate provided for an individual occupying a position at level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, or while any alternate United States Director to such institution is compensated by the institution at a rate in excess of the rate provided for an individual occupying a position at level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

(b) For purposes of this section ''international financial institutions'' are: the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Asian Development Fund, the African Development Bank, the African Development Fund, the International Monetary Fund, the North American Development Bank, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

RESTRICTIONS ON VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES

SEC. 502. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be made available to pay any voluntary contribution of the United States to the United Nations (including the United Nations Development Program) if the United Nations implements or imposes any taxation on any United States persons.

LIMITATION ON RESIDENCE EXPENSES

SEC. 503. Of the funds appropriated or made available pursuant to this Act, not to exceed $100,500 shall be for official residence expenses of the United States Agency for International Development during the current fiscal year: *Provided*, That appropriate steps shall be taken to assure that, to the maximum extent possible, United States-owned foreign currencies are utilized in lieu of dollars.

UNOBLIGATED BALANCES REPORT

SEC. 504. Any Department or Agency to which funds are appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations a quarterly accounting by program, project, and activity of the funds received by such Department or Agency in this fiscal year or any previous fiscal year that remain unobligated and unexpended.

LIMITATION ON REPRESENTATIONAL ALLOWANCES

SEC. 505. Of the funds appropriated or made available pursuant to this Act, not to exceed $250,000 shall be available for representation and entertainment allowances, of which not to exceed $2,500 shall be available for entertainment allowances, for the United States Agency for International Development during the current fiscal year: *Provided*, That no such entertainment funds may be used for the purposes listed in section 548 of this Act: *Provided further*, That appropriate steps shall be taken to assure that, to the maximum extent possible, United States-owned foreign currencies are utilized in lieu of dollars: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available by this Act for general costs of administering military assistance and sales under the heading ''Foreign Military Financing Program'', not to exceed $4,000 shall be available for entertainment expenses and not to exceed $130,000 shall be available for representation allowances: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available by this Act under the heading ''International Military Education and Training'', not to exceed $55,000 shall be available for entertainment allowances: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available by this Act for the Inter-American Foundation, not to exceed $2,000 shall be available for entertainment and representation allowances: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available by this Act for the Peace Corps, not to exceed a total of $4,000 shall be available for entertainment expenses: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available by this Act under the heading ''Trade and Development Agency'', not to exceed $4,000 shall be available for representation and entertainment allowances: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available by this Act under the heading ''Millennium Challenge Corporation'', not to exceed $115,000 shall be available for representation and entertainment allowances.

PROHIBITION ON TAXATION OF UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE

SEC. 506. (a) PROHIBITION ON TAXATION.—None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be made available to provide assistance for a foreign country under a new bilateral agreement governing the terms and conditions under which such assistance is to be provided unless such agreement includes a provision stating that assistance provided by the United States shall be exempt from taxation, or reimbursed, by the foreign government, and the Secretary of State shall expeditiously seek to negotiate amendments to existing bilateral agreements, as necessary, to conform with this requirement.

(b) REIMBURSEMENT OF FOREIGN TAXES.—An amount equivalent to 200 percent of the total taxes assessed during fiscal year 2007 on funds appropriated by this Act by a foreign government or entity against commodities financed under United States assistance programs for which funds are appropriated by this Act, either directly or through grantees, contractors and subcontractors shall be withheld from obligation from funds appropriated for assistance for fiscal year 2008 and allocated for the central government of such country and for the West Bank and Gaza Program to the extent that the Secretary of State certifies and reports in writing to the Committees on Appropriations that such taxes have not been reimbursed to the Government of the United States.

(c) DE MINIMIS EXCEPTION.—Foreign taxes of a de minimis nature shall not be subject to the provisions of subsection (b).

(d) REPROGRAMMING OF FUNDS.—Funds withheld from obligation for each country or entity pursuant to subsection (b) shall be reprogrammed for assistance to countries which do not assess taxes on United States assistance or which have an effective arrangement that is providing substantial reimbursement of such taxes.

(e) DETERMINATIONS.—

(1) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any country or entity the Secretary of State determines—

(A) does not assess taxes on United States assistance or which has an effective arrangement that is providing substantial reimbursement of such taxes; or

(B) the foreign policy interests of the United States outweigh the policy of this section to ensure that United States assistance is not subject to taxation.

(2) The Secretary of State shall consult with the Committees on Appropriations at least 15 days prior to exercising the authority of this subsection with regard to any country or entity.

(f) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary of State shall issue rules, regulations, or policy guidance, as appropriate, to implement the prohibition against the taxation of assistance contained in this section.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section—

(1) the terms ''taxes'' and ''taxation'' refer to value added taxes and customs duties imposed on commodities financed with United States assistance for programs for which funds are appropriated by this Act; and

(2) the term ''bilateral agreement'' refers to a framework bilateral agreement between the Government of the United States and the government of the country receiving assistance that describes the privileges and immunities applicable to United States foreign assistance for such country generally, or an individual agreement between the Government of the United States and such government that describes, among other things, the treatment for tax purposes that will be accorded the United States assistance provided under that agreement.

PROHIBITION AGAINST DIRECT FUNDING FOR CERTAIN COUNTRIES

SEC. 507. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available pursuant to this Act shall be obligated or expended to finance directly any assistance or reparations to Cuba, Libya, North Korea, Iran, or Syria: *Provided*, That for purposes of this section, the prohibition on obligations or expenditures shall include direct loans, credits, insurance and guarantees of the Export-Import Bank or its agents: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this section, the prohibition shall not include activities of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation in Libya: *Provided further*, That the prohibition shall not include direct loans, credits, insurance and guarantees made available by the Export-Import Bank or its agents for or in Libya.

MILITARY COUPS

SEC. 508. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available pursuant to this Act shall be obligated or expended to finance directly any assistance to the government of any country whose duly elected head of government is deposed by military coup or decree: *Provided*, That assistance may be resumed to such government if the President determines and certifies to the Committees on Appropriations that subsequent to the termination of assistance a democratically elected government has taken office: *Provided further*, That the provisions of this section shall not apply to assistance to promote democratic elections or public participation in democratic processes: *Provided further*, That funds made available pursuant to the previous provisos shall be subject to the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations.

TRANSFERS

SEC. 509. (a)(1) LIMITATION ON TRANSFERS BETWEEN AGENCIES.—None of the funds made available by this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government, except pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this Act or any other appropriation Act.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), in addition to transfers made by, or authorized elsewhere in, this Act, funds appropriated by this Act to carry out the purposes of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 may be allocated or transferred to agencies of the United States Government pursuant to the provisions of sections 109, 610, and 632 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

(b) TRANSFERS BETWEEN ACCOUNTS.—None of the funds made available by this Act may be obligated under an appropriation account to which they were not appropriated, except for transfers specifically provided for in this Act, unless the President, not less than 5 days prior to the exercise of any authority contained in the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to transfer funds, consults with and provides a written policy justification to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

(c) AUDIT OF INTER-AGENCY TRANSFERS.—Any agreement for the transfer or allocation of funds appropriated by this Act, or prior Acts, entered into between the United States Agency for International Development and another agency of the United States Government under the authority of section 632(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 or any comparable provision of law, shall expressly provide that the Office of the Inspector General for the agency receiving the transfer or allocation of such funds shall perform periodic program and financial audits of the use of such funds: *Provided*, That funds transferred under such authority may be made available for the cost of such audits.

COMMERCIAL LEASING OF DEFENSE ARTICLES

SEC. 510. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and subject to the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations, the authority of section 23(a) of the Arms Export Control Act may be used to provide financing to Israel, Egypt and NATO and major non-NATO allies for the procurement by leasing (including leasing with an option to purchase) of defense articles from United States commercial suppliers, not including Major Defense Equipment (other than helicopters and other types of aircraft having possible civilian application), if the President determines that there are compelling foreign policy or national security reasons for those defense articles being provided by commercial lease rather than by government-to-government sale under such Act.

AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

SEC. 511. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation after the expiration of the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided in this Act: *Provided*, That funds appropriated for the purposes of chapters 1, 8, 11, and 12 of part I, section 667, chapters 4, 5, 6, 8, and 9 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, section 23 of the Arms Export Control Act, and funds provided under the heading ''Assistance for Eastern Europe and the Baltic States'', shall remain available for an additional 4 years from the date on which the availability of such funds would otherwise have expired, if such funds are initially obligated before the expiration of their respective periods of availability contained in this Act: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, any funds made available for the purposes of chapter 1 of part I and chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 which are allocated or obligated for cash disbursements in order to address balance of payments or economic policy reform objectives, shall remain available until expended.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Chairman, I make the point of order that the number ''5'' on page 60, line 4 is not in order because it violates clause 2 of rule XXI which prohibits legislation in an appropriations bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Does any Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, regrettably, I would concede the point of order.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman concedes the point of order, the point of order is sustained, and that provision of the bill is stricken.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the remainder of the bill through page 74, line 11 be considered as read, printed in the RECORD, and open to amendment at any point.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

The text of the remainder of the bill through page 74, line 11 is as follows:

LIMITATION ON ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES IN DEFAULT

SEC. 512. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be used to furnish assistance to the government of any country which is in default during a period in excess of 1 calendar year in payment to the United States of principal or interest on any loan made to the government of such country by the United States pursuant to a program for which funds are appropriated under this Act unless the President determines, following consultations with the Committees on Appropriations, that assistance to such country is in the national interest of the United States.

COMMERCE AND TRADE

SEC. 513. (a) None of the funds appropriated or made available pursuant to this Act for direct assistance and none of the funds otherwise made available pursuant to this Act to the Export-Import Bank and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation shall be obligated or expended to finance any loan, any assistance or any other financial commitments for establishing or expanding production of any commodity for export by any country other than the United States, if the commodity is likely to be in surplus on world markets at the time the resulting productive capacity is expected to become operative and if the assistance will cause substantial injury to United States producers of the same, similar, or competing commodity: *Provided*, That such prohibition shall not apply to the Export-Import Bank if in the judgment of its Board of Directors the benefits to industry and employment in the United States are likely to outweigh the injury to United States producers of the same, similar, or competing commodity, and the Chairman of the Board so notifies the Committees on Appropriations.

(b) None of the funds appropriated by this or any other Act to carry out chapter 1 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961

shall be available for any testing or breeding feasibility study, variety improvement or introduction, consultancy, publication, conference, or training in connection with the growth or production in a foreign country of an agricultural commodity for export which would compete with a similar commodity grown or produced in the United States: *Provided,* That this subsection shall not prohibit—

(1) activities designed to increase food security in developing countries where such activities will not have a significant impact on the export of agricultural commodities of the United States; or

(2) research activities intended primarily to benefit American producers.

SURPLUS COMMODITIES

SEC. 514. The Secretary of the Treasury shall instruct the United States Executive Directors of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Development Association, the International Finance Corporation, the Inter-American Development Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Asian Development Bank, the Inter-American Investment Corporation, the North American Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the African Development Bank, and the African Development Fund to use the voice and vote of the United States to oppose any assistance by these institutions, using funds appropriated or made available pursuant to this Act, for the production or extraction of any commodity or mineral for export, if it is in surplus on world markets and if the assistance will cause substantial injury to United States producers of the same, similar, or competing commodity.

REPROGRAMMING NOTIFICATIONS AND TRANSFER GUIDELINES

SEC. 515. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act or in prior Acts making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs, from any accounts in the Treasury of the United States derived by the collection of currency reflows or other offsetting collections, or made available by transfer, may be used to finance an activity, program, or project specifically denied funding by Congress in this Act.

(b) None of the funds made available in this Act or in prior Acts making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs, from any accounts in the Treasury of the United States derived by the collection of currency reflows or other offsetting collections, or made available by transfer, may be used to initiate a new or terminate an existing activity, program, or project not previously justified without prior notification of the Committees on Appropriations.

(c) For the purposes of providing the executive branch with the necessary administrative flexibility, none of the funds made available under this Act for ''Child Survival and Health Programs Fund'', ''Development Assistance'', ''International Organizations and Programs'', ''Trade and Development Agency'', ''International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement'', ''Andean Counterdrug Initiative'', ''Assistance for Eastern Europe and the Baltic States'', ''Assistance for the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union'', ''Economic Support Fund'', ''Global HIV/AIDS Initiative'', ''Peacekeeping Operations'', ''Capital Investment Fund'', ''Operating Expenses of the United States Agency for International Development'', ''Operating Expenses of the United States Agency for International Development Office of Inspector General'', ''Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining and Related Programs'', ''Millennium Challenge Corporation'' (by country only), ''Foreign Military Financing Program'', ''International Military Education and Training'', ''Peace Corps'', and ''Migration and Refugee Assistance'', shall be available for obligation for activities, programs, projects, type of materiel assistance, countries, or other operations not justified or in excess of the amount justified to the Committees on Appropriations for obligation under any of these specific headings unless the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress are notified 15 days in advance: *Provided,* That the President shall not enter into any commitment of funds appropriated for the purposes of section 23 of the Arms Export Control Act for the provision of major defense equipment, other than conventional ammunition, or other major defense items defined to be aircraft, ships, missiles, or combat vehicles, not previously justified to Congress or 20 percent in excess of the quantities justified to Congress unless the Committees on Appropriations are notified 15 days in advance of such commitment: *Provided further,* That this paragraph shall not apply to any reprogramming for an activity, program, or project for which funds are appropriated under title II or title III of this Act of less than 10 percent of the amount previously justified to the Congress for obligation for such activity, program, or project for the current fiscal year.

(d) The requirements of this section or any similar provision of this Act or any other Act, including any prior Act requiring notification in accordance with the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations, may be waived if failure to do so would pose a substantial risk to human health or welfare: *Provided,* That in case of any such waiver, notification to the Congress, or the appropriate congressional committees, shall be provided as early as practicable, but in no event later than 3 days after taking the action to which such notification requirement was applicable, in the context of the circumstances necessitating such waiver: *Provided further,* That any notification provided pursuant to such a waiver shall contain an explanation of the emergency circumstances.

LIMITATION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMS

SEC. 516. Subject to the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations, funds appropriated under this Act or any previously enacted Act making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs, which are returned or not made available for organizations and programs because of the implementation of section 307(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, shall remain available for obligation until September 30, 2008.

INDEPENDENT STATES OF THE FORMER SOVIET UNION

SEC. 517. (a) None of the funds appropriated under the heading ''Assistance for the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union'' shall be made available for assistance for a government of an Independent State of the former Soviet Union if that government directs any action in violation of the territorial integrity or national sovereignty of any other Independent State of the former Soviet Union, such as those violations included in the Helsinki Final Act: *Provided,* That such funds may be made available without regard to the restriction in this subsection if the President determines that to do so is in the national security interest of the United States.

(b) None of the funds appropriated under the heading ''Assistance for the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union'' shall be made available for any state to enhance its military capability: *Provided,* That this restriction does not apply to demilitarization, demining or nonproliferation programs.

(c) Funds appropriated under the heading ''Assistance for the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union'' for the Russian Federation, Armenia, and Uzbekistan shall be subject to the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations.

(d) Funds made available in this Act for assistance for the Independent States of the former Soviet Union shall be subject to the provisions of section 117 (relating to environment and natural resources) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

(e) In issuing new task orders, entering into contracts, or making grants, with funds appropriated in this Act or prior appropriations Acts under the heading ''Assistance for the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union'' and under comparable headings in prior appropriations Acts, for projects or activities that have as one of their primary purposes the fostering of private sector development, the Coordinator for United States Assistance to Europe and Eurasia and the implementing agency shall encourage the participation of and give significant weight to contractors and grantees who propose investing a significant amount of their own resources (including volunteer services and in-kind contributions) in such projects and activities.

PROHIBITION ON FUNDING FOR ABORTIONS AND INVOLUNTARY STERILIZATION

SEC. 518. None of the funds made available to carry out part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, may be used to pay for the performance of abortions as a method of family planning or to motivate or coerce any person to practice abortions. None of the funds made available to carry out part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, may be used to pay for the performance of involuntary sterilization as a method of family planning or to coerce or provide any financial incentive to any person to undergo sterilizations. None of the funds made available to carry out part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, may be used to pay for any biomedical research which relates in whole or in part, to methods of, or the performance of, abortions or involuntary sterilization as a means of family planning. None of the funds made available to carry out part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, may be obligated or expended for any country or organization if the President certifies that the use of these funds by any such country or organization would violate any of the above provisions related to abortions and involuntary sterilizations.

EXPORT FINANCING TRANSFER AUTHORITIES

SEC. 519. Not to exceed 5 percent of any appropriation other than for administrative expenses made available for fiscal year 2007, for programs under title I of this Act may be transferred between such appropriations for use for any of the purposes, programs, and activities for which the funds in such receiving account may be used, but no such appropriation, except as otherwise specifically provided, shall be increased by more than 25 percent by any such transfer: *Provided,* That the exercise of such authority shall be subject to the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations.

SPECIAL NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

SEC. 520. None of the funds appropriated by this Act shall be obligated or expended for assistance for Liberia, Serbia, Sudan, Zimbabwe, Pakistan, or Cambodia except as provided through the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations.

DEFINITION OF PROGRAM, PROJECT, AND ACTIVITY

SEC. 521. For the purpose of this Act ''program, project, and activity'' shall be defined at the appropriations Act account level and shall include all appropriations and authorizations Acts earmarks, ceilings, and limitations with the exception that for the following accounts: Economic Support Fund and Foreign Military Financing Program, ''program, project, and activity'' shall also be considered to include country, regional, and central program level funding within each such account; for the development assistance accounts of the United States Agency for International Development ''program, project, and activity'' shall also be considered to include central, country, regional, and program level funding, either as: (1) justified to the Congress; or (2) allocated by the executive branch in accordance with a report, to be provided to the Committees on Appropriations within 30 days of the enactment of this Act, as required by section 653(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

CHILD SURVIVAL AND HEALTH ACTIVITIES

SEC. 522. Up to $13,500,000 of the funds made available by this Act for assistance under the heading ''Child Survival and Health Programs Fund'', may be used to reimburse United States Government agencies, agencies of State governments, institutions of higher learning, and private and voluntary organizations for the full cost of individuals (including for the personal services of such individuals) detailed or assigned to, or contracted by, as the case may be, the United States Agency for International Development for the purpose of carrying out activities under that heading: *Provided,* That up to $3,500,000 of the funds made available by this Act for assistance under the heading ''Development Assistance'' may be used to reimburse such agencies, institutions, and organizations for such costs of such individuals carrying out other development assistance activities: *Provided further,* That funds appropriated by titles II and III of this Act that are made available for assistance for child survival activities or disease programs including activities relating to research on, and the prevention, treatment and control of, HIV/AIDS may be made available notwithstanding any other provision of law except for the provisions under the heading ''Child Survival and Health Programs Fund'' and the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003 (117 Stat. 711; 22 U.S.C. 7601 et seq.), as amended.

AFGHANISTAN

SEC. 523. Of the funds appropriated by titles II and III of this Act, not less than $931,400,000 should be made available for humanitarian, reconstruction, and related assistance for Afghanistan: *Provided,* That of the funds made available pursuant to this section, $3,000,000 should be made available for reforestation activities: *Provided further,* That funds made available pursuant to the previous proviso should be matched, to the maximum extent possible, with contributions from American and Afghan businesses: *Provided further,* That of the funds allocated for assistance for Afghanistan from this Act and other Acts making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for fiscal year 2007, not less than $50,000,000 should be made available to support programs that directly address the needs of Afghan women and girls.

NOTIFICATION ON EXCESS DEFENSE EQUIPMENT

SEC. 524. Prior to providing excess Department of Defense articles in accordance with section 516(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, the Department of Defense shall notify the Committees on Appropriations to the same extent and under the same conditions as are other committees pursuant to subsection (f) of that section: *Provided,* That before issuing a letter of offer to sell excess defense articles under the Arms Export Control Act, the Department of Defense shall notify the Committees on Appropriations in accordance with the regular notification procedures of such Committees if such defense articles are significant military equipment (as defined in section 47(9) of the Arms Export Control Act) or are valued (in terms of original acquisition cost) at $7,000,000 or more, or if notification is required elsewhere in this Act for the use of appropriated funds for specific countries that would receive such excess defense articles: *Provided further,* That such Committees shall also be informed of the original acquisition cost of such defense articles.

GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS, AND MALARIA

SEC. 525. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, 25 percent of the funds that are appropriated by this Act for a contribution to support the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the ''Global Fund'') shall be withheld from obligation to the Global Fund until the Secretary of State certifies to the Committees on Appropriations that the Global Fund—

(1) has clear progress indicators upon which to determine the release of incremental disbursements;

(2) is releasing such incremental disbursements only if progress is being made based on those indicators; and

(3) is providing support and oversight to country-level entities, such as country coordinating mechanisms, principal recipients, and local Fund agents, to enable them to fulfill their mandates.

(b) The Secretary of State may waive subsection (a) if the Secretary determines and reports to the Committees on Appropriations that such waiver is important to the national interest of the United States.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

SEC. 526. (a) Not less than $27,000,000 of the funds appropriated by this Act under the heading ''Economic Support Fund'' should be allocated for the Human Rights and Democracy Fund: *Provided,* That up to $1,200,000 of such funds may be used for the Reagan/Fascell Democracy Fellows program.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Chairman, I make a point of order that the language on page 74, line 6 through 11 is not in order because it violates clause 2 of rule XXI which prohibits legislation in an appropriations bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Does any Member wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I regret to say that I would concede the point of order and that these funds for the Reagan/Fascell Democracy fellows program would be stricken.

The CHAIRMAN. The point of order is conceded and is sustained and section 526 of the bill is stricken.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the remainder of the bill through page 87, line 13 be considered as read, printed in the RECORD, and open to amendment at any point.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

The text of the remainder of the bill through page 87, line 13 is as follows:

PROHIBITION ON BILATERAL ASSISTANCE TO TERRORIST COUNTRIES

SEC. 527. (a) Funds appropriated for bilateral assistance under any heading of this Act and funds appropriated under any such heading in a provision of law enacted prior to the enactment of this Act, shall not be made available to any country which the President determines—

(1) grants sanctuary from prosecution to any individual or group which has committed an act of international terrorism; or

(2) otherwise supports international terrorism.

(b) The President may waive the application of subsection (a) to a country if the President determines that national security or humanitarian reasons justify such waiver. The President shall publish each waiver in the Federal Register and, at least 15 days before the waiver takes effect, shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the waiver (including the justification for the waiver) in accordance with the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations.

DEBT-FOR-DEVELOPMENT

SEC. 528. In order to enhance the continued participation of nongovernmental organizations in debt-for-development and debt-for-nature exchanges, a nongovernmental organization which is a grantee or contractor of the United States Agency for International Development may place in interest bearing accounts local currencies which accrue to that organization as a result of economic assistance provided under title II of this Act and, subject to the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations, any interest earned on such investment shall be used for the purpose for which the assistance was provided to that organization.

SEPARATE ACCOUNTS

SEC. 529. (a) SEPARATE ACCOUNTS FOR LOCAL CURRENCIES.—

(1) If assistance is furnished to the government of a foreign country under chapters 1 and 10 of part I or chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 under agreements which result in the generation of local currencies of that country, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall—

(A) require that local currencies be deposited in a separate account established by that government;

(B) enter into an agreement with that government which sets forth—

(i) the amount of the local currencies to be generated; and

(ii) the terms and conditions under which the currencies so deposited may be utilized, consistent with this section; and

(C) establish by agreement with that government the responsibilities of the United States Agency for International Development and that government to monitor and account for deposits into and disbursements from the separate account.

(2) USES OF LOCAL CURRENCIES.—As may be agreed upon with the foreign government, local currencies deposited in a separate account pursuant to subsection (a), or an equivalent amount of local currencies, shall be used only—

(A) to carry out chapter 1 or 10 of part I or chapter 4 of part II (as the case may be), for such purposes as—

(i) project and sector assistance activities; or

(ii) debt and deficit financing; or

(B) for the administrative requirements of the United States Government.

(3) PROGRAMMING ACCOUNTABILITY.—The United States Agency for International Development shall take all necessary steps to ensure that the equivalent of the local currencies disbursed pursuant to subsection (a)(2)(A) from the separate account established pursuant to subsection (a)(1) are used for the purposes agreed upon pursuant to subsection (a)(2).

(4) TERMINATION OF ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.—Upon termination of assistance to a country under chapter 1 or 10 of part I or chapter 4 of part II (as the case may be), any unencumbered balances of funds which remain in a separate account established pursuant to subsection (a) shall be disposed of for such purposes as may be agreed to by the government of that country and the United States Government.

(5) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall report on an annual basis as part of the justification documents submitted to the Committees on Appropriations on the use of local currencies for the administrative requirements of the United States Government as authorized in subsection (a)(2)(B), and such report shall include the amount of local currency (and United States dollar equivalent) used and/or to be used for such purpose in each applicable country.

(b) SEPARATE ACCOUNTS FOR CASH TRANSFERS.—

(1) If assistance is made available to the government of a foreign country, under chapter 1 or 10 of part I or chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as cash transfer assistance or as nonproject sector assistance, that country shall be required to maintain such funds in a separate account and not commingle them with any other funds.

(2) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER PROVISIONS OF LAW.—Such funds may be obligated and expended notwithstanding provisions of law which are inconsistent with the nature of this assistance including provisions which are referenced in the Joint Explanatory Statement of the Committee of Conference accompanying House Joint Resolution 648 (House Report No. 98–1159).

(3) NOTIFICATION.—At least 15 days prior to obligating any such cash transfer or nonproject sector assistance, the President shall submit a notification through the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations, which shall include a detailed description of how the funds proposed to be made available will be used, with a discussion of the United States interests that will be served by the assistance (including, as appropriate, a description of the economic policy reforms that will be promoted by such assistance).

(4) EXEMPTION.—Nonproject sector assistance funds may be exempt from the requirements of subsection (b)(1) only through the notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations.

ENTERPRISE FUND RESTRICTIONS

SEC. 530. (a) Prior to the distribution of any assets resulting from any liquidation, dissolution, or winding up of an Enterprise Fund, in whole or in part, the President shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations, in accordance with the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations, a plan for the distribution of the assets of the Enterprise Fund.

(b) Funds made available by this Act for Enterprise Funds shall be expended at the minimum rate necessary to make timely payment for projects and activities.

FINANCIAL MARKET ASSISTANCE IN TRANSITION COUNTRIES

SEC. 531. Of the funds appropriated in Title II of this Act, not less than $40,000,000 should be made available for building capital markets and financial systems in countries in transistion, of which not less than $20,000,000 should be designated for not-for-profit organizations that mobilize volunteers with experience in the financial sector.

AUTHORITIES FOR THE PEACE CORPS, INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION AND AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

SEC. 532. Unless expressly provided to the contrary, provisions of this or any other Act, including provisions contained in prior Acts authorizing or making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs, shall not be construed to prohibit activities authorized by or conducted under the Peace Corps Act, the Inter-American Foundation Act or the African Development Foundation Act. The agency shall promptly report to the Committees on Appropriations whenever it is conducting activities or is proposing to conduct activities in a country for which assistance is prohibited.

IMPACT ON JOBS IN THE UNITED STATES

SEC. 533. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be obligated or expended to provide—

(1) any financial incentive to a business enterprise currently located in the United States for the purpose of inducing such an enterprise to relocate outside the United States if such incentive or inducement is likely to reduce the number of employees of such business enterprise in the United States because United States production is being replaced by such enterprise outside the United States; or

(2) assistance for any program, project, or activity that contributes to the violation of internationally recognized workers rights, as defined in section 507(4) of the Trade Act of 1974, of workers in the recipient country, including any designated zone or area in that country: *Provided,* That the application of section 507(4)(D) and (E) of such Act should be commensurate with the level of development of the recipient country and sector, and shall not preclude assistance for the informal sector in such country, micro and small-scale enterprise, and smallholder agriculture.

SPECIAL AUTHORITIES

SEC. 534. (a) AFGHANISTAN, IRAQ, PAKISTAN, LEBANON, MONTENEGRO, VICTIMS OF WAR, DISPLACED CHILDREN, AND DISPLACED BURMESE.—Funds appropriated by this Act that are made available for assistance for Afghanistan may be made available notwithstanding section 512 of this Act or any similar provision of law and section 660 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, and funds appropriated in titles I and II of this Act that are made available for Iraq, Lebanon, Montenegro, Pakistan, and for victims of war, displaced children, and displaced Burmese, and to assist victims of trafficking in persons and, subject to the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations, to combat such trafficking, may be made available notwithstanding any other provision of law.

(b) TROPICAL FORESTRY AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES.—Funds appropriated by this Act to carry out the provisions of sections 103 through 106, and chapter 4 of part II, of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 may be used, notwithstanding any other provision of law, for the purpose of supporting tropical forestry and biodiversity conservation activities and energy programs aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions: *Provided,* That such assistance shall be subject to sections 116, 502B, and 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

(c) PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACTORS.—Funds appropriated by this Act to carry out chapter 1 of part I, chapter 4 of part II, and section 667 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, and title II of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954, may be used by the United States Agency for International Development to employ up to 25 personal services contractors in the United States, notwithstanding any other provision of law, for the purpose of providing direct, interim support for new or expanded overseas programs and activities managed by the agency until permanent direct hire personnel are hired and trained: *Provided,* That not more than 10 of such contractors shall be assigned to any bureau or office: *Provided further,* That such funds appropriated to carry out title II of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954, may be made available only for personal services contractors assigned to the Office of Food for Peace.

(d)(1) WAIVER.—The President may waive the provisions of section 1003 of Public Law 100–204 if the President determines and certifies in writing to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate that it is important to the national security interests of the United States.

(2) PERIOD OF APPLICATION OF WAIVER.—Any waiver pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be effective for no more than a period of 6 months at a time and shall not apply beyond 12 months after the enactment of this Act.

(e) SMALL BUSINESS.—In entering into multiple award indefinite-quantity contracts with funds appropriated by this Act, the United States Agency for International Development may provide an exception to the fair opportunity process for placing task orders under such contracts when the order is placed with any category of small or small disadvantaged business.

(f) RECONSTITUTING CIVILIAN POLICE AUTHORITY.—In providing assistance with funds appropriated by this Act under section 660(b)(6) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, support for a nation emerging from instability may be deemed to mean support for regional, district, municipal, or other subnational entity emerging from instability, as well as a nation emerging from instability.

(g) WORLD FOOD PROGRAM.—Of the funds managed by the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance of the United States Agency for International Development, from this or any other Act, not less than $10,000,000 shall be made available as a general contribution to the World Food Program, notwithstanding any other provision of law.

(h) UNIFIED CAMPAIGN.—Funds transferred pursuant to the authority contained in the fifth proviso under the heading ''Foreign Military Financing Program'' in division E of Public Law 108–7 may be made available for helicopters, training, and other assistance for the Colombian Armed Forces for such things as pipeline security and interdiction, notwithstanding the limitation to security for the Cano Limon pipeline in such proviso.

(i) EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY.—

(1) With respect to funds appropriated by this Act that are available for assistance for Pakistan, the President may waive the prohibition on assistance contained in section 508 of this Act subject to the requirements contained in section 1(b) of Public Law 107–57, as amended, for a determination and certification, and consultation, by the President prior to the exercise of such waiver authority.

(2) Section 512 of this Act and section 620(q) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 shall not apply with respect to assistance for Pakistan from funds appropriated by this Act.

(3) Notwithstanding the date contained in section 6 of Public Law 107–57, as amended, the provisions of sections 2 and 4 of that Act shall remain in effect through the current fiscal year.

(j) MIDDLE EAST FOUNDATION.—Of the funds appropriated by this Act under the heading ''Economic Support Fund'' that are available for the Middle East Partnership Initiative, up to $35,000,000 may be made available, including as an endowment, notwithstanding any other provision of law and following consultations with the Committees on Appropriations, to establish and operate a Middle East Foundation, or any other similar entity, whose purposes include to support democracy, governance, human rights, and the rule of law, as well as private enterprise development in the Middle East region: *Provided,* That such funds may be made available to the Foundation only to the extent that the Foundation has commitments from sources other than the United States Government to at least match the funds provided under the authority of this subsection: *Provided further*, That provisions contained in section 201 of the Support for East European Democracy (SEED) Act of 1989 (excluding the authorizations of appropriations provided in subsection (b) of that section) shall be deemed to apply to any such foundation or similar entity referred to under this subsection, and to funds made available to such entity, in order to enable it to provide assistance for purposes of this section: *Provided further,* That prior to the initial obligation of funds for any such foundation or similar entity pursuant to the authorities of this subsection, other than for administrative support, the Secretary of State shall take steps to ensure, on an ongoing basis, that any such funds made available pursuant to such authorities are not provided to or through any individual or group that the management of the foundation or similar entity knows or has reason to believe, advocates, plans, sponsors, or otherwise engages in terrorist activities: *Provided further*, That section 530 of this Act shall apply to any such foundation or similar entity established pursuant to this subsection: *Provided further*, That the authority of the Foundation, or any similar entity, to provide assistance shall cease to be effective on September 30, 2010.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Chairman, I make a point of order that the language on page 86, line 10 after ''law,'' through the word ''region'' on line 11, is not in order because it violates clause 2 of rule XXI which prohibits legislation in an appropriations bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Does the gentleman from Arizona wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, regrettably, I concede the point of order with regard to the private enterprise development fund in the Middle East.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman concedes the point of order. The point of order is sustained. That portion of the bill is stricken.

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Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the remainder of the bill through page 91, line 17 be considered as read, printed in the RECORD, and open to amendment at any point.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

The text of the remainder of the bill through page 91, line 17 is as follows:

ARAB LEAGUE BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL

SEC. 535. It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) the Arab League boycott of Israel, and the secondary boycott of American firms that have commercial ties with Israel, is an impediment to peace in the region and to United States investment and trade in the Middle East and North Africa;

(2) the Arab League boycott, which was regrettably reinstated in 1997, should be immediately and publicly terminated, and the Central Office for the Boycott of Israel immediately disbanded;

(3) all Arab League states should normalize relations with their neighbor Israel;

(4) the President and the Secretary of State should continue to vigorously oppose the Arab League boycott of Israel and find concrete steps to demonstrate that opposition by, for example, taking into consideration the participation of any recipient country in the boycott when determining to sell weapons to said country; and

(5) the President should report to Congress annually on specific steps being taken by the United States to encourage Arab League states to normalize their relations with Israel to bring about the termination of the Arab League boycott of Israel, including those to encourage allies and trading partners of the United States to enact laws prohibiting businesses from complying with the boycott and penalizing businesses that do comply.

ELIGIBILITY FOR ASSISTANCE

SEC. 536. (a) ASSISTANCE THROUGH NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS.—Restrictions contained in this or any other Act with respect to assistance for a country shall not be construed to restrict assistance in support of programs of nongovernmental organizations from funds appropriated by this Act to carry out the provisions of chapters 1, 10, 11, and 12 of part I and chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, and from funds appropriated under the heading ''Assistance for Eastern Europe and the Baltic States'': *Provided*, That before using the authority of this subsection to furnish assistance in support of programs of nongovernmental organizations, the President shall notify the Committees on Appropriations under the regular notification procedures of those committees, including a description of the program to be assisted, the assistance to be provided, and the reasons for furnishing such assistance: *Provided further,* That nothing in this subsection shall be construed to alter any existing statutory prohibitions against abortion or involuntary sterilizations contained in this or any other Act.

(b) PUBLIC LAW 480.—During fiscal year 2007, restrictions contained in this or any other Act with respect to assistance for a country shall not be construed to restrict assistance under the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954: *Provided,* That none of the funds appropriated to carry out title I of such Act and made available pursuant to this subsection may be obligated or expended except as provided through the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations.

(c) EXCEPTION.—This section shall not apply—

(1) with respect to section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 or any comparable provision of law prohibiting assistance to countries that support international terrorism; or

(2) with respect to section 116 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 or any comparable provision of law prohibiting assistance to the government of a country that violates internationally recognized human rights.

RESERVATIONS OF FUNDS

SEC. 537. (a) Funds appropriated by this Act which are specifically designated may be reprogrammed for other programs within the same account notwithstanding the designation if compliance with the designation is made impossible by operation of any provision of this or any other Act: *Provided,* That any such reprogramming shall be subject to the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further,* That assistance that is reprogrammed pursuant to this subsection shall be made available under the same terms and conditions as originally provided.

(b) In addition to the authority contained in subsection (a), the original period of availability of funds appropriated by this Act and administered by the United States Agency for International Development that are specifically designated for particular programs or activities by this or any other Act shall be extended for an additional fiscal year if the Administrator of such agency determines and reports promptly to the Committees on Appropriations that the termination of assistance to a country or a significant change in circumstances makes it unlikely that such designated funds can be obligated during the original period of availability: *Provided,* That such designated funds that are continued available for an additional fiscal year shall be obligated only for the purpose of such designation.

CEILINGS AND DESIGNATED FUNDING LEVELS

SEC. 538. Ceilings and specifically designated funding levels contained in this Act shall not be applicable to funds or authorities appropriated or otherwise made available by any subsequent Act unless such Act specifically so directs: *Provided*, That specifically designated funding levels or minimum funding requirements contained in any other Act shall not be applicable to funds appropriated by this Act.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Chairman, I make a point of order that the language on page 91, line 14 after the word ''directs'' through line 17 is not in order because it violates clause 2 of rule XXI which prohibits legislation in an appropriations bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Does the gentleman from Arizona wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I concede the point of order.

The CHAIRMAN. The point of order is conceded and sustained. That portion of the bill is therefore stricken.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent the remainder of the bill through page 121, line 15 be considered as read, printed in the RECORD, and open to amendment at any point.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

The text of the remainder of the bill through page 121, line 15 is as follows:

PROHIBITION ON PUBLICITY OR PROPAGANDA

SEC. 539. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be used for publicity or propaganda purposes within the United States not authorized before the date of the

enactment of this Act by the Congress: *Provided,* That not to exceed $25,000 may be made available to carry out the provisions of section 316 of Public Law 96–533.

PROHIBITION OF PAYMENTS TO UNITED NATIONS MEMBERS

SEC. 540. None of the funds appropriated or made available pursuant to this Act for carrying out the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, may be used to pay in whole or in part any assessments, arrearages, or dues of any member of the United Nations or, from funds appropriated by this Act to carry out chapter 1 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, the costs for participation of another country's delegation at international conferences held under the auspices of multilateral or international organizations.

NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS—DOCUMENTATION

SEC. 541. None of the funds appropriated or made available pursuant to this Act shall be available to a nongovernmental organization which fails to provide upon timely request any document, file, or record necessary to the auditing requirements of the United States Agency for International Development.

PROHIBITION ON ASSISTANCE TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS THAT EXPORT LETHAL MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO COUNTRIES SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

SEC. 542. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be available to any foreign government which provides lethal military equipment to a country the government of which the Secretary of State has determined is a terrorist government for purposes of section 6(j) of the Export Administration Act of 1979. The prohibition under this section with respect to a foreign government shall terminate 12 months after that government ceases to provide such military equipment. This section applies with respect to lethal military equipment provided under a contract entered into after October 1, 1997.

(b) Assistance restricted by subsection (a) or any other similar provision of law, may be furnished if the President determines that furnishing such assistance is important to the national interests of the United States.

(c) Whenever the waiver authority of subsection (b) is exercised, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report with respect to the furnishing of such assistance. Any such report shall include a detailed explanation of the assistance to be provided, including the estimated dollar amount of such assistance, and an explanation of how the assistance furthers United States national interests.

WITHHOLDING OF ASSISTANCE FOR PARKING FINES AND REAL PROPERTY TAXES OWED BY FOREIGN COUNTRIES

SEC. 543. (a) Subject to subsection (c), of the funds appropriated by this Act that are made available for assistance for a foreign country, an amount equal to 110 percent of the total amount of the unpaid fully adjudicated parking fines and penalties and unpaid property taxes owed by the central government of such country shall be withheld from obligation for assistance for the central government of such country until the Secretary of State submits a certification to the appropriate congressional committees stating that such parking fines and penalties and unpaid property taxes are fully paid.

(b) Funds withheld from obligation pursuant to subsection (a) may be made available for other programs or activities funded by this Act, after consultation with and subject to the regular notification procedures of the appropriate congressional committees, provided that no such funds shall be made available for assistance for the central government of a foreign country that has not paid the total amount of the fully adjudicated parking fines and penalties and unpaid property taxes owed by such country.

(c) Subsection (a) shall not include amounts that have been withheld under any other provision of law.

(d)(1) The Secretary of State may waive the requirements set forth in subsection (a) with respect to parking fines and penalties no sooner than 60 days from the date of enactment of this Act, or at any time with respect to a particular country, if the Secretary determines that it is in the national interests of the United States to do so.

(2) The Secretary of State may waive the requirements set forth in subsection (a) with respect to the unpaid property taxes if the Secretary of State determines that it is in the national interests of the United States to do so.

(e) Not later than 6 months after the initial exercise of the waiver authority in subsection (d), the Secretary of State, after consultations with the City of New York, shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations describing a strategy, including a timetable and steps currently being taken, to collect the parking fines and penalties and unpaid property taxes and interest owed by nations receiving foreign assistance under this Act.

(f) In this section:

(1) The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) The term ''fully adjudicated'' includes circumstances in which the person to whom the vehicle is registered—

(A)(i) has not responded to the parking violation summons; or

(ii) has not followed the appropriate adjudication procedure to challenge the summons; and

(B) the period of time for payment of or challenge to the summons has lapsed.

(3) The term ''parking fines and penalties'' means parking fines and penalties—

(A) owed to—

(i) the District of Columbia; or

(ii) New York, New York; and

(B) incurred during the period April 1, 1997, through September 30, 2006.

(4) The term ''unpaid property taxes'' means the amount of unpaid taxes and interest determined to be owed by a foreign country on real property in the District of Columbia or New York, New York in a court order or judgment entered against such country by a court of the United States or any State or subdivision thereof.

LIMITATION ON ASSISTANCE FOR THE PLO FOR THE WEST BANK AND GAZA

SEC. 544. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be obligated for assistance for the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) for the West Bank and Gaza unless the President has exercised the authority under section 604(a) of the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act of 1995 (title VI of Public Law 104–107) or any other legislation to suspend or make inapplicable section 307 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and that suspension is still in effect: *Provided,* That if the President fails to make the certification under section 604(b)(2) of the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act of 1995 or to suspend the prohibition under other legislation, funds appropriated by this Act may not be obligated for assistance for the Palestine Liberation Organization for the West Bank and Gaza.

WAR CRIMES TRIBUNALS DRAWDOWN

SEC. 545. If the President determines that doing so will contribute to a just resolution of charges regarding genocide or other violations of international humanitarian law, the President may direct a drawdown pursuant to section 552(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 of up to $30,000,000 of commodities and services for the United Nations War Crimes Tribunal established with regard to the former Yugoslavia by the United Nations Security Council or such other tribunals or commissions as the Council may establish or authorize to deal with such violations, without regard to the ceiling limitation contained in paragraph (2) thereof: *Provided,* That the determination required under this section shall be in lieu of any determinations otherwise required under section 552(c): *Provided further,* That the drawdown made under this section for any tribunal shall not be construed as an endorsement or precedent for the establishment of any standing or permanent international criminal tribunal or court: *Provided further,* That funds made available for tribunals other than Yugoslavia, Rwanda, or the Special Court for Sierra Leone shall be made available subject to the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations.

LANDMINES

SEC. 546. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, demining equipment available to the United States Agency for International Development and the Department of State and used in support of the clearance of landmines and unexploded ordnance for humanitarian purposes may be disposed of on a grant basis in foreign countries, subject to such terms and conditions as the President may prescribe.

RESTRICTIONS CONCERNING THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY

SEC. 547. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be obligated or expended to create in any part of Jerusalem a new office of any department or agency of the United States Government for the purpose of conducting official United States Government business with the Palestinian Authority over Gaza and Jericho or any successor Palestinian governing entity provided for in the Israel-PLO Declaration of Principles: *Provided,* That this restriction shall not apply to the acquisition of additional space for the existing Consulate General in Jerusalem: *Provided further,* That meetings between officers and employees of the United States and officials of the Palestinian Authority, or any successor Palestinian governing entity provided for in the Israel-PLO Declaration of Principles, for the purpose of conducting official United States Government business with such authority should continue to take place in locations other than Jerusalem. As has been true in the past, officers and employees of the United States Government may continue to meet in Jerusalem on other subjects with Palestinians (including those who now occupy positions in the Palestinian Authority), have social contacts, and have incidental discussions.

PROHIBITION OF PAYMENT OF CERTAIN EXPENSES

SEC. 548. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act under the heading ''International Military Education and Training'' or ''Foreign Military Financing Program'' for Informational Program activities or under the headings ''Child Survival and Health Programs Fund'', ''Development Assistance'', and ''Economic Support Fund'' may be obligated or expended to pay for—

(1) alcoholic beverages; or

(2) entertainment expenses for activities that are substantially of a recreational character, including but not limited to entrance fees at sporting events, theatrical and musical productions, and amusement parks.

HAITI

SEC. 549. (a) The Government of Haiti shall be eligible to purchase defense articles and services under the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.), for the Coast Guard.

(b) None of the funds made available in this Act under the heading ''International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement'' may be used to transfer excess weapons, ammunition or other lethal property of an agency of the United States Government to the Government of Haiti for use by the Haitian National Police until the Secretary of State certifies to the Committees on Appropriations that: (1) the United Nations Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) has carried out the vetting of the senior levels of the Haitian National Police and has ensured that those credibly alleged to have committed serious crimes, including drug trafficking and human rights violations, have been suspended; and (2) the Haitian National Government is cooperating in a reform and restructuring plan for the Haitian National Police and the reform of the judicial system as called for in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1608 adopted on June 22, 2005.

LIMITATION ON ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY

SEC. 550. (a) PROHIBITION OF FUNDS.—None of the funds appropriated by this Act to carry out the provisions of chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 may be obligated or expended with respect to providing funds to the Palestinian Authority.

(b) WAIVER.—The prohibition included in subsection (a) shall not apply if the President certifies in writing to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate that waiving such prohibition is important to the national security interests of the United States.

(c) PERIOD OF APPLICATION OF WAIVER.—Any waiver pursuant to subsection (b) shall be effective for no more than a period of 6 months at a time and shall not apply beyond 12 months after the enactment of this Act.

(d) REPORT.—Whenever the waiver authority pursuant to subsection (b) is exercised, the President shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations detailing the steps the Palestinian Authority has taken to arrest terrorists, confiscate weapons and dismantle the terrorist infrastructure. The report shall also include a description of how funds will be spent and the accounting procedures in place to ensure that they are properly disbursed.

LIMITATION ON ASSISTANCE TO SECURITY FORCES

SEC. 551. None of the funds made available by this Act may be provided to any unit of the security forces of a foreign country if the Secretary of State has credible evidence that such unit has committed gross violations of human rights, unless the Secretary determines and reports to the Committees on Appropriations that the government of such country is taking effective measures to bring the responsible members of the security forces unit to justice: *Provided*, That nothing in this section shall be construed to withhold funds made available by this Act from any unit of the security forces of a foreign country not credibly alleged to be involved in gross violations of human rights: *Provided further*, That in the event that funds are withheld from any unit pursuant to this section, the Secretary of State shall promptly inform the foreign government of the basis for such action and shall, to the maximum extent practicable, assist the foreign government in taking effective measures to bring the responsible members of the security forces to justice.

FOREIGN MILITARY TRAINING REPORT

SEC. 552. The annual foreign military training report required by section 656 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 shall be submitted by the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate by the date specified in that section.

AUTHORIZATION REQUIREMENT

SEC. 553. Funds appropriated by this Act, except funds appropriated under the headings ''Trade and Development Agency'', ''Overseas Private Investment Corporation'', and ''Global HIV/AIDS Initiative'', may be obligated and expended notwithstanding section 10 of Public Law 91–672 and section 15 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956.

CAMBODIA

SEC. 554. The Secretary of the Treasury should instruct the United States executive directors of the international financial institutions to use the voice and vote of the United States to oppose loans to the Central Government of Cambodia, except loans to meet basic human needs.

PALESTINIAN STATEHOOD

SEC. 555. (a) LIMITATION ON ASSISTANCE.—None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be provided to support a Palestinian state unless the Secretary of State determines and certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(1) a new leadership of a Palestinian governing entity has been democratically elected through credible and competitive elections;

(2) the elected governing entity of a new Palestinian state—

(A) has demonstrated a firm commitment to peaceful co-existence with the State of Israel;

(B) is taking appropriate measures to counter terrorism and terrorist financing in the West Bank and Gaza, including the dismantling of terrorist infrastructures;

(C) is establishing a new Palestinian security entity that is cooperative with appropriate Israeli and other appropriate security organizations; and

(3) the Palestinian Authority (or the governing body of a new Palestinian state) is working with other countries in the region to vigorously pursue efforts to establish a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East that will enable Israel and an independent Palestinian state to exist within the context of full and normal relationships, which should include—

(A) termination of all claims or states of belligerency;

(B) respect for and acknowledgement of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence of every state in the area through measures including the establishment of demilitarized zones;

(C) their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force;

(D) freedom of navigation through international waterways in the area; and

(E) a framework for achieving a just settlement of the refugee problem.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the newly-elected governing entity should enact a constitution assuring the rule of law, an independent judiciary, and respect for human rights for its citizens, and should enact other laws and regulations assuring transparent and accountable governance.

(c) WAIVER.—The President may waive subsection (a) if he determines that it is vital to the national security interests of the United States to do so.

(d) EXEMPTION.—The restriction in subsection (a) shall not apply to assistance intended to help reform the Palestinian Authority and affiliated institutions, or a newly-elected governing entity, in order to help meet the requirements of subsection (a), consistent with the provisions of section 550 of this Act (''Limitation on Assistance to the Palestinian Authority'').

COLOMBIA

SEC. 556. (a) DETERMINATION AND CERTIFICATION REQUIRED.—Funds appropriated by this Act that are available for assistance for the Colombian Armed Forces, may be made available as follows:

(1) Up to 75 percent of such funds may be obligated prior to a determination and certification by the Secretary of State pursuant to paragraph (2).

(2) Up to 12.5 percent of such funds may be obligated only after the Secretary of State certifies and reports to the appropriate congressional committees that:

(A) The Commander General of the Colombian Armed Forces is suspending from the Armed Forces those members, of whatever rank who, according to the Minister of Defense or the Procuraduria General de la Nacion, have been credibly alleged to have committed gross violations of human rights, including extra-judicial killings, or to have aided or abetted paramilitary organizations.

(B) The Colombian Government is vigorously investigating and prosecuting those members of the Colombian Armed Forces, of whatever rank, who have been credibly alleged to have committed gross violations of human rights, including extra-judicial killings, or to have aided or abetted paramilitary organizations, and is promptly punishing those members of the Colombian Armed Forces found to have committed such violations of human rights or to have aided or abetted paramilitary organizations.

(C) The Colombian Armed Forces have made substantial progress in cooperating with civilian prosecutors and judicial authorities in such cases (including providing requested information, such as the identity of persons suspended from the Armed Forces and the nature and cause of the suspension, and access to witnesses, relevant military documents, and other requested information).

(D) The Colombian Armed Forces have made substantial progress in severing links (including denying access to military intelligence, vehicles, and other equipment or supplies, and ceasing other forms of active or tacit cooperation) at the command, battalion, and brigade levels, with paramilitary organizations, especially in regions where these organizations have a significant presence.

(E) The Colombian Government is dismantling paramilitary leadership and financial networks by arresting commanders and financial backers, especially in regions where these networks have a significant presence.

(F) The Colombian Government is taking effective steps to ensure that the Colombian Armed Forces are not violating the land and property rights of Colombia's indigenous communities.

(3) The balance of such funds may be obligated after July 31, 2007, if the Secretary of State certifies and reports to the appropriate congressional committees, after such date, that the Colombian Armed Forces are continuing to meet the conditions contained in paragraph (2) and are conducting vigorous operations to restore government authority and respect for human rights in areas under the effective control of paramilitary and guerrilla organizations.

(b) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Funds made available by this Act for the Colombian Armed Forces shall be subject to the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations.

(c) CONSULTATIVE PROCESS.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter until September 30, 2008, the Secretary of State shall consult with internationally recognized human rights organizations regarding progress in meeting the conditions contained in subsection (a).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AIDED OR ABETTED.—The term ''aided or abetted'' means to provide any support to paramilitary groups, including taking actions which allow, facilitate, or otherwise foster the activities of such groups.

(2) PARAMILITARY GROUPS.—The term ''paramilitary groups'' means illegal self-defense groups and illegal security cooperatives.

ILLEGAL ARMED GROUP

SEC. 557. (a) DENIAL OF VISAS TO SUPPORTERS OF COLOMBIAN ILLEGAL ARMED GROUPS.—Subject to subsection (b), the Secretary of State shall not issue a visa to any alien who the Secretary determines, based on credible evidence—

(1) has willfully provided any support to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the National Liberation Army (ELN), or the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC), including taking actions or failing to take actions which allow, facilitate, or otherwise foster the activities of such groups; or

(2) has committed, ordered, incited, assisted, or otherwise participated in the commission of gross violations of human rights, including extra-judicial killings, in Colombia.

(b) WAIVER.—Subsection (a) shall not apply if the Secretary of State determines and certifies to the appropriate congressional committees, on a case-by-case basis, that the issuance of a visa to the alien is necessary to support the peace process in Colombia or for urgent humanitarian reasons.

PROHIBITION ON ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

SEC. 558. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to provide equipment, technical support, consulting services, or any other form of assistance to the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation.

WEST BANK AND GAZA PROGRAM

SEC. 559. (a) PROHIBITION.—None of the funds appropriated by this Act for assistance under the West Bank and Gaza program may be made available for the purpose of recognizing or otherwise honoring individuals who commit, or have committed, acts of terrorism.

(b) AUDITS.—

(1) The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall ensure that Federal or non-Federal audits of all contractors and grantees, and significant subcontractors and subgrantees, under the West Bank and Gaza Program, are conducted at least on an annual basis to ensure, among other things, compliance with this section.

(2) Of the funds appropriated by this Act up to $1,000,000 may be used by the Office of the Inspector General of the United States Agency for International Development for audits, inspections, and other activities in furtherance of the requirements of this subsection.

(c) The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an audit and an investigation of the treatment, handling, and uses of all funds for the bilateral West Bank and Gaza Program in fiscal year 2006 under the heading ''Economic Support Fund''. The audit shall address—

(1) the extent to which such Program complies with the requirements of subsection (a), and

(2) an examination of all programs, projects, and activities carried out under such Program, including both obligations and expenditures.

(d) Not later than 180 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations updating the report contained in section 2106 of chapter 2 of title II of Public Law 109–13.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

SEC. 560. (a) LIMITATIONS ON AMOUNT OF CONTRIBUTION.—Of the amounts made available under ''International Organizations and Programs'' and ''Child Survival and Health Programs Fund'' for fiscal year 2007, $34,000,000 shall be made available for the United Nations Population Fund (hereafter in this section referred to as the ''UNFPA''): *Provided*, That of this amount, not less than $22,275,000 shall be derived from funds appropriated under the heading ''International Organizations and Programs''.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Funds appropriated under the heading ''International Organizations and Programs'' in this Act that are available for UNFPA, that are not made available for UNFPA because of the operation of any provision of law, shall be transferred to ''Child Survival and Health Programs Fund'' and shall be made available for family planning, maternal, and reproductive health activities, subject to the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations.

(c) PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS IN CHINA.—None of the funds made available under ''International Organizations and Programs'' may be made available for the UNFPA for a country program in the People's Republic of China.

(d) CONDITIONS ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts made available under ''International Organizations and Programs'' for fiscal year 2007 for the UNFPA may not be made available to UNFPA unless—

(1) the UNFPA maintains amounts made available to the UNFPA under this section in an account separate from other accounts of the UNFPA;

(2) the UNFPA does not commingle amounts made available to the UNFPA under this section with other sums; and

(3) the UNFPA does not fund abortions.

WAR CRIMINALS

SEC. 561. (a)(1) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available pursuant to this Act may be made available for assistance, and the Secretary of the Treasury shall instruct the United States executive directors to the international financial institutions to vote against any new project involving the extension by such institutions of any financial or technical assistance, to any country, entity, or municipality whose competent authorities have failed, as determined by the Secretary of State, to take necessary and significant steps to implement its international legal obligations to apprehend and transfer to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (the ''Tribunal'') all persons in their territory who have been indicted by the Tribunal and to otherwise cooperate with the Tribunal.

(2) The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to humanitarian assistance or assistance for democratization.

(b) The provisions of subsection (a) shall apply unless the Secretary of State determines and reports to the appropriate congressional committees that the competent authorities of such country, entity, or municipality are—

(1) cooperating with the Tribunal, including access for investigators to archives and witnesses, the provision of documents, and the surrender and transfer of indictees or assistance in their apprehension; and

(2) are acting consistently with the Dayton Accords.

(c) Not less than 10 days before any vote in an international financial institution regarding the extension of any new project involving financial or technical assistance or grants to any country or entity described in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations a written justification for the proposed assistance, including an explanation of the United States position regarding any such vote, as well as a description of the location of the proposed assistance by municipality, its purpose, and its intended beneficiaries.

(d) In carrying out this section, the Secretary of State, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and the Secretary of the Treasury shall consult with representatives of human rights organizations and all government agencies with relevant information to help prevent indicted war criminals from benefiting from any financial or technical assistance or grants provided to any country or entity described in subsection (a).

(e) The Secretary of State may waive the application of subsection (a) with respect to projects within a country, entity, or municipality upon a written determination to the Committees on Appropriations that such assistance directly supports the implementation of the Dayton Accords.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section:

(1) COUNTRY.—The term ''country'' means Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia.

(2) ENTITY.—The term ''entity'' refers to the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro and the Republika Srpska.

(3) MUNICIPALITY.—The term ''municipality'' means a city, town or other subdivision within a country or entity as defined herein.

(4) DAYTON ACCORDS.—The term ''Dayton Accords'' means the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, together with annexes relating thereto, done at Dayton, November 10 through 16, 1995.

USER FEES

SEC. 562. The Secretary of the Treasury shall instruct the United States Executive Director at each international financial institution (as defined in section 1701(c)(2) of the International Financial Institutions Act) and the International Monetary Fund to oppose any loan, grant, strategy or policy of these institutions that would require user fees or service charges on poor people for primary education or primary healthcare, including prevention and treatment efforts for HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, and infant, child, and maternal well-being, in connection with the institutions' financing programs.

FUNDING FOR SERBIA

SEC. 563. (a) Funds appropriated by this Act may be made available for assistance for the central Government of Serbia after May 31, 2007, if the President has made the determination and certification contained in subsection (c).

(b) After May 31, 2007, the Secretary of the Treasury should instruct the United States executive directors to the international financial institutions to support loans and assistance to the Government of Serbia and Montenegro subject to the conditions in subsection (c): *Provided*, That section 576 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1997, as amended, shall not apply to the provision

of loans and assistance to the Government of Serbia and Montenegro through international financial institutions.

(c) The determination and certification referred to in subsection (a) is a determination by the President and a certification to the Committees on Appropriations that the Government of Serbia and Montenegro is—

(1) cooperating with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia including access for investigators, the provision of documents, and the surrender and transfer of indictees or assistance in their apprehension, including Ratko Mladic;

(2) taking steps that are consistent with the Dayton Accords to end Serbian financial, political, security and other support which has served to maintain separate Republika Srpska institutions; and

(3) taking steps to implement policies which reflect a respect for minority rights and the rule of law.

(d) This section shall not apply to Montenegro, Kosovo, humanitarian assistance or assistance to promote democracy.

COMMUNITY-BASED POLICE ASSISTANCE

SEC. 564. (a) AUTHORITY.—Funds made available by this Act to carry out the provisions of chapter 1 of part I and chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, may be used, notwithstanding section 660 of that Act, to enhance the effectiveness and accountability of civilian police authority through training and technical assistance in human rights, the rule of law, strategic planning, and through assistance to foster civilian police roles that support democratic governance including assistance for programs to prevent conflict, respond to disasters, address gender-based violence, and foster improved police relations with the communities they serve.

(b) NOTIFICATION.—Assistance provided under subsection (a) shall be subject to prior consultation with, and the regular notification procedures of, the Committees on Appropriations.

SPECIAL DEBT RELIEF FOR THE POOREST

SEC. 565. (a) AUTHORITY TO REDUCE DEBT.—The President may reduce amounts owed to the United States (or any agency of the United States) by an eligible country as a result of—

(1) guarantees issued under sections 221 and 222 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961;

(2) credits extended or guarantees issued under the Arms Export Control Act; or

(3) any obligation or portion of such obligation, to pay for purchases of United States agricultural commodities guaranteed by the Commodity Credit Corporation under export credit guarantee programs authorized pursuant to section 5(f) of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act of June 29, 1948, as amended, section 4(b) of the Food for Peace Act of 1966, as amended (Public Law 89–808), or section 202 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978, as amended (Public Law 95–501).

(b) LIMITATIONS.—

(1) The authority provided by subsection (a) may be exercised only to implement multilateral official debt relief and referendum agreements, commonly referred to as ''Paris Club Agreed Minutes''.

(2) The authority provided by subsection (a) may be exercised only in such amounts or to such extent as is provided in advance by appropriations Acts.

(3) The authority provided by subsection (a) may be exercised only with respect to countries with heavy debt burdens that are eligible to borrow from the International Development Association, but not from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, commonly referred to as ''IDA-only'' countries.

(c) CONDITIONS.—The authority provided by subsection (a) may be exercised only with respect to a country whose government—

(1) does not have an excessive level of military expenditures;

(2) has not repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism;

(3) is not failing to cooperate on international narcotics control matters;

(4) (including its military or other security forces) does not engage in a consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights; and

(5) is not ineligible for assistance because of the application of section 527 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995.

(d) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—The authority provided by subsection (a) may be used only with regard to the funds appropriated by this Act under the heading ''Debt Restructuring''.

(e) CERTAIN PROHIBITIONS INAPPLICABLE.—A reduction of debt pursuant to subsection (a) shall not be considered assistance for the purposes of any provision of law limiting assistance to a country. The authority provided by subsection (a) may be exercised notwithstanding section 620(r) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 or section 321 of the International Development and Food Assistance Act of 1975.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I raise a point of order against section 565(a)(3) because it violates rule XXI, clause 2, which prohibits legislative language in a general appropriations bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Does the gentleman from Arizona wish to be heard?

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I concede the point of order against this language requested by the administration.

The CHAIRMAN. The point of order is conceded and sustained. That portion of the bill is therefore stricken.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the remainder of the bill through page 127, line 24 be considered as read, printed in the RECORD, and open to amendment at any point.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

The text of the remainder of the bill through page 127, line 24 is as follows:

AUTHORITY TO ENGAGE IN DEBT BUYBACKS OR SALES

SEC. 566. (a) LOANS ELIGIBLE FOR SALE, REDUCTION, OR CANCELLATION.—

(1) AUTHORITY TO SELL, REDUCE, OR CANCEL CERTAIN LOANS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the President may, in accordance with this section, sell to any eligible purchaser any concessional loan or portion thereof made before January 1, 1995, pursuant to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, to the government of any eligible country as defined in section 702(6) of that Act or on receipt of payment from an eligible purchaser, reduce or cancel such loan or portion thereof, only for the purpose of facilitating—

(A) debt-for-equity swaps, debt-for-development swaps, or debt-for-nature swaps; or

(B) a debt buyback by an eligible country of its own qualified debt, only if the eligible country uses an additional amount of the local currency of the eligible country, equal to not less than 40 percent of the price paid for such debt by such eligible country, or the difference between the price paid for such debt and the face value of such debt, to support activities that link conservation and sustainable use of natural resources with local community development, and child survival and other child development, in a manner consistent with sections 707 through 710 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, if the sale, reduction, or cancellation would not contravene any term or condition of any prior agreement relating to such loan.

(2) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the President shall, in accordance with this section, establish the terms and conditions under which loans may be sold, reduced, or canceled pursuant to this section.

(3) ADMINISTRATION.—The Facility, as defined in section 702(8) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, shall notify the administrator of the agency primarily responsible for administering part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 of purchasers that the President has determined to be eligible, and shall direct such agency to carry out the sale, reduction, or cancellation of a loan pursuant to this section. Such agency shall make adjustment in its accounts to reflect the sale, reduction, or cancellation.

(4) LIMITATION.—The authorities of this subsection shall be available only to the extent that appropriations for the cost of the modification, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, are made in advance.

(b) DEPOSIT OF PROCEEDS.—The proceeds from the sale, reduction, or cancellation of any loan sold, reduced, or canceled pursuant to this section shall be deposited in the United States Government account or accounts established for the repayment of such loan.

(c) ELIGIBLE PURCHASERS.—A loan may be sold pursuant to subsection (a)(1)(A) only to a purchaser who presents plans satisfactory to the President for using the loan for the purpose of engaging in debt-for-equity swaps, debt-for-development swaps, or debt-for-nature swaps.

(d) DEBTOR CONSULTATIONS.—Before the sale to any eligible purchaser, or any reduction or cancellation pursuant to this section, of any loan made to an eligible country, the President should consult with the country concerning the amount of loans to be sold, reduced, or canceled and their uses for debt-for-equity swaps, debt-for-development swaps, or debt-for-nature swaps.

(e) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—The authority provided by subsection (a) may be used only with regard to funds appropriated by this Act under the heading ''Debt Restructuring''.

BASIC EDUCATION

SEC. 567. Of the funds appropriated by title II of this Act, not less than $550,000,000 shall be made available for basic education.

RECONCILIATION PROGRAMS

SEC. 568. Of the funds appropriated under the heading ''Economic Support Fund'', not less than $15,000,000 should be made available to support reconciliation programs and activities which bring together individuals of different ethnic, religious, and political backgrounds from areas of civil conflict and war.

SUDAN

SEC. 569. (a) LIMITATION ON ASSISTANCE.—Subject to subsection (b):

(1) Notwithstanding section 501(a) of the International Malaria Control Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–570) or any other provision of law, none of the funds appropriated by this Act may be made available for assistance for the Government of Sudan.

(2) None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be made available for the cost, as

defined in section 502, of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, of modifying loans and loan guarantees held by the Government of Sudan, including the cost of selling, reducing, or canceling amounts owed to the United States, and modifying concessional loans, guarantees, and credit agreements.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply if the Secretary of State determines and certifies to the Committees on Appropriations that—

(1) the Government of Sudan has taken significant steps to disarm and disband government-supported militia groups in the Darfur region;

(2) the Government of Sudan and all government-supported militia groups are honoring their ceasefire commitments made in the Darfur Peace Agreement; and

(3) the Government of Sudan is allowing unimpeded access to Darfur to humanitarian aid organizations, the human rights investigation and humanitarian teams of the United Nations, including protection officers, and an international monitoring team that is based in Darfur and that has the support of the United States.

(c) EXCEPTIONS.—The provisions of subsection (b) shall not apply to—

(1) humanitarian assistance;

(2) assistance for Darfur and for areas outside the control of the Government of Sudan; and

(3) assistance to support implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement or the Darfur Peace Agreement.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this Act and section 501 of Public Law 106–570, the terms ''Government of Sudan'', ''areas outside of control of the Government of Sudan'', and ''area in Sudan outside of control of the Government of Sudan'' shall have the same meaning and application as was the case immediately prior to June 5, 2004, and, Southern Kordofan/Nuba Mountains State, Blue Nile State and Abyei shall be deemed ''areas outside of control of the Government of Sudan''.

PEACE CORPS PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACTORS SEPARATION PAY

SEC. 570. (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a fund for the Peace Corps to provide separation pay for host country resident personal services contractors of the Peace Corps.

(b) FUNDING.—The Director of the Peace Corps may deposit in such fund—

(1) amounts previously obligated and not canceled for separation pay of host country resident personal services contractors of the Peace Corps; and

(2) amounts obligated for fiscal years after 2006 for the current and future costs of separation pay for host country resident personal services contractors of the Peace Corps.

(c) AVAILABILITY.—Beginning in fiscal year 2007 and thereafter, amounts in the fund are available without fiscal year limitation for severance, retirement, or other separation payments to host country resident personal services contractors of the Peace Corps in countries where such pay is legally authorized.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Chairman, I make a point of order that the language on page 127, line 5 through line 24 is not in order because it violates clause 2 of rule XXI which prohibits legislation in an appropriations bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Does the gentleman from Arizona wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I concede the point of order against that language dealing with separation pay for the Peace Corps.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman concedes the point of order. It is therefore sustained, and section 570 of the bill is stricken.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the remainder of the bill through page 136, line 5 be considered as read, printed in the RECORD, and open to amendment at any point.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

The text of the remainder of the bill through page 136, line 5 is as follows:

EXCESS DEFENSE ARTICLES FOR CENTRAL AND SOUTH EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND CERTAIN OTHER COUNTRIES

SEC. 571. Notwithstanding section 516(e) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j(e)), during fiscal year 2007, funds available to the Department of Defense may be expended for crating, packing, handling, and transportation of excess defense articles transferred under the authority of section 516 of such Act to Albania, Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, India, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Mongolia, Pakistan, Romania, Slovakia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine.

CUBA

SEC. 572. None of the funds appropriated by this Act under the heading ''International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement'' may be made available for assistance to the Government of Cuba.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

SEC. 573. Programs funded under titles II and III of this Act that provide training for foreign police, judicial, and military officials, shall include, where appropriate, programs and activities that address gender-based violence.

LIMITATION ON ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUND ASSISTANCE FOR CERTAIN FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS THAT ARE PARTIES TO THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

SEC. 574. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act in title II under the heading ''Economic Support Fund'' may be used to provide assistance to the government of a country that is a party to the International Criminal Court and has not entered into an agreement with the United States pursuant to Article 98 of the Rome Statute preventing the International Criminal Court from proceeding against United States personnel present in such country.

(b) The President may, with prior notice to Congress, waive the prohibition of subsection (a) with respect to a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (''NATO'') member country, a major non-NATO ally (including Australia, Egypt, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Argentina, the Republic of Korea, and New Zealand), Taiwan, or such other country as he may determine if he determines and reports to the appropriate congressional committees that it is important to the national interests of the United States to waive such prohibition.

(c) The President may, with prior notice to Congress, waive the prohibition of subsection (a) with respect to a particular country if he determines and reports to the appropriate congressional committees that such country has entered into an agreement with the United States pursuant to Article 98 of the Rome Statute preventing the International Criminal Court from proceeding against United States personnel present in such country.

(d) The prohibition of this section shall not apply to countries otherwise eligible for assistance under the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003, notwithstanding section 606(a)(2)(B) of such Act.

TIBET

SEC. 575. (a) The Secretary of the Treasury should instruct the United States executive director to each international financial institution to use the voice and vote of the United States to support projects in Tibet if such projects do not provide incentives for the migration and settlement of non-Tibetans into Tibet or facilitate the transfer of ownership of Tibetan land and natural resources to non-Tibetans; are based on a thorough needs-assessment; foster self-sufficiency of the Tibetan people and respect Tibetan culture and traditions; and are subject to effective monitoring.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, not less than $4,000,000 of the funds appropriated by this Act under the heading ''Economic Support Fund'' should be made available to nongovernmental organizations to support activities which preserve cultural traditions and promote sustainable development and environmental conservation in Tibetan communities in the Tibetan Autonomous Region and in other Tibetan communities in China, and not less than $250,000 should be made available to the National Endowment for Democracy for human rights and democracy programs relating to Tibet.

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

SEC. 576. (a) Of the funds appropriated by this Act under the headings ''Child Survival and Health Programs Fund'' and ''Development Assistance'', not less than the amount of funds initially allocated pursuant to section 653(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 for fiscal year 2006 should be made available for El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Honduras.

(b) In addition to the amounts requested under the heading ''Economic Support Fund'' for assistance for Nicaragua and Guatemala in fiscal year 2007, not less than $1,500,000 should be made available for electoral assistance, media and civil society programs, and activities to combat corruption and strengthen democracy in Nicaragua, and not less than $1,500,000 should be made available for programs and activities to combat organized crime, crimes of violence specifically targeting women, and corruption in Guatemala.

(c) Funds made available pursuant to subsection (b) shall be subject to prior consultation with the Committees on Appropriations.

(d) Of the funds appropriated in title II of this Act, not less than the amount of funds initially allocated pursuant to section 653(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 for fiscal year 2006 in the aggregate for countries of the Western Hemisphere should be made available for such puposes in this bill.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 577. (a) AUTHORITY.—Up to $81,000,000 of the funds made available in this Act to carry out the provisions of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, including funds appropriated under the heading ''Assistance for Eastern Europe and the Baltic States'', may be used by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to hire and employ individuals in the United States and overseas on a limited appointment basis pursuant to the authority of sections 308 and 309 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980.

(b) RESTRICTIONS.—

(1) The number of individuals hired in any fiscal year pursuant to the authority contained in subsection (a) may not exceed 175.

(2) The authority to hire individuals contained in subsection (a) shall expire on September 30, 2008.

(c) CONDITIONS.—The authority of subsection (a) may only be used to the extent that an equivalent number of positions that are filled by personal services contractors or other nondirect-hire employees of USAID, who are compensated with funds appropriated to carry out part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, including funds appropriated under the heading ''Assistance for Eastern Europe and the Baltic States'', are eliminated.

(d) PRIORITY SECTORS.—In exercising the authority of this section, primary emphasis shall be placed on enabling USAID to meet personnel positions in technical skill areas currently encumbered by contractor or other nondirect-hire personnel.

(e) CONSULTATIONS.—The USAID Administrator shall consult with the Committees on Appropriations at least on a quarterly basis concerning the implementation of this section.

(f) PROGRAM ACCOUNT CHARGED.—The account charged for the cost of an individual hired and employed under the authority of this section shall be the account to which such individual's responsibilities primarily relate. Funds made available to carry out this section may be transferred to and merged and consolidated with funds appropriated for ''Operating Expenses of the United States Agency for International Development''.

(g) MANAGEMENT REFORM PILOT.—Of the funds made available in subsection (a), USAID may use, in addition to funds otherwise available for such purposes, up to $10,000,000 to fund overseas support costs of members of the Foreign Service with a Foreign Service rank of four or below: *Provided,* That such authority is only used to reduce USAID's reliance on overseas personal services contractors or other nondirect-hire employees compensated with funds appropriated to carry out part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, including funds appropriated under the heading ''Assistance for Eastern Europe and the Baltic States''.

(h) DISASTER SURGE CAPACITY.—Funds appropriated by this Act to carry out part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, including funds appropriated under the heading ''Assistance for Eastern Europe and the Baltic States'', may be used, in addition to funds otherwise available for such purposes, for the cost (including the support costs) of individuals detailed to or employed by the United States Agency for International Development whose primary responsibility is to carry out programs in response to natural disasters.

RESCISSIONS

SEC. 578. (a) Of the funds provided in title IV of Public Law 109–102, under the heading ''Funds Appropriated to the President, International Financial Institutions, Contribution to the International Development Association'', $188,100,000 is hereby rescinded.

(b) Of the funds appropriated in Public Law 109–102 under the heading ''Economic Support Fund'' that are available for assistance and under such heading in prior Acts making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs, $200,000,000 are hereby rescinded: *Provided*, That such amount shall be derived only from funds not yet expended for cash transfer assistance.

OPIC TRANSFER AUTHORITY

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 579. Whenever the President determines that it is in furtherance of the purposes of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, up to a total of $30,000,000 of the funds appropriated for programs in Iraq under title II of this Act may be transferred to and merged with funds appropriated by this Act for the Overseas Private Investment Corporation Program Account, to be subject to the terms and conditions of that account: *Provided,* That such funds shall not be available for administrative expenses of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation: *Provided further,* That funds specially designated by this Act shall not be transferred pursuant to this section: *Provided further,* That the exercise of such authority shall be subject to the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Chairman, I make a point of order that the language on page 135, line 17 through page 136, line 5 is not in order because it violates clause 2 of rule XXI which prohibits legislation in an appropriations bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Does the gentleman from Arizona wish to be heard on the point of order?

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I concede the point of order against this legislation, strongly desired by the administration regarding OPIC and Iraq.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman concedes the point of order. It is therefore sustained, and that portion of the bill is stricken.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS).

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I would like to begin by thanking the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) for all of their hard work on this bill. I deeply appreciate their concern and their attention and responsiveness to my concerns about the need for U.S. assistance to Haiti.

I had planned early on to offer an amendment that would have added $20 million for Haiti in fiscal year 2007 in order to restore the funds that were cut from the supplemental appropriations bill for fiscal year 2006. However, I decided not to offer this amendment because I sincerely believe that the chairman and the ranking member have made a tremendous effort to protect funding for Haiti as much as possible in both the supplemental appropriations bill and the bill before us today.

Mr. Chairman, I have paid attention to Haiti, this very small, poor country in our hemisphere, because I think they have been the stepchild of foreign aid and foreign consideration by our own government and other governments in this hemisphere.

The people of Haiti have suffered a lot. The Republic of Haiti held elections on February 7, 2006, and many Haitians walked miles on election day to reach a polling station and waited for hours in line to exercise their right to vote. An overwhelming 2.2 million Haitians, more than 60 percent of registered voters, participated in these elections and demonstrated their commitment to democracy. Rene Preval was declared the winner of the presidential election after receiving over 51 percent of the vote in a crowded field of candidates.

Now, the challenges facing President Preval and the newly elected government are enormous. The people of Haiti have suffered tremendously in past years as a result of this poverty, political violence and natural disaster, and the newly elected government will need the support and assistance of the United States to ensure national reconciliation and sustainable development and to improve the lives of the Haitian people.

So I come today not only to congratulate and thank my friends and my colleagues, but to say that we have an opportunity to really reach out and help this small, poor country, a country where we have sided with dictators in the past, Papa Doc and Baby Doc and others who kept their foot on the necks of the poor, who sided with the elite and who have sided with outside interests to control the economics of Haiti. They have driven this country into the ground.

My greatest desire, I would say to Ranking Member LOWEY, is that they will get a water system. They don't have potable water in Haiti. My greatest desire is that we will have education for the kids and health centers. My greatest desire is that we will support a government with a justice system, with trained judges and a supreme court and courts that will be able to deal with the problems of violence and crime, et cetera. This will help so much.

I think what you have done here is sent a message to other potential funding sources. You are saying to IMF and to the World Bank and others that we really do care and we really do want to lend a hand and that we really believe in the possibilities for Haiti. I want to thank you.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentlewoman for her commitment for so many years to Haiti, and I certainly share her views and that commitment. I do hope with the leadership of Haiti that the people, the families, especially the children, can have the opportunities that all deserve. I look forward to continuing to work with you, with the chairman, to ensure that the United States is a strong partner, and working together we can reach the goals which you have expressed so eloquently.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

LIMITATION ON FUNDS RELATING TO ATTENDANCE OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES AT CONFERENCES OCCURRING OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

SEC. 580. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to send or otherwise pay for the attendance of more than 50 employees of agencies or departments of the United States Government who are stationed in the United States, at any single international conference occurring outside the United States, unless the Secretary of State

determines that such attendance is in the national interest: *Provided*, That for purposes of this section the term ''international conference'' shall mean a conference attended by representatives of the United States Government and representatives of foreign governments, international organizations, or nongovernmental organizations.

LIMITATION ON ASSISTANCE TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES THAT REFUSE TO EXTRADITE TO THE UNITED STATES ANY INDIVIDUAL ACCUSED IN THE UNITED STATES OF KILLING A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

SEC. 581. None of the funds made available in this Act for the Department of State may be used to provide assistance to the central government of a country which has notified the Department of State of its refusal to extradite to the United States any individual indicted in the United States for killing a law enforcement officer, as specified in a United States extradition request, unless the Secretary of State certifies to the Committees on Appropriations in writing that the application of the restriction to a country or countries is contrary to the national interest of the United States.

AMENDMENT NO. 14 OFFERED BY MR. MCHENRY

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 14 offered by Mr. MCHENRY:

Page 137, line 11, strike '', unless'' and all that follows through ''United States'' on line 15.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of June 8, 2006, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, first of all I would like to commend Chairman KOLBE for his dedication and steadfast leadership here in the United States House of Representatives, and in particular his leadership on this very important appropriations subcommittee. Chairman, you are going to be sorely missed here in Congress, but we know that you are going to continue to fight the good fight for the right issues and the right values going forward. Thank you for your service to your constituents and your Nation.

Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak today and I offer an amendment to this end to speak to a growing problem in our Nation where criminals who commit violent crimes, including murdering law enforcement officers, these criminals are illegal immigrants, some of them. Some are immigrants. These folks sometimes flee the Nation and they flee to nations that refuse to extradite them back to the United States of America so they can be dealt with in our justice system, and those nations have been refusing to extradite these criminals because of our tough laws on criminals, including life imprisonment.

There is language in this bill that addresses these concerns, but there is one big problem: it gives the State Department the power to issue waivers to foreign countries which allow these countries to continue receiving taxpayer funding even if they refuse to extradite these criminals to the United States.

My amendment strikes the State Department's ability to issue waivers to foreign countries that refuse to extradite cop killers so they will stand trial here in the United States where their crime was committed or allegedly committed.

I offered the original amendment last year with Congressman BEAUPREZ of Colorado without this waiver provision. It passed by a vote of 327–98 on this House floor. The amendment would return section 581 to its original intent: no funds should go to a foreign country refusing to extradite to the United States any individual accused in the United States of killing a law enforcement officer.

In 2002, Mr. Chairman, a convicted felon who had been deported three times allegedly shot and killed a Los Angeles County sheriff following a routine traffic stop before fleeing to Mexico, where he remains today. That police officer was murdered, and that criminal, that man accused, is free today in Mexico.

The U.S. should not be forced to plea bargain with other countries in order to try criminals, especially cop killers, in our courts. As a good neighbor and a country built on respect for law, Mexico should fully understand and comply with their obligations to return cop killers to the United States to stand trial. Killing a police officer is one of the most egregious crimes, and we should have the right to seek justice for the families of the slain officers.

Mr. Chairman, when countries do not extradite violent criminals, it actually creates a perverse and twisted incentive to even commit greater violent crimes here and run back to their countries. The more violent the crime, the tougher the sentence here in the United States, which is right, that is good; and the tougher the sentence, the less likely they are going to be extradited. That is a very perverse and twisted incentive for violent crimes.

So the U.S. should not be obliged to give foreign aid to these countries refusing to extradite these violent criminals back to the United States where they justly should be given the trial they deserve, and foreign aid money should not go to these countries that will not abide by reasonable laws that we have on the books.

I ask my colleagues to vote for this amendment. It is a commonsense amendment that puts teeth back into the original legislation and will put pressure on countries who gladly take our money while protecting the most vile criminals from prosecution.

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

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I rise to claim the time in opposition, though I do not intend to oppose this.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the gentleman from Arizona may control the time in opposition and is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, as the gentleman from North Carolina has explained, his amendment seeks to strike the waiver provision that we have in section 581 of this bill. That section limits the availability, as he has described, of assistance to foreign countries that refuse to extradite to the United States any individual accused in the United States of killing a law enforcement officer. Certainly, as he has said, we want to pursue to the farthest ends of this Earth anybody that is accused of killing a law enforcement officer here in the United States.

The provision does also include authority for the Secretary to provide assistance if she certifies to the Committee on Appropriations that the application of the restriction to a country or countries is contrary to the national interests of the United States.

Now, I acknowledge that that language was not in the bill when we passed it last year. It was added in conference. So what we brought to the floor this year is exactly the language that was enacted into law last year, but the provision that he seeks to strike was language that was not included in the House-passed bill last year.

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And given that understanding, that what his amendment would do is to simply return the language in this bill to that that we passed on the floor of the House last year, given that understanding, I am prepared to accept this amendment.

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

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY).

The amendment was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND BUDGET AND HIRING CEILINGS

SEC. 582. The Secretary of the Treasury shall instruct the United States Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund to use the voice of the United States to ensure that any loan, project, agreement, memorandum, instrument, plan or other program of the Intenational Monetary Fund does not penalize countries for increased government spending on healthcare or education by exempting such increases from national budget caps or restraints, hiring or wage bill celings or other limits imposed by the International Monetary Fund.

GOVERNMENTS THAT HAVE FAILED TO PERMIT CERTAIN EXTRADITIONS

SEC. 583. None of the funds made available in this Act for the Department of State, other than funds provided under the heading ''International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement'', may be used to provide assistance to the central government of a

country with which the United States has an extradition treaty and which government has notified the Department of State of its refusal to extradite to the United States any individual indicted for a criminal offense for which the maximum penalty is life imprisonment without the possibility of parole, unless the Secretary of State certifies to the Committees on Appropriations in writing that the application of this restriction to a country or countries is contrary to the national interest of the United States.

AMENDMENT NO. 13 OFFERED BY MR. DEAL OF GEORGIA

Mr. DEAL of GEORGIA. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 13 offered by Mr. DEAL of Georgia:

Page 138, beginning on line 12, strike ''indicted for'' and insert ''charged with''.

Page 138 line 14, strike '', unless'' and all that follows through ''United States'' on line 18.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of June 8, 2006, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment is similar to the one we have just discussed that Mr. MCHENRY was talking about, except that it is broader in the context of dealing with not just those who would kill cops, but those who would kill other citizens in our country, who would rape our children and our women, who would sell and deal in distributing major drugs in our country, in other words major criminals who commit these crimes within our borders and then flee back across the border.

Mr. Chairman, I would suggest that this is similar also in that what the chairman has done, and I commend him for this, is that he has put into the base bill the language that was adopted in the conference committee last year.

As in the similar situation previously, it contains a waiver provision for the Secretary of State to waive the provisions for a country that refuses to extradite under the terms of this language.

The only other exception from that variation is that it uses the words that an individual must be indicted. The language we have used, and the language that is consistent in most extradition treaties is charged.

There is a legal difference between the two. My amendment would change the language back to the way it was when it passed the House last year, to an individual who is charged rather than having to be indicted, and then strikes the language that allows the State Department to waive the provisions of this part of the Act.

Now, I believe the chairman probably is going to receive this favorably, and I would thank him in advance for that. But I would say to him that I had a second amendment that I will not offer, but I would call it to his attention and ask that he consider the merits of it, because it deals with some more of the technicalities of extraditions.

It deals with a country that would, rather than dealing with a specific individual extradition, just simply issues a broad statement that we will not extradite anyone if they face punishment of 20 years or 25 years.

And the language that we have is tailored to individuals, not blanket-type waivers. The other part is, that if they simply do not respond to an extradition request, we think those are technical areas that ought to be examined. I do commend the chairman not only for his willingness to insert and agree to this kind of language, but also for his long service in the interest in this year.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the chairman at this time.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Georgia for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, as he has explained what his amendment would do, and as we did with the previous amendment offered by the gentleman from Carolina we would return this particular provision back to the same as the House adopted last year.

And with that understanding, I am certainly willing to accept this. The gentleman has also said that he will not offer the other amendment which does expand the authorities. He has asked us to consider that. We certainly can consider that in the conference committee.

But, as long as we are returning this to the provisions added last year, I would certainly ask that we leave it as it was last year, and not expand the authority either here on the floor.

With that understanding, I accept the gentleman's amendment.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time.

Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for that. I would say in conclusion that I hope that the State Department will deal in better faith in dealing with issues such as waivers. I know the chairman and others in the conference are going to be under extreme pressure from the State Department to reinsert waiver language.

But I would say when we give the State Department discretion in the nature of a waiver, they owe it to this Congress, out of respect for what we think is important about extraditing people who have committed the most heinous crimes against our citizens, and for whom those countries are receiving taxpayer dollars and assistance, to do more than they did last year in a one-sentence waiver that made no distinction between those countries that were trying and those countries that were not.

I thank again the chairman. I urge him to stand firm on this issue.

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

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the remainder of the bill through page 146, line 21 be considered as read, printed in the RECORD and open to amendment at any point.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

The text of the remainder of the bill through page 146, line 21 is as follows:

REPORTING REQUIREMENT

SEC. 584. The Secretary of State shall provide the Committees on Appropriations, not later than April 1, 2007, and for each fiscal quarter, a report in writing on the uses of funds made available under the headings ''Foreign Military Financing Program'', ''International Military Education and Training'', and ''Peacekeeping Operations'': *Provided*, That such report shall include a description of the obligation and expenditure of funds, and the specific country in receipt of, and the use or purpose of the assistance provided by such funds.

ASSISTANCE FOR DEMOBILIZATION AND DISARMAMENT OF FORMER IRREGULAR COMBATANTS IN COLOMBIA

SEC. 585. (a) AVAILABLITY OF FUNDS.—Of the funds appropriated in this Act, up to $20,000,000 may be made available in fiscal year 2007 for assistance for the demobilization and disarmament of former members of foreign terrorist organizations (FTOs) in Colombia, specifically the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC), the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the National Liberation Army (ELN), if the Secretary of State makes a certification described in subsection (b) to the appropriate congressional committees prior to the intial obligation of amounts for such assistance for the fiscal year involved.

(b) CERTIFICATION.—A certification described in this subsection is a certification that—

(1) assistance for the fiscal year will be provided only for individuals who have: (A) verifiably renounced and terminated any affiliation or involvement with FTOs or other illegal armed groups; and (B) are meeting all the requirements of the Colombia Demobilization Program, including having disclosed their involvement in past crimes and their knowledge of the FTO's structure, financing sources, illegal assets, and the location of kidnapping victims and bodies of the disappeared;

(2) the Government of Colombia is providing full cooperation to the Government of the United States to extradite the leaders and members of the FTOs who have been indicted in the United States for murder, kidnapping, narcotics trafficking, and other violations of United States law;

(3) the Government of Colombia is implementing a concrete and workable framework for dismantling the organizational structures of foreign terrorist organizations; and

(4) funds shall not be made available as cash payments to individuals and are available only for activities under the following categories: verification, reintegration (including training and education), vetting, recovery of assets for reparations for victims, and investigations and prosecutions.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

(2) FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATION.—The term ''foreign terrorist organization'' means an organization designated as a terrorist organization under section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT

SEC. 586. The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) shall create within USAID a new office of Trade Capacity Enhancement and designate a Director of that office: *Provided*, That this office shall be responsible for USAID's trade capacity building programs, coordinating the implementation of all programs developed by the State Department for trade capacity building and coordinating government-wide trade capacity building efforts of United States agencies: *Provided further*, That this office shall be responsible for ensuring that country strategic plans, as appropriate, include a trade capacity enhancement strategic goal and monitor the implemenation plan for achieving this goal.

ENHANCING WOMEN'S ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

SEC. 587. (a) SUPPORT FOR WOMEN'S SMALL- AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

(1) IN GENERAL.—When carrying out enterprise development programs with funds appropriated in ''Development Assistance'', ''Economic Support Funds'', or otherwise made available in the Act for ''Development Assistance'', the Director of Foreign Assistance shall ensure that, where appropriate, such programs, projects, and activities meet the requirements of paragraph (2) of this subsection.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The requirements referred to in paragraph (1) are the following:

(A) In coordination with developing country governments and interested individuals and organizations, create or enhance laws, regulations, enforcement, and other practices that promote access to banking and financial services for women-owned small- and medium-sized enterprises, and eliminate or reduce regulatory barriers that may exist in this regard.

(B) Promote access to information and communication technologies (ICT) with training in ICT for women-owned small- and medium-sized enterprises.

(C) Provide training, through local associations of women-owned enterprises in record keeping, financial and personnel management, international trade, business planning, marketing, policy advocacy, and other relevant areas.

(D) Provide resources to establish and enhance local, national, and international networks and associations of women-owned small- and medium-sized enterprises.

(E) Provide incentives for nongovernmental organizations and regulated financial intermediaries to develop products, services, and marketing and outreach strategies specifically designed to facilitate and promote women's participation in small and medium-sized business development programs by addressing women's assets, needs, and the barriers they face to participation in enterprise and financial services.

(F) Seek to award contracts to qualified indigenous women-owned small and medium-sized enterprises, including for post-conflict reconstruction and to facilitate employment of indigenous women, including during post-conflict reconstruction in jobs not traditionally undertaken by women.

(b) TRADE BENEFITS FOR WOMEN IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.—The enterprise development and trade capacity promotion programs administered by the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development shall incorporate the following objectives:

(1) Provide training and education to women's civil society, including those organizations representing poor women, and to women-owned enterprises and associations of such enterprises, on how to respond to economic opportunities created by trade preference programs, trade agreements, or other policies creating market access, including training on United States market access requirements and procedures.

(2) Provide capacity building for women entrepreneurs, including microentrepreneurs, on production strategies, quality standards, formation of cooperatives, market research, and market development.

(3) Provide capacity building to women, including poor women, to promote diversification of products and value-added processing.

(4) Provide training to official government negotiators representing developing countries in order to enhance the ability of such negotiators to formulate trade policy and negotiate agreements that take into account the needs and priorities of a country's poor, including poor women.

(5) Provide training to local women's groups in developing countries in order to enhance their ability to collect information and data, formulate proposals, and inform and impact official government negotiators representing their country in international trade negotiations of the needs and priorities of a country's poor, including poor women.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the enactment of this Act, the Director of Foreign Assistance shall report to the Committees on Appropriations on the implementation of the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this section.

AUTHORIZATION

SEC. 588. To authorize United States participation in, and appropriations for, the United States contribution to the first replenishment of the resources of the Enterprise for the Americas Multilateral Investment Fund, the Inter-American Development Bank Act (22 U.S.C. 283 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 39. FIRST REPLENISHMENT OF THE RESOURCES OF THE ENTERPRISE FOR THE AMERICAS MULTILATERAL INVESTMENT FUND.

''(a) CONTRIBUTION AUTHORITY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury may contribute on behalf of the United States $150,000,000 to the first replenishment of the resources of the Enterprise for the Americas Multilateral Investment Fund.

''(2) SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATIONS.—The authority provided by paragraph (1) may be exercised only to the extent and in the amounts provided for in advance in appropriations Acts.

''(b) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the United States contribution authorized by subsection (a), there are authorized to be appropriated not more than $150,000,000, without fiscal year limitation, for payment by the Secretary of the Treasury.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 12 OFFERED BY MR. TERRY

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 12 offered by Mr. TERRY:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

LIMITATION ON FUNDS

SEC. 5xx. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used in contravention of section 2320(a) of title 18, United States Code.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of June 8, 2006, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska.

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment tries to protect one of America's greatest assets, and that is its intellectual properties, its creativity that has been trademarked.

Unfortunately, there have been incidents where U.S. tax dollars have been provided to various agencies outside of the borders who have used those taxpayer dollars to solicit the help from organizations or companies that have usurped America's trademarks or intellectual properties.

This amendment is simple. It ensures that the foreign assistance dollars are not used to support the importation of counterfeit goods and services. This amendment is a modification of a bill of which Mr. TIAHRT and I have authored, which has bipartisan support of 29 of my colleagues.

By the way, I will say that the major impetus of this bill is with the Gallup Organization, partly headquartered in my district, whose pooling is world renowned, but yet its trade name has been usurped for various purposes in parts of the world of which U.S. tax dollars unfortunately have gone to support.

So this is our effort.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. TIAHRT).

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Nebraska for his leadership on this issue. We have the number one economy in the world. And since we took over that position, we have never looked back.

But today, we had better be looking over our shoulder. Other countries are rapidly gaining ground, and part of the problem is in our trade policy.

Mr. Chairman over the last generation, Congress has created barriers to keeping and creating jobs in America. The Economic Competitive Caucus has listed eight categories of these barriers that restrict the growth in our economy and restrict more American jobs.

One of these categories is securing trade policy, more trade agreements and opening markets to help create jobs. But we must also enforce the trade policy and the trade agreements that we have made, because if we do not, we will lose jobs.

Mr. Chairman, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY) has identified an unenforced portion of our statutes. His

amendment closes a loophole, and protects the creative talents in America and saves American jobs.

We must protect against infringement of American ideas to protect these jobs and we do that by enforcing our trade agreements. This amendment will do just that. Please support the gentleman from Nebraska's amendment.

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Kansas.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona, the great chairman.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

This is a longstanding and actually a very complex trademark dispute between Gallup Organization and Gallup International. It has been the subject of legal action in a number of countries, the courts of a number of foreign countries.

USAID says that they are complying with the law, that they are following the law. In fact, Ambassador Tobias recently instructed his staff to take numerous steps to ensure that they are in compliance with the law.

He asked that, first, they develop contracting and procurement procedures to ensure the strict adherence to intellectual property rights be integral when evaluating prospective contractors and grantees.

Second, that they review current contracts and grants in question, which will be terminated if violations are discovered. And, third, for any product or material that is found to bear a counterfeit Gallup trademark, review it for proper disposition under relevant laws and regulations.

Mr. Chairman, they are very much involved in this, and are taking very direct and concrete steps to deal with that. However, having said that, I support certainly the concept that is behind this amendment. I would urge that we accept this.

Mr. TERRY. Reclaiming my time, I want to thank the chairman for those comments and pointing out the steps that have been taken. Those are reassuring. I thank you for accepting the amendment.

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

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. MCGOVERN

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 8 offered by Mr. MCGOVERN:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

LIMITATION ON ASSISTANCE FOR THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION

SEC. 5xx. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for programs at the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation located at Fort Benning, Georgia.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of June 8, 2006, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) and a Member opposed each will control 15 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, it has been many years since we last debated this issue. In 1999 the Republican-controlled House of Representatives voted to stop funding the U.S. Army School of the Americas. That vote so shook the Department of Defense that the following year, they brought a proposal to the Congress to close the SOA and organize a new school, the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation.

In the past 5 years, we have continued to see the notorious legacy of the School of the Americas live on. To this day, human rights violation and criminal acts continue to be committed by its graduates. But what about the Western Hemisphere Institute itself?

While it is still in its early years, already we have seen the Institute welcome to its courses well known, well documented human rights violators. This has happened with the 2003 admittance of a Salvadorian colonel responsible for the 1983 massacre at Las Hojas. This case, and his name, were cited in the United Nations Truth Commission report in 1993, and even in our own State Department Country Reports.

The Institute accepted and trained in 2002 a major from Bolivia responsible for kidnapping and torture of Waldo Albarracin, who today serves as Bolivia's human rights ombudsman. This is a case that was presented to the OAS Human Rights Commission.

And three Colombian officers under investigation for personal use of counternarcotics funds, and let me add under investigation at the insistence of the United States Justice Department, were admitted to the Institute in 2003.

What possible kind of pre-vetting program could possibly let such notorious figures into its classes? Why are our tax dollars being spent on giving these guys a junket in Georgia? And if the WHINSEC cannot even screen out well known murderers and criminals, what about those who are less well known?

Mr. Chairman, Latin America is already walking away from the WHINSEC. Argentina and Uruguay recently announced they will no longer send any of its military or police to the school.

Enrollment from Latin America has been steadily falling over the past 3 years. In 2003, there were 1,190 students at the WHINSEC. This year there will only be 668. 77 percent of the students come from just five countries, mainly the Andean nations.

But while enrollment has declined by 40 percent, funding for the school has remained steady or slightly increased. U.S. soldiers are now attending the WHINSEC to fill up the classrooms.

Mr. Chairman, what are we doing here? I will tell you one thing that we are doing, we are sending the wrong signal to Latin America. We are telling them that we will not shut down the school that is anathema to civil society and human rights organizations throughout the hemisphere.

And if you wonder what the old School of the Americas has to do with all of this, well, let me just tell you. Every time someone gets murdered in Latin America today by someone trained at the School of the Americas, their family, friends and colleagues, they remember that the U.S. trained this guy at that notorious school. That school still exists for them.

It is at the same military base, in the same buildings with much of the same curriculum and the same teachers as the old school. Excuse me if they do not get the difference.

If you do not think this is happening, let me go back to the article that I referred to in the earlier debate, in Monday's Boston Globe about the military commander who orchestrated the ambush and murder of U.S.-trained antidrug police, a U.S. trained antidrug police unit in Colombia.

□ 1115

That Colombian commander was trained at the School of the Americas. So we have a U.S.-trained Army officer murdering U.S.-trained antidrug police. It makes no sense. We can let Latin America know that we get at our human rights by stopping some of the funding for this school which remains to this day a powerful symbol of U.S. fixation on the military to the detriment of military rights.

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

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I rise to claim the time in opposition.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 15 minutes.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Well, here we go. This is an old debate. It is an old amendment. Times have changed, but for some people things do not change. The school that is being described here, the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, we call it WHINSEC, is a Department of Defense education facility that Congress established in the year 2001. It replaces, as the gentleman has correctly pointed out, it replaces the School of Americas at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Now, WHINSEC provides future civilian as well as military and law enforcement, that is police officers, including U.S. military officers, professional education that helps support our democratic principles in this hemisphere. WHINSEC does that, promotes those democratic values and the respect for human rights and the knowledge and

understanding of U.S. customs and tradition through the time that the officers spend there and through the curriculum that is developed there. The courses build strong relationships between the participating nations, helping to ensure peace and stability throughout the hemisphere.

This is a school that is open. Anyone can visit the campus, tour the building where the courses are taught, sit in classes, talk to the students and faculty. People are invited in as lecturers from outside. A large part of the curriculum in this program is devoted to human rights and to values. It seems to me that if what we really want in this hemisphere is a military in different countries that shares those values that we hold, that are dear to us, that we should be doing more, not less, of this, more training of these people.

Has anybody ever graduated from the School of the Americas in the past that turned out to be bad? Yes, of course. But I can tell you that far more have turned out to be people, honorable officers, who have upheld democracy, upheld democratic values, upheld the civil rights of the citizens in their countries than vice versa.

So what we are doing now with WHINSEC as it is revised and restructured, the curriculum for the program, we are doing a great deal more to help to train officers who share our values and who have a contact, a relationship with U.S. military officers so that when there is a problem that occurs in these countries, somebody that is a colonel in the Pentagon and served at WHINSEC with some colonel in a Latin American country, they can get on the phone and discuss and describe the problems that exist there. These kinds of relationships are important, and they cannot be done if you do not have face-to-face contact, if you do not have time the people spend together getting to know each other and talking about issues and learning about values, and that is the importance of WHINSEC.

This is a program like IMET that I believe in very strongly that ought to be expanded, not a program that we should be talking about cutting.

There is not an example that the gentleman I believe can cite of anybody at WHINSEC who has committed any crimes back in their country. It has two important missions, to teach future leaders and to foster cooperation between our country and those of Latin America. It offers 24 discrete courses. They are from 3 to 49 weeks long, and all are teaching U.S. military doctrine according to U.S. laws and our values. In fact, in every single one of the courses, at least 10 percent of the instruction is devoted directly to democracy and human rights issues. Students come from throughout the Western Hemisphere, even from Canada, as well as the United States; and it is the relationships that are developed there that are so important in the future, in years that pass, that come later when we need to have the contacts with these countries.

So, Mr. Chairman, while I understand the concerns that the gentleman from Massachusetts has expressed, I simply do not believe that the evidence bears it out. I simply do not believe that what this organization is doing is wrong. In fact, it is doing everything that we would want an organization to do in terms of training military officers of the future in Latin America to share the values that we have in this United States. I urge my colleagues to defeat this amendment.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Chairman, the following is a list of individuals that I cited in my opening remarks who are graduates of WHINSEC who have committed gross human rights violations against civilians:

Supporters of the WHINSEC consistently argue that nothing associated with the U.S. Army School of the Americas (SOA) should be taken into consideration when debating the merits of the WHINSEC. However, even at these early stages, the WHINSEC is repeating the mistakes of its predecessor organization.

Latin American nominees are supposed to be thoroughly vetted, but pre-screening of applicants remains inadequate. Amnesty International detailed in a 2002 report, Unmatched Power, Unmet Principles, the many loopholes and gaps that exist in the current screening process. Already a number of students with previously well-known, well-documented histories of human rights abuses have been awarded scholarships to attend the WHINSEC, including:

Colonel Francisco del Cid Diaz (El Salvador) attended the WHINSEC in 2003. In 1983, he commanded a unit responsible for a very notorious massacre of indigenous peoples at the Las Hojas Cooperative in Sonsonate, El Salvador. This was a high-profile human rights case, included in the list of cases congressionally mandated for investigation during that period, and cited annually in the State Department's Human Rights Country Reports throughout the 1980s. The United Nations Truth Commission on El Salvador, established under the terms of the 1992 Peace Accords, identified Col. Cid Diaz as the commander who ordered and led the massacre and recommended he be brought to justice. Ironically, he returned to attend the SOA in 1988 and 1991, even after the U.S. State Department had identified the unit most likely responsible for the Las Hojas massacre. He then returned to attend the WHINSEC in 2003.

Major Fillmann Urzagaste Rodriguez (Bolivia) attended the WHINSEC in 2002. In 1997, then Captain Fillmann Urzagaste Rodriguez was one of those responsible for the kidnapping and torture of Waldo Albarracin, who was then the director of the Popular Assembly for Human Rights in Bolivia; Mr. Albarracin is now the official Human Rights Ombudsman for the Government of Bolivia. At the time, the Bolivian Chamber of Deputies Commission undertook an investigation of the case and determined that it needed to be sent to the courts for further investigation and prosecution, where unfortunately it languished given the military impunity during that period. This same case is also the subject of a high-profile petition to the OAS Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. In 2002, Urzagaste Rodriguez, now a major, took a 49-week officer training course at the WHINSEC.

Captain Dario Sierro Chapeta, Lieutenant Colonel Francisco Patino Fonseca, and Captain Luis Benavides Guancha (Colombia) are all Colombian police officers under investigation for personal use of counter-narcotics funds. In June 2002, the Colombian Attorney General's office, at the request of the U.S. government, opened a ''disciplinary'' investigation into alleged activities of corruption by members of the Colombian National Police, including these three officers. The first two officers, namely Captain Sierro Chapeta and Lt. Col. Patino Fonseca, attended the WHINSEC in 2002 (it isn't clear whether the charges against the 3 were brought before, during or after their acceptance to the WHINSEC, but it was well known that their unit was under investigation). Captain Benavides Guancha attended the WHINSEC for 18 weeks in 2003, well after the targets he investigation were known to the Colombian and U.S. governments.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chairman, let me thank the gentleman again for yielding me time and for this amendment, once again, to restrict all funding to the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, formerly known as the School of the Americas. And, quite frankly, people in Latin America are not fooled by this name change.

WHINSEC is a military training facility for Latin American security personnel located in Fort Benning, Georgia. For decades, WHINSEC has damaged our reputation in Latin America. In 1996, the Pentagon released reports explaining how the United States trained these students to participate and to lead torture, extortions, and executions in Latin America. And now many countries in the region are struggling to recover from decades of dictatorship, corruption, and human rights abuses.

We heard many gruesome stories this morning when I co-hosted a Congressional Human Rights Caucus breakfast for the Argentine and the Guatemalan forensic teams who helped solve many of these outstanding murders. Just mentioning the School of the Americas, quite frankly, is traumatic to the survivors and the family members of those who have been victimized by these graduates. And the victims are not just in Latin America.

On October 22, 2003, the Texas Brownsville Herald reported that the notorious Gulf Drug Cartel had hired 31 former Mexican soldiers to be part of its hired assassin force, the Zetas. The Zetas have been implicated in murders throughout Texas, Arizona and New Mexico. According to the Mexican Minister of Defense, at least one-third of these ex-soldiers were trained at the School of the Americas as part of the elite Special Air Mobile Force Group.

And since there is no way for Congress to properly track or vet WHINSEC enrollees, who knows how many more victims there are? As more information is publicized about the action of these graduates, enrollment has steadily declined. There are 40 percent fewer enrollees since 2003. In March 2006, Argentina and Uruguay joined Venezuela and Bolivia in announcing

that they no longer send students, military or police, for WHINSEC training. So please do not be fooled by the other side's rhetoric on the causes for the enrollment decline because these decisions were not made by political activists.

Some of these decision-makers have personally suffered family losses at the hands of military personnel who were trained at the School of the Americas. These leaders want to try to restore human rights protections and not taint the training of their police and military forces.

Despite the clear move of many Latin American leaders to distance themselves from this school, for some reason this budget continues to be increased. So a positive step to improve relations with Latin America would be to simply eliminate this institute.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the McGovern-Lewis amendment to cut funds for the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, WHINSEC, the successor organization to the U.S. Army School of the Americas.

Sadly, despite a shameful history of training and support from some of our hemisphere's worst known human rights abusers, the only thing that has changed is the name. Funding an institution that has been directly responsible for the training of foreign soldiers who have perpetrated horrific atrocities against civilian populations is not the way to accomplish our foreign policy goals or more security in the region. Besides, enrollment has declined by 40 percent at WHINSEC, yet our funding for it remains constant, and the cost to maintain operations at the institute have gone up year after year.

I traveled with Mr. MCGOVERN to Colombia in 2001. We visited the Peace Community of San Jose de Apartado. We talked to community leaders, the families and children. They just wanted to live in peace, free from conflict and arms. We also met with military forces in the area, and they denied any involvement in past atrocities.

On February 21 and 22, eight members of the San Jose de Apartado Peace Community, including three young children, were brutally massacred. Witnesses identified the killers as members of the Colombian military. And peace community members saw the army's 17th Brigade in the area at the time of the murders.

General Hector Jaime Fandino Rincon is the commander of the 17th Brigade of the Colombian Army, the unit implicated in the massacre. This man received training and planning in conducting what they call ''small unit tactical operations'' at the institute, at WHINSEC.

In December of 2004, he was promoted to the rank of brigadier general. Since the massacre, the Colombian administration of Alvaro Uribe has done little to investigate the murders. Sadly, this is not an isolated matter. It is an unacceptable record at WHINSEC, an unacceptable legacy, and a shameful policy. We should all support this amendment.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA).

Mr. MICA. Mr. Chairman, once again I think the well-intended but misinformed would like to cut the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation funding.

Now, what the cafe latte crowd has in mind is that these terrorists are only misunderstood individuals, that they probably need counseling. Maybe we should send them some social assistance to straighten them out, but certainly we should not train military.

In fact, we found with narcoterrorists, narcoterrorists have better training and better equipment than the native military population that is trying to stabilize some of these countries like in Colombia. Not only do they have better equipment and training and do more destruction, but they also have the money because they mostly finance their operations through narcoterrorism.

What they want to do is tie the hands of those countries that are helping us to stabilize those countries, to bring some peace there, to bring narcoterrorism under control. So if we want to tie hands and put them right behind our back, cut the funds; and we will have poorly trained individuals who do not know the difference between human rights violations. In fact, we do insist on the very highest standards.

We have the opportunities to train these individuals and influence them to do the right thing and to conduct military exercises that are honest and open and well directed.

Again, these folks are very well intended, but I think if we just check the record of those who are trained by United States forces, you will see they are far better in executing their responsibilities. Tough enforcement does work. If you want to use examples, Mayor Giuliani down to Officer Thompson who is out here, you won't jaywalk at the corner of C street because we have tough enforcement with well-trained individuals.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Chairman, let me point out to the gentleman from Florida, we are not against the training of Latin American soldiers. We train over 20,000 Latin American soldiers each year, but only a fraction of them, fewer than 600, are actually trained at the School of the Americas. We want to shut the School of the Americas down because we believe it is anathema to America's commitments and America's human rights.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH).

□ 1130

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment to prohibit funding for the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, otherwise known as the School of the Americas.

This combat-training facility for security personnel in Latin America is notorious for graduating human rights offenders. In its 59 years of existence, the School of the Americas has trained over 60,000 Latin American soldiers in counterinsurgency techniques, sniper training, commando and psychological warfare, military intelligence and interrogation tactics. These graduates have consistently targeted educators, union organizers, religious workers, student leaders, and others who work for the rights of the poor. Hundreds of thousands of Latin Americans have been victims of School of the Americas graduates.

For example, on February 21–22, 2005, eight members of the San Jose de Apartado Peace Community in Uraba, Colombia, were brutally massacred. Witnesses identified the killers as members of the Colombian military's 17th Brigade, commanded by a School of the Americas graduate.

In April of 2002, two School of the Americas graduates helped lead a failed coup in Venezuela against democratically elected President Hugo Chavez.

In 1980, two of the three killers of Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador were graduates of the School of the Americas. Also in 1980, 10 of the 12 officers responsible for the murder of 900 civilians in the Salvadoran village, El Mozote, were School of the Americas graduates.

The abuses by School of the Americas graduates have local resonance with me as well. In Cleveland, Ohio, in 1980, our Clevelanders Sisters Dorothy Hazel and Jean Donovan, along with two other churchwomen from the United States, Sister Maura Clarke and Sister Ita Forde, were raped and murdered by members of the armed forces of El Salvador. Three of the five officers involved were graduates of the School of the Americas.

In the words of former Panamanian President Jorge Illueca, the School of the Americas is the ''biggest base for destabilization in Latin Americas.'' It is time to close it.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) where the school at Fort Benning is located.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman for yielding.

WHINSEC is a Department of Defense institute that instructs current and future civilian, military and law enforcement leaders from Nations in the Western Hemisphere.

It was created in 2001 to replace the School of the Americas. The School of the Americas, as a Cold War legacy program, was not meeting the needs

and standards required to operate in the world's new security environment.

Its goals, which were set by Congress, explicitly include strengthening democracy, instilling a respect for the rule of law, and honoring human rights.

WHINSEC's curriculum, and I have been there, I am on the board of visitors, WHINSEC's curriculum includes instruction in leadership development, peace support, counterdrug operations, disaster preparedness and relief planning.

As mandated by Congress, WHINSEC formulated and implemented a human rights training program that, Mr. Chairman, is among the best offered by military educational institutions in this hemisphere. All students and instructors, without exception, receive comprehensive human rights instruction and training.

So I strongly disagree with this impression created by the School of the Americas/WHINSEC critics that somehow all or most of the WHINSEC graduates are brutal and murderous thugs. In fact, more than 61,000 officers, noncommissioned officers and soldiers have graduated from or attended courses at these U.S. Army schools. They have helped foster a spirit of cooperation and interoperability among militaries throughout Central and South Americas.

The vast majority, Mr. Chairman, of graduates have contributed positively to the region's transition to democracy, while helping to avoid interstate conflict in the hemisphere. While credible accusations of human rights abuses have been leveled against some graduates, most have served their Nation with honor and distinction.

In the interest of full disclosure, Mr. Chairman, I am a Catholic and I was educated by the Jesuits, and I understand the opposition that is coming from that direction of some abuses and torture, yes, that occurred 30 years ago, but this is a classic example, this amendment, of throwing the baby out with the bathwater. It would be equivalent to saying that we should shut down Fort Benning because of the My Lai massacre, and Lieutenant Calley that occurred in the Vietnam War.

It just does not make sense, and I am totally opposed to my good friend Mr. MCGOVERN's amendment, and I respectfully ask my colleagues to vote ''no.''

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, let me tell my good friend from Georgia, maybe he did not hear my opening speech, but I cited a case that happened 2 weeks ago where a graduate of the School of the Americas was involved in killing counternarcotics police in Colombia.

The other thing is, I have heard from the gentleman from Georgia and the gentleman from Arizona that the vast majority of graduates from this school go on to serve their countries honorably. How do we know? There is no follow-up done by this school and the Department of Defense. The only reason we know about the notorious cases is because of the hard work that goes on by human rights organizations on the ground and people in our own State Department. That is how we know, but there is no follow-up. There is no basis to say that the majority go on to serve their countries honorably. We do not know that.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MEEHAN).

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the amendment offered by my friend from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN).

Not long into my first term in Congress back in 1993, an article was published in Newsweek titled, ''Running a School for Dictators,'' about the School of the Americas. The School of the Americas was supposed to instill democratic values in foreign military officers, and it was exposed as being a breeding ground for murderers, thieves and common thugs.

I said at the time that ''if the School of the Americas held an alumni reunion association meeting, it would bring together some of the most unsavory thugs in the Western Hemisphere.'' Thankfully, the School of the Americas was closed in 1999, but soon after WHINSEC opened in the same building, with much of the same faculty that had been part of the School of the Americas.

WHINSEC's record has been little better than the School of the Americas. Many of its graduates have returned to their home countries to repress, abuse and kill fellow citizens.

There can be no doubt that our own recent record on human rights leaves something to be desired. We have operated secret prisons, propped up corrupt regimes, and overlooked human rights abuses in others. The administration has done little to hide its contempt for international convictions on human rights, notably the Geneva Convention and the protections that it contains for enemy combatants.

Our own recent record has been bad enough, but we certainly do not need to be exporting techniques overseas by teaching them at WHINSEC. Our credibility in the world is at its lowest point in memory. The road back to respectability will be long and slow. Cutting funding to WHINSEC is a small step in the right direction.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE) has 4½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) has ½ minute remaining.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

I rise in support of this amendment. I am a cosponsor of a bill sponsored by the gentleman from Massachusetts that would accomplish a similar goal, and I appreciate the opportunity to discuss the issue of WHINSEC on the floor today.

What we are witnessing with regard to WHINSEC is a classic case of history repeating itself. For years, many Members of Congress and activists, including Maryknoll nuns based in my congressional district, fought to shut down the notorious School of the Americas. The school's very existence was undermining U.S. efforts to promote civilian control of the military and respect for human rights in Latin America. So the army closed the SOA and reopened it a few weeks later with a new name.

To quote William Shakespeare, ''A rose by any other name would still smell as sweet.'' Indeed, WHINSEC is just another name for the School of the Americas, and neither of them passes the smell test. The same moral issues still plague the institution, and the U.S. military still refuses to take common-sense steps to fix the problem.

As my colleague from Massachusetts has pointed out, the vetting process for students at WHINSEC is still broken, resulting in known human rights abusers attending the school. DOD still refuses to monitor the careers of WHINSEC graduates, preferring to be kept in the dark about how U.S. military education is applied in Latin American countries. And past questions about the School of the Americas have still not been answered, giving us no basis on which to build a better, more credible and more effective program at WHINSEC.

I understand that the majority of WHINSEC's funding does not come from this bill, but I believe the amendment before us today provides an excellent opportunity to send the message that we still cannot stomach the continued reckless use of our military training dollars.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the remaining time.

Mr. Chairman, if we want to let Latin America know that we get it on human rights, then let us shut down this notorious school. If we genuinely want to show Latin America that our priorities are not the military, but development and democracy, then let us establish a western hemisphere institute for judicial reform, for civil engineering, for local governance, for rural development, for human rights.

Let us show Latin America we get it on human rights, and by closing down this school, we also send a powerful signal to the rest of the world that human rights remains our highest priority.

I urge my colleague to support the McGovern-Lewis amendment to prohibit funds in this bill for WHINSEC.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the remaining time. Let me just close. I think we have had a thorough debate on this.

As I said, this is an issue that we have debated over and over again, and I think time and time again it has been shown that this program of training military and police officers in Latin

America is one that is good, good for democracy, good for human rights, good for U.S. relationships with these countries in Latin America and Central America.

This is a program that is good for the United States. It is a program that is good for the countries that are involved. This is a program that, if anything, ought to be expanded. We should be doing more of this, more transfer of values from the United States to the people of these countries of the law enforcement and military of these countries is what we ought to want to be doing.

Bad things can happen either way. In 1992, Hugo Chavez conducted, he was not graduate of this, conducted a coup against the democratically-elected government in Venezuela. Are we to conclude from that, that if only he had gone to the School of the Americas, that everything would have been well? Probably not, but by the same token, one can hardly conclude that because somebody has gone to the School of the Americas and still ends up doing something that is bad, that overall it is bad for the United States or for their country or for the human rights or the citizens of that country because it is not.

It is a good program. It is a program that spreads democracy in the Western hemisphere. It is the kind of program we should be supporting, not the kind of program that we should be opposing, and I hope that my colleagues will soundly defeat this amendment as they have done in the past.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the McGovern-Lewis Amendment that would eliminate funding to the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC), the successor institution to the School of Americas (SOA). I believe U.S. training of international military and police forces can further U.S. national security interest particularly in the field of civilian control of the military and promoting human rights. But WHINSEC has gone about training and educating Latin American military in exactly the wrong way.

The egregious human rights abusive by WHINSEC graduates in the 1980s and 1990s compelled the Defense Department to revise the curriculum and change the name of the school. But WHINSEC continues to fail the grade for adherence to human rights and the rule of law by its students. I support the McGovern amendment to send a message to our U.S. military leadership that Americans demand that their tax dollars be spent to uphold accepted norms of human rights behavior, much like Americans rejected U.S. torture practices abroad.

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to the amendment offered by my good friend from Massachusetts.

I understand the concerns that prompted this amendment.

Nevertheless, I believe that prohibiting funds to WHINSEC would be wrong-headed and shortsighted.

As a member of the WHINSEC Board of Visitors, I've had the opportunity to see firsthand the training that takes place there. Respect for human rights is a fundamental component of the curriculum, and it is a top priority for the Commandant and the faculty.

WHINSEC has made significant and sustained efforts over the last several years to reach out to human rights groups—to show them the human rights training that is taking place, and to have them take an active role in that training through lectures, discussions, and other interactions with the students. Some groups choose to participate, others do not. But WHINSEC is making a serious effort to include them.

I've heard critics of WHINSEC say that "Latin America is walking away" from the Institute, but from what I've seen, nothing could be further from the truth. Enrollment is down only because many countries lack the funding to send their students. Why is that? Because we prohibit IMET funding for countries who haven't signed Article 98 agreements. That's an important issue—something we've been working on in the House Armed Services Committee—but it has nothing to do with other countries' interest or willingness to send students to WHINSEC.

On the Armed Services Committee, we've worked very hard over the years to promote regional security cooperation and military-to-military relationships with our allies around the world.

Nowhere is this effort more important than in Latin America. We must maintain strong ties with our partners in the region, or else we will wake up to find that our competitors—or even our enemies—have taken our place.

We cannot afford to let those relationships falter. And WHINSEC is a vital tool for strengthening security cooperation in the region.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN).

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MS. GINNY BROWN-WAITE OF FLORIDA

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 3 offered by Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

LIMITATION ON INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE FOR MEXICO

SEC. 5xx. Of the funds appropriated in this Act under the heading ''INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT'', not more than $39,000,000 may be available for assistance for Mexico.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of June 8, 2006, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I rise to claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman will control the time in opposition.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the Chair for the opportunity to speak about this amendment on the Foreign Operations appropriations bill before us.

Let me remind my colleagues that the Mexican government publishes manuals giving advice to migrants on how to illegally enter and live in the United States without being detected. They are encouraging breaking our laws. Moreover, recently, if we recall, the Mexican government actually threatened to sue the United States if our government acts to strengthen and defend our southern border.

Imagine how surprised I was when the committee added another $1 million increase that Mexico will ostensibly use to strengthen its northern border.

□ 1145

This increase is over the budget request in the International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement section. My amendment will actually leave the $39 million included in the budget request for narcotics control and law enforcement untouched. Instead, my amendment eliminates that $1 million that the committee recommended to be used to help Mexico's northern border infrastructure.

Let's face it, they are not interested in defending and protecting their northern border, which is our southern border. In past years, Mexico actually spent the money appropriated for narcotics control and law enforcement in even a questionable manner. However, sending extra money to the Mexican Government to strengthen their borders is, I believe, as insane as it is unconscionable.

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

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I do rise in opposition to the amendment offered by the gentlewoman. She proposes, as she said, to reduce the funding to Mexico for the International Narcotics Control Law Enforcement account that we call INCLE, from $40 million to $39 million. It is only a $1 million reduction, but it is symbolic, and I understand that; but as a symbol I think it runs counter to what we have been asking the Mexican Government to do, and that is to help us seal the border with regard to drug trafficking coming across the border.

I have the privilege of chairing the U.S.-Mexico Interparliamentary Group,

and we met this year in Mexico, legislators, Members of Congress from both the United States and Mexico meeting there. We were struck, I think every member of the U.S. delegation was struck, by the degree of cooperation that we are seeing now from Mexico, particularly the Mexican policymakers, the congress, in struggling against the drug trafficking, and, actually, they have been very good on that for several years; but now the efforts they are making to help try and seal the border, it is certainly the most cooperation that we have seen in the last 20 years.

In fact, the Mexican congress has adopted unanimously a joint resolution expressing their commitment to helping resolve and expressing their acknowledgment that they have a responsibility for helping to control the problems of migration, illegal migration coming into the United States.

The bill that we brought before you is a very modest increase, the $1 million increase, over the previous year to Mexico to help to try and control the border. The majority of this goes to sustain border and port security by improving the ports of entry, improving the inspections at the ports of entry, more secure traffic laws, mobile interdiction teams, and national crime databases. These are all good things. These are the kinds of things we should want to support in criminal justice and institution-building in Mexico, and including the Office of the Attorney General and anticorruption programs. So I think it is a good program, and I think it is one that deserves to have support.

Let me be clear about one fact: the funds in this account are used by Mexico to help stop narcotics from entering the United States. Cutting funding in this area doesn't really hurt Mexico, because it isn't anything that has to do with their own law enforcement per se. It hurts our efforts to keep drugs off our streets and out of our schools.

I think this amendment won't have a huge effect, but as a symbol I think it is the wrong kind of symbol that we should be sending to Mexico, and I do oppose the amendment.

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

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Chairman, a week ago today I was actually on the Mexican border. I was in Texas, in El Paso. The sheriffs along the border, the ones on our side, are the ones doing the interdiction of the drugs. This amount, while it is $1 million, and I guess in Washington everybody says it is only a million, a million here, a million there starts to add up, but I would certainly encourage support for this amendment.

If we are going to spend that extra million dollars, I would rather give it to the sheriffs at the border patrol on our side of the border, where I know the money is well spent, and so I ask for the support of my colleagues for this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I would just say again I think this is an ill-advised amendment, but, with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. WEINER

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. WEINER:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

PROHIBITION AGAINST DIRECT FUNDING FOR SAUDI ARABIA

SEC. 5xx. None of the funds made available in this Act may be obligated or expended to finance any assistance to Saudi Arabia.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of June 8, 2006, the gentleman from New York (Mr. WEINER) and a Member opposed each will control 10 minutes.

Does the gentleman from Arizona seek to control the time in opposition?

Mr. KOLBE. I do, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman will be recognized.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise to offer the Weiner-Burton-Crowley-Ferguson-Berkley amendment to prohibit all aid in this bill from going to the Saudi Arabians.

You might be asking a couple of questions. First, you might be asking why we would be offering any aid at all to the wealthiest nation on Earth; why we would be offering any aid at all to a nation that exports Wahabism, exports terrorism, has done nothing to help us in Iraq, and has, frankly, not been constructive. And on top of all that, why are we offering it when consistently, every single year, this House says we are not going to support it.

Well, we are back here again because we here in this House did not heed the admonition of President Bush after September 11 when he said, you know, nowadays, we have to not look at what nations say, we have to start looking at what they actually do. And the fact is that despite the great rhetoric of the people of Saudi Arabia and their government, they continue to be a force of hate in the world and continue to be a force that exports terrorism in the world.

Let me give you an example, just since we passed this bill last time. This is a quotation from the Saudi Ambassador from an ad in the New Republic on the back cover of September 12, 2005. It says: ''Modernizing our school curricula to better prepare our children for the challenges of tomorrow, Saudi Arabia has vowed to fight evil with justice and challenge extremism with moderation and tolerance.'' That is what they say.

I am holding in my hand the government-sponsored textbook of the people of Saudi Arabia, Mr. Chairman. I am holding a book that is in classrooms today. Let me tell you some of the things they are teaching in the eighth grade from their textbooks today: ''The apes are Jews, the keepers of the Sabbath, while the swine are the Christian infidels of the communion of Jesus.''

That is what this textbook says the children in the eighth grade in Saudi Arabia are being taught today. And if we are to pass this bill as is, we are going to pass funding for Saudi Arabia from the U.S. taxpayers.

Let me show you what they are teaching in the ninth grade. This is the Saudi Ministry. This is the textbook that is issued by the government of Saudi Arabia: ''The hour of judgment will not come until the Muslims fight the Jews and kill them.'' This is in a part of the world where we in this House, we in this country are trying to seek moderation and trying to seek tolerance. This is what they are teaching this year.

You know, I could read some other quotes, and among the quotes I can read are yours, Mr. KOLBE, Mr. Chairman, who has done a terrific job with this bill by and large and have served this House with great distinction. Every single year we say, well, the reason we are putting money in this bill is the Saudis are getting better.

Sure, 15 of the 19 homicide bombers on my city were Saudis; sure, 70 percent of the most wanted international terrorists are Saudis; sure, according to the State Department, 60 percent of all the funding exported is coming from the Saudis. But, still, they are getting better. They are getting better.

Mr. Chairman, this is what they are saying today.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I do rise in strong opposition to this amendment, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In this bill there is a total of $420,000 for Saudi Arabia. Now, just so we understand where these accounts are, the $20,000 we have heard about before, last year that is what we were arguing about, $20,000 in this entire bill when this amendment came up. And why do we have that in there? That is for providing a classroom space for the IMET, the International Military Education Training program, for IMET students.

Why do we have to provide one space? Because by giving them a grant for one space, they are then eligible to buy seats in the classes that they pay for at the somewhat reduced rate. So that is just simply a kind of a dues that are required in order to have them eligible for this program.

We have talked about IMET before. Again, it is similar to what we were just talking about a moment ago with regard to the WHINSEC program in Latin America. If we want to have American values of democracy and civil rights and justice transmitted to

these countries, to these people, then we need to have that kind of program.

Now, the other $400,000 is new this year. Not a heck of a lot of money, but it is for nonproliferation, antiterrorism, and demining programs. This pays for American experts, bomb detection experts, criminal investigation experts to go and help train antiterrorism police in Saudi Arabia.

For heaven sakes, is this not something we want to do? Do we not want to train the Saudis to help the Saudis become better at detecting antiterrorism, at detecting terrorist attacks? Do we not want to help them try to deter those kinds of attacks against us and against their own society?

This is about the war on terror. And this amendment is about saying, no, we don't want Saudi Arabia involved in the war on terror; we don't believe they should be on our side in the war on terror, because we want to cut out the money that allows us to help the little bit that we have that allows us to help train those people.

So I understand the sentiment that is behind this. It is an easy kind of sentiment to scratch the surface and get to this kind of emotion, but it is not the right thing to do. It is clearly not the right thing to do. If we desire that the people of Saudi Arabia embrace a more Western tolerance and a value system, how do we expect them to learn to do that? If we want them to be a better partner in the war on terror, how do we expect them to do that if we are not willing to help train them?

This is absolutely the wrong signal for us to send, and I oppose this amendment.

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

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to one of the sponsors of this amendment, Mr. BURTON.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. First of all, the Saudis don't need our money. They are one of the biggest oil producers in the world. And so why are we giving them $400,000 or $500,000 or a million, or whatever it happens to be?

I understand this is symbolic, but the fact of the matter is we want to send a message today to the Saudis. And the message is that we don't want them supporting Wahabism, which teaches hatred and teaches people to want to hate to the degree they would kill Christians and Jews and anybody that doesn't agree with them.

They are not only giving money to teach Wahabism in Saudi Arabia, but they are doing it in countries around the world. They are doing it in Canada, where 17 people were just captured the other day from a mosque up there that was teaching Wahabism and who were going to behead the Prime Minister of Canada.

Now, they should be very careful about where they are spending their money. And the way to let them know that is not to give them any of our money, which they don't need anyhow. They are also giving money to terrorist organizations like Hamas, and they are giving money to the families of people who blow themselves up, killing innocent women and children.

The Saudis should be responsible in using their money and teaching brotherly love and human rights and dignity of man instead of teaching Wahabism, which teaches just the opposite, hatred, murder, killing of people who don't agree with them and trying to spread in a prolific way the hatred of Wahabism.

I understand the concern of my colleague, but this is a signal that we are sending today. It is not going to amount to very much money, but it is a signal that needs to be sent to the Saudis that the world, not just the United States but the world, does not want organizations teaching hatred of Christians and Jews and anybody that doesn't agree with them. And that is being taught, as my colleague Mr. WEINER just pointed out very vividly on the floor.

In their textbooks, in their teaching they are teaching hatred, and that is not a thing we should be supporting in any way. And although this isn't much money, it is a message that should be sent, and I agree very strongly and hope everybody supports this amendment, as they did last year.

□ 1200

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume to respond very briefly to what the gentleman just said. I think what he just said demonstrates what this issue is all about: Are we talking about something that scratches the surface of emotions, or are we talking about something that is real.

The money is not symbolic. It is real. The $20,000 allows them to buy a seat at the IMET table. It allows them to send their students to the United States to be trained in western values, in democracy and justice.

The $400,000 is to pay for American experts to go over and train them in bomb detections and in criminal investigations. Is the gentleman saying we do not want them to be trained, we do not want them to participate? What does this have to do with Wahabism? Nothing. This has to do with whether or not they are going to be a partner in the war on terror.

But yes, you can reach beyond that to the emotion and you can do the wrong thing, which this amendment would do, which is to cut the money which enables them to participate in a significant way in the war on terror.

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

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

But, Mr. Chairman, that is not what they are traveling around the world to do. They are traveling around the world, in the words of our own Department of Treasury, with the World Association of Muslim Youth. What are they doing? They are exporting Wahabism. They are setting up madrasahs all around the world. They are exploiting the kind of teaching that you and I do not agree with them, and we are giving them in this bill a 2,000 percent increase from what they got last year when this House said we had had enough.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FERGUSON).

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the gentleman from New York for yielding me this time and his leadership on this issue.

I also want to thank and recognize the chairman of the subcommittee for his years of distinguished work in this House. I am a supporter of the bill on the floor today, but I am also deeply disappointed that it provides money for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Our own government continues to chronicle Saudi Arabia's continuing human rights abuses, their lack of religious freedom, and lack of rights for women. In 2005, the Department of State Report on Human Rights Practices called Saudi Arabia's human rights record ''poor overall with continuing serious problems.'' Reported human rights violations include beatings, denial of fair trials, political prisoners, restrictions on civil liberties and discrimination against women, religions, and other minorities.

In December 2005, Saudi Arabia officially became a member of the World Trade Organization, despite the significant objections of a number of us here in this body. A key condition of their membership was that they would not longer participate in the Arab boycott of Israel, which is one of our key allies in the Middle East. But there are still credible reports that this condition even today has not been met.

The fact that their continued reassurances to our own diplomats prove to be all talk and no action is an affront to the United States and every other country in the WTO.

Saudi Arabia continues to be one of the biggest financial supporters of the Hamas-led Palestinian government, despite appeals by the United States to cut funding to this terrorist organization. How can the House of Representatives continue to send American taxpayer dollars to a country which supports a government led by a terrorist organization?

Last year, this House overwhelmingly passed this amendment in this same appropriations bill. Things have not changed for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. We cannot continue to reward a country that has a poor human rights record, terrorist connections, and has continued to break promises made to the United States and the international community. We need to continue to hold them accountable for their actions. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this amendment.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, if we were sending, millions of dollars to support economic development in

Saudi Arabia, as the gentleman from Indiana pointed out, they are a rich country, so as you pointed out, they are doing some bad things, I would agree with them. If we were sending millions of dollars for various projects in Saudi Arabia, I would agree with them.

But we are talking about training a police officer to have the tools to detect a terrorist attack. We are talking about fighting terrorism. This is so narrow and so focused. It is on counterterrorism, and that surely is what we want the Saudis to do, to have the skills to detect a terrorist attack in advance, to head it off, to investigate terrorist attacks and to be able to prosecute those people. Surely that is what we want to do.

We do not agree with the policies of Saudi Arabia. I do not agree with them, but I certainly want their police officers, I want their detectives to have the kinds of skills they need to go after terrorists, and that is what this amendment is about. This tiny amount of money is about that. We ought not to be taking this kind of step. It is more than symbolic. It has to do with very specific kinds of training that combats terrorism.

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise to strike the last word, and I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY).

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman for striking the last word and yielding me this time.

I have tremendous respect for my colleague, Mr. KOLBE, and his efforts, but I do rise in support of this amendment.

It's sad we are here today debating this, and I was tempted, quite frankly, to submit once again my testimony from last year because things have not changed in this year that has gone by. I have not seen a discernible change in the attitude of the Saudis towards their education system. They say there are changes made, but in reading The Washington Post and other publications, and as Mr. WEINER has demonstrated on the floor today, in reality, there has been no significant change.

There is still the teaching of the next generation of Saudis hatred towards Jews and towards Christians. That needs to change. You cannot just say you are our ally, and all is well; you have to show by deeds and actions that you are as well. You cannot say you are our ally and at the same time export that hatred to other countries like Bangladesh and Pakistan and Indonesia where unrest is fomenting towards the United States. You cannot be our ally and not show by deeds.

I do not think the amount of money that we are striking from this bill will make a difference to the Saudis in terms of their training of anti-terrorism. It is in their interest to fight the war on terror. It is in their interest to combat terrorism in their own country. But it is also in their interest, I believe, if they want a strong relationship with this country is to own up to what has been responsible for much of the terrorism that has been exported around the world: It is coming from Saudi Arabia.

Much of the money that has being exported around the world to madrasahs that are teaching fundamentalism is coming from Saudi Arabia. You can't have your cake and eat it, too. That is the message we are sending today. That is why I, once again, stand in strong support of the Weiner amendment, and I hope my colleagues send a strong message symbolically to Saudi Arabia that enough is enough. If you are on our side, then act like you are and prove it to us.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the amendment offered by my friend from New York, Mr. WEINER.

It's a sad state of affairs that we have to have this debate every year.

I felt the urge to use the same exact statement I made last year about all of the failings of Saudi Arabia because nothing has changed.

How long is the Administration going to ignore the Saudi support of terrorism?

The Saudis claim to be our allies, but at the same time they offer assistance in our war on terrorism, their people fund the terrorists who desire to attack us.

Nineteen of the 22 hijackers on 9/11 were Saudi.

Saudi blood money threatens those who support freedom and democracy.

They continue to export their repressive brand of Islam around the world, creating a new group of angry young men and women.

We must take a stand in this House and let the Saudis know that their time of extremism is over because we will not stand for it anymore.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from New York has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. WEINER. I have no further speakers, so I will use this time to wrap up.

The chairman of the subcommittee deserves an enormous amount of credit for through the years crafting excellent bills that have unified this House. Three hundred of us said last year, enough is enough, we are not going to provide aid to Saudi Arabia.

The fact that we still have it back this year makes you wonder why it is. But he posits the wrong question. He says what is so bad about having a 2,000 percent increase in the amount of funds we are going to provide Saudi Arabia? My colleagues, we should be asking a different question when we provide foreign aid. The question should be: Why should we? Why should we provide aid to a country that has systematically exported terrorism?

When Osama bin Laden left Saudi Arabia for the caves of Afghanistan, he did so with what some people think was close to $1 billion of cash in his pocket, Saudi blood money.

When Wahabism is spread worldwide, this virulent form of Islamic teaching that is outside anyone's realm of understanding about why you would teach young people to hate, as I showed from this textbook from this year, the Saudi government is doing that.

When we look at the numbers of Saudi citizens that are being exported around the world and committing acts of terror, when we look at the fact that the Saudis said again and again we are going to shut down these bank accounts that fund terrorism, and again and again it has been proven that they haven't done it, the question should be: Why are we providing any aid to them? Never mind a 2,000 percent increase from last year, why provide any aid?

And this legislation is very simple. It says let us have a good foreign aid bill, but not a 2,000 percent increase to the Saudis when they have lied to us. They said they were going to close down ''Account 98'' used to fund terrorism. As of today, it is open.

They said they were going to change their teachings to make them more tolerant. As of today, they have not.

They said they were going to stop exporting Wahabism. As of today, the World Association of Muslim Youth is still being funded by them and exporting the worst type of terrorism.

My colleagues, I urge you to support the Weiner-Burton-Crowley-Ferguson-Berkley amendment. Let's make this a good foreign aid bill that doesn't include foreign aid to people who have lied to us and exported terrorism. Let's not provide a 2,000 percent increase in aid to the Saudis. I urge a ''yes'' vote.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time and just say very quickly that a 2,000 percent increase is a bogus argument. There was $20,000 last year. There is $420,000 this year because we have $400,000 for terrorist training specifically to pay for the salaries of American experts who go over there to train their police. It is not the percentage amount that we are talking about here. It is, should we be doing this kind of work at all; and the answer, I think, if you believe we should be fighting the war on terror and that we should be fighting it where we can find it, wherever we can find police forces that need to be trained, we ought to be doing it with the Saudis, and that is all this is about. I urge defeat of the amendment.

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

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. WEINER).

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. KING OF IOWA

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 5 offered by Mr. KING of Iowa:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

LIMITATION ON ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUND ASSISTANCE FOR MEXICO

SEC. 5xx. None of the funds made available in this Act under the heading ''ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUND'' may be used to provide assistance for Mexico.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of June 8, 2006, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

Mr. KOLBE. I rise to claim the time in opposition.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Arizona will control the time in opposition.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa for 5 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The amendment that I offer today is an amendment that supports the continuing philosophy of the Nethercutt amendment of 2004 that removes funds that go to the economic support fund in Mexico if they do not comply with an Article 98 order, which says that they would not send an American citizen to the International Criminal Court.

Mexico is slated to cash in big on foreign aid contained in H.R. 5522. The House report would allocate $40 million in assistance to Mexico while the President's fiscal year 2007 budget request estimates that they will receive $62.9 million in various forms of aid through this bill.

My amendment would prohibit sending economic support funds to Mexico, and that is about $9 million. And despite spending over $31 million in economic support funds since 2004, the Mexican government has not show any progress towards real reform.

Mexico is rife with corruption. Their politicians can steal, bribe, and commit fraud and avoid jail time since crimes are not always treated seriously, especially these crimes of fraud, regardless of the amount of money stolen. A case in point would be $90 million that was diverted, and that is U.S. dollars, diverted from PEMEX, which is Mexico's nationally-owned oil company, to illegally finance the 2000 presidential campaign by the PRI. And yet even though they have been fined, they can pay their payments in installments, and there has been no jail time. This is indicative with what we are faced with down there. And with all of the money that has gone in under this fund, I cannot measure that there has been any kind of significant results.

Now they are prohibited from advancing these funds, even though they have been appropriated, unless Mexico agrees under an Article 98 agreement that even though they have joined the International Criminal Court, they would not send a United States citizen to that court. Mexico refuses to do so; and, in fact, a statement in February from a spokesman for President Fox said that the United States is within its rights in suspending military aid, but this would not persuade Mexico to change its stance on, as he said, full adhesion to the ICC at whatever cost.

Mr. Chairman, this is one of those costs. And if they are determined to send American citizens, maybe American military, maybe CIA, maybe FBI, maybe American soldiers or American Marines to the International Criminal Court as our southern border, they have missed the point, Mr. Chairman, in all of this, and I intend to make that point with this amendment.

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

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) who represents a border State and a border district.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Chairman, I do represent the total California-Mexico border.

Mr. KOLBE, I want to thank you for your leadership during your time in Congress on many of these issues. You have chaired with distinction the Interparliamentary with Mexico, as was noted earlier.

□ 1215

You have been a spokesman for rationality in dealing with Mexican issues. We are going to miss that voice. As you can see, the irrationality seems to be taking hold. So I am sorry you are going to go, and we are going to miss your leadership on this. So thank you again.

Mr. Chairman, these amendments which aim at taking money from Mexico are going to do the exact opposite as what the makers of the motion have in mind.

We have a long border with Mexico. It is a friendly nation. We have a real problem with immigration. How do we solve that problem, by punishing them? I don't know if that helps any. These monies that are the subject of this amendment, the Economic Support Fund, are to promote economic and political stability, to strengthen judicial systems, increase transparency in government, help create jobs. How is reform going to take place unless we are engaging with them, unless we are seen as an ally? And as we say, we are friendly with them.

And I will tell Mr. KING, my friend, who I often mix up with Mr. TANCREDO in more ways than one, that the immigration issue will be compounded by these efforts to stop assistance to Mexico. We know that people come here for jobs. If there were jobs in Mexico, they would not come here. They don't want to leave their country. They are just trying to find a way for their families to have a future. We need to do everything we can to help Mexico create jobs. And that is the quickest, most cost-effective, cheapest way to deal with the illegal immigration problem. This is not going to help create jobs. This will hurt and hurt your efforts to stop illegal immigration. Let's vote down this amendment.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, I yield a minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON).

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, the government of Mexico has not been friendly to the United States, and the Republican majority in this House is representing the people of America who are flat fed up with the Mexican Government's refusal to control the flow of criminals and illegal aliens to the United States. Let's talk about facts. Mr. FILNER is ignoring the fact, and the Democrats are ignoring the fact the Mexican Government is permitting armed training camps for narcoterrorists in northern Mexico. This is a photograph of a Guatemalan Kaibiles militia member training. There is a camp run by the Kaibiles, by the Zetas and just outside of Matamoros, Mexico, across the river from Texas. The weapons these individuals are using, and we will talk more about this in the leadership hour at the end of the day, here is just a sample of some of the weapons these narcoterrorists are using on the border, 40 millimeter grenade launchers. There is open warfare in the Nuevo Laredo areas. These are some photographs of some of the results of some of the gun fights that are taking place there. There are even armed Mexican militia spotters on hill tops in Arizona on U.S. soil who are protecting the smuggling routes.

Mexico has not been acting like a friend. They have encouraged illegal immigration to this country. They have encouraged and turned a blind eye to the corruption and the criminals pouring across our border, and it is time the House cut off money to Mexico to send the message we are sick and tired of them not protecting our border and discouraging illegal immigration.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First I would state that the information that has been provided here by the gentleman from Texas is a chilling thing to see. And if this Chamber had the ability to look at these pictures and understand the topography and know what is going on in the north side of our border and that is with the full knowledge of the government of Mexico and understand also that the corruption is replete on the other side of the border and in an even more significant way.

These people have an unlimited amount of funds. There are $60 billion worth of illegal drugs that come into the United States across our southern

border every single year, eleven million illegal people every day coming across that border. And this fund, this is a $9 million fund that is supposed to be teaching freedom and democracy and proper forms of government. We don't have an ounce of evidence that demonstrates that they have moved anything in that direction. In fact, I suspect that it has gone the other way. The American people know this. People that live on the border know this. Members of Congress who represent these pictures that you have seen here ought to know this, and they ought to support my amendment. This amendment simply supports the Nethercutt amendment which has been renewed each year since it has been brought before this Congress. But there is no reason for us to appropriate $9 million when the Mexican Government has said that they are not going to comply or agree with an article 98 agreement, which again, is the agreement that would state that they would not send an American to the International Criminal Court. In fact, the representative of President Vicente Fox has said the exact opposite, that they are going to comply with their entire agreement with the International Criminal Court and they would not enter an article 98 agreement. Therefore, we must support this amendment.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, let me just say once again I think this would be a very wrong-headed amendment, the wrong thing for us to do. This is not symbolic. This cuts all the ESF funds that we provide to the country of Mexico, which is, relative to most of our programs around the world, very, very small because Mexico is a country that is beyond the least developed; it is now rapidly developing.

The money that we provide here is important money. It is money that helps promote democracy. It is money that helps promote such things as property rights. It is money that helps promote such things as microfinance. It is the kinds of things that we do that help provide economic livelihood for the people in Mexico. This is about job creation. It is about allowing people to live and work in Mexico and not have to come to the United States. If you want less migration from Mexico to the United States, we have got to give them a hand, a hand up to prevent them from having to come to the United States because they have no way of taking care of their families. So this would be the wrong thing for us to do in terms of cutting the economic support funds for Mexico.

It is also the wrong thing to do to a neighbor with whom we have a very good relationship. Do we have problems? Of course we have problems. Are there times when we disagree? Of course we disagree. Would we like to have more help on some of the migration problems and the drug interdiction problems? Yes, we want more help. But I remember, I have been here in this Congress for 22 years, and I remember going to the inter-American, the U.S.-Mexico parliamentary meetings 22 years ago when we were told by our State Department, our law enforcement officials, there was no cooperation with Mexico. Today, that is very much changed. There is cooperation. We have significant cooperation. This is the wrong thing to do to a country like Mexico that is doing its best to try and cooperate with the United States, both on migration and on drug interdiction. These are small programs, but they are programs that make a difference in terms of economic livelihood in Mexico, and I hope we will defeat this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING).

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Iowa will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. KUCINICH

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. KUCINICH:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

LIMITATION ON MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION ASSISTANCE

SEC. 5xx. None of the funds made available in this Act under the heading ''MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION'' may be used to implement the Northern Zone Investment Plan in El Salvador with respect to the Northern Transnational Highway.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of June 8, 2006, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Chairman, my amendment will prohibit the Millennium Challenge Corporation funds from being used to construct a highway in El Salvador to help gold mining companies. The construction of this highway which constitutes a majority of El Salvador's MCC funding will mostly benefit two gold mining companies. Meanwhile, productive development priorities which are desperately needed by El Salvador's poor will be shortchanged.

In fall of 2005, the two largest Canadian mining companies received permits from the government of El Salvador to conduct initial surveying of the northern region where gold had been discovered. These companies made it known to the government they intended to mine for gold. Later, El Salvador's president announced that he intended to use MCC funding for construction of a large highway that, guess what, would go right through that same gold mine region.

Only weeks ago the Salvadoran Government committed a majority of its MCC funding for construction of this golden highway. You can clearly see the connection between the highway and the future mines on this map. All the red and yellow blocks are sites of potential mines, and the green lines where the highway is to be built. As you can see, every potential mine will be linked up to a road with construction of this highway. This highway will link up to other roads in neighboring countries so the wealth of this poor region can be extracted and easily shipped out.

The mining companies are accustomed to building their own roads to facilitate mining operations, but they are not going to have to build any roads in El Salvador. This a huge financial incentive for these mining companies and a subsidy to their operation. Here we are, America's going broke, and we are building highways in El Salvador for Canadian gold mining corporations. You know, we give these gold mine companies about $200 million for a road while the price of gold could go up to $800 an ounce. They should just use two truckloads of gold and use that to pay for the highway.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate what the gentleman from Ohio is trying to do to look out for the interests of the people of El Salvador, but I think he has got some misinformation. Now, there is one thing he is right about and we can certainly agree on and that is that the Millennium Challenge Corporation proposed compact for El Salvador does have a major roads component. But we are not talking about a superhighway that is blowing through the fields of some poor farmers in El Salvador. It is not about a road that is going to allow building profits for the multinational mining firms that are somehow earning it on the backs of the peasants. And the proposal certainly wasn't developed by the central government at the expense of the opinions of those at the local level.

This proposal was developed over 7 years as part of a consultative process, a process which is developing as part of a regional development plan with the other countries in the region, which have identified the lack of transportation infrastructure as a significant impediment for development. If anyone wants proof and reads Spanish, you can go to the Web site for the government of El Salvador where reports about the consultations have been put online, where they are actually online about all the kind of town meetings and the other consultations that have taken place. And why is that? Because for one thing, that is one of the core requirements of the Millennium Challenge Corporation, that this kind of transparency absolutely must be included in the development of the MCC proposal for the partner countries.

I was recently in Nicaragua and Honduras, and there too we have roads as a major component of what we are trying to do with the Millennium Challenge Corporation. And why is that important? Because that is how, in a country that is heavily reliant on agriculture, that is how you get products to market. You can't get the products from the farms up in the hills and in the valleys if you don't have roads, secondary roads and main roads, to bring those things to market. So that is why it is an important part of this. But it is not about taking things away from peasants, and this is certainly not about multinational mining companies. It is not about building a superhighway. This is not a four-lane or six-lane. It is a two-lane road, a two-lane paved road that will be good for trucks to carry things on for products to go to market. And importantly, there are 150 miles of tertiary farm to road markets that spread out from this central highway that bring the products in from the little villages and the farms to this highway and then bring it to the markets where it can either be sold in the major cities of El Salvador, or it can be shipped into international commerce, not just to the United States, but regionally, where it can travel on the highways in the region and help to develop the economy of this region. This is the kind of thing that we ought to be trying to encourage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1230

With all due respect to my good friend, this road is about helping a poor gold mining company more than it is about helping the people. We know what the stated purpose is: to connect small farmers to a larger market. Yet gold mining, a process that releases cyanide into the environment, is going to result in serious environmental damage, and it is going to displace the farming communities that depend on clean water and land.

So you help the gold mining operations move forward and you effectively eradicate farming in that area, which is exactly the opposite of what we are being told. And if the purpose of the highway is to help the poor in the northern region, then why are those same poor and those who work with the poor opposed to the construction of the highway?

I have here a photo from a newspaper in the area that shows a huge protest against construction of the highway, among other things, by people in the Chalatenango area, a poor area in the north which will be affected by the highway. The Catholic Diocese of Chalatenango, as well as Caritas, El Salvador, a Catholic relief organization that works with the poor and oppressed, they are marching in protest to this road that is supposed to be being built for them. There are so many other groups that are opposed to this. I submit the following list for the RECORD.

Other groups opposed to construction of the highway include the SHARE Foundation; Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES); Unidad Ecologica Salvadoreña, an umbrella group of 32 environmental organizations in El Salvador; the Association of Communities for the Development of Chalatenango, an association of 100 villages and 22 municipalities; the Sustainable Energy & Economy Network (SEEN); among others.

Furthermore, not only is the northern region of El Salvador home to half of El Salvador's poorest areas, but it also contains the main source of water and biodiversity in this Lempa River Basin.

So you have got the degrading environmental impact of gold mining, and it is going to have a negative consequence for the whole area; and El Salvador is going to end up having to borrow other money to complete the highway. They will end up getting loans from the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank to finance the rest of the project, get into worse debt and have that debt paid off by the poor. This is a nightmare.

I repeat: the people of the United States are building a highway in El Salvador for the benefit of two gold mining companies while gold is about $800 an ounce and these companies could build their own road with a couple of truckloads of gold. Why in the world, when we have bridges falling apart in America, when we have chuckholes all over our highways, when we can't even repair our own infrastructure, are we ready to fork over a couple hundred million dollars, principally to help gold mine companies from Canada? This is insane.

So friends, Republicans, and budget hawks, lend me your ears. Reject this plan to fund a road for gold miners, and support the Kucinich amendment.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I will close very quickly. Let me just say that the gentleman may be right that there are some groups that oppose this; but every single mayor, every single elected mayor in those villages and those towns shown on the map that he just showed there of El Salvador has voted in favor of this during the consultative process. Every single elected mayor has come out in favor of this.

The economic analysis of this has shown that it has about a 20 percent return on the rate of investment. This is the kind of thing that is going to help farmers and businessmen and others who have been too long isolated in this region. In addition to markets, the project connects people with better education, better health care, and better futures for themselves and for their children.

So I struggle to see how this amendment is against the people of El Salvador. It is not for mining companies. It is for the farmers; it is for the poor people. It is about not only their livelihood, but it is about their education, it is about their health care.

Mr. Chairman, I hope this amendment would be defeated.

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

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH).

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MRS. MUSGRAVE

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 9 offered by Mrs. MUSGRAVE:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

LIMITATION ON ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES THAT PROHIBIT THE IMPORTATION OF UNITED STATES BEEF

SEC. 5xx. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to provide assistance to any country identified by the Department of Agriculture as a country that prohibits the importation of United States beef from animals less than 30 months of age.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman reserves a point of order.

Pursuant to the order of the House of June 8, 2006, the gentlewoman from Colorado (Mrs. MUSGRAVE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Colorado.

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment is designed to highlight the seriousness of the Japanese beef embargo. My amendment would state that none of the funds available in this act could be used to provide assistance to any country identified by the Department of Agriculture as a country that prohibits the importation of United States beef from animals less than 30 months of age.

We have a wonderful product that comes from this Nation. When we look at the firewalls that we have for bovine spongiform encephalopathy, our beef is truly the safest in the world. And this ongoing trade ban against the United States has caused billions of dollars in loss of trade for our American ranchers, packers, and shippers. In Colorado alone, at least 1,000 job losses can be directly related to this beef embargo.

Some countries such as Japan are using the guise of health and safety protocols for an excuse for protectionist policies. I believe that this needs to stop immediately. Since the USDA testing procedures were put into

place in 2004, only two cows have been tested positive for bovine spongiform encephalopathy, and neither of those cattle made it into the food chain.

The United States has the highest quality, safest beef in the world. I believe that our science is very sound, and we have met all of the requirements that the Japanese Government requires.

I hope that this highlights the concern that we have with the beef embargo with Japan, and I don't believe that our tax dollars should go to nations that act in this unreasonable way.

Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. BEAUPREZ).

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank my distinguished colleague from Colorado for bringing this amendment to the floor, and as a former cattleman myself, I am very proud and pleased to be able to support it. I have been working here in this House with her and Members of the House Beef Caucus to reopen some of our markets to American beef throughout the world. What frustrates me most about the remaining bans on U.S. beef is that they are blatantly political. These bans are not based on scientific evidence, evidence which overwhelmingly shows that U.S. beef is among the safest in the world.

We have worked hard to demonstrate the safety of U.S. beef, and we have waited patiently for our trading partners to resume imports. Now it is time for us to do more.

I support this amendment because it sends a strong, clear signal to our trading partners that we are tired of waiting, and waiting needlessly. Now it is time to end the ban on U.S. beef.

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, the USDA's enhanced BSE surveillance program continues to test targeted animals identified as most likely to have the disease. Since June 1 of 2004, the program has tested almost 726,000 cattle and has found again only two confirmed cases, evidence to show that our safeguards are working. Testing 268,500 animals can detect BSE at a rate of one in 10 million adult cattle at a 99 percent confidence level.

I would ask the respected chairman if he would work with me and the Members of the Agriculture Committee to resolve this problem.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, if the gentlewoman would yield, I certainly would intend to try to work to resolve this problem within the degree to which the foreign operations appropriation can do that with foreign countries. But coming from a ranching background and being a rancher myself, I would certainly agree this is a problem that is important.

If I might, I understand that you are prepared to withdraw the amendment. If that is the case, then I will not need to insist on my point of order.

I appreciate the exchange with the gentlewoman from Colorado.

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate your ranching background and your awareness of how this beef embargo affects our ranchers, shippers and packers; and I thank you for your consideration.

Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BROWN OF OHIO

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. BROWN of Ohio:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

ASSISTANCE TO COMBAT TUBERCULOSIS

SEC. 5xx. The amounts otherwise provided by this Act are revised by increasing the amount made available for ''CHILD SURVIVAL AND HEALTH PROGRAMS FUND'' for programs for the prevention, treatment, control of, and research on tuberculosis, as authorized by section 104B of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151b–3), by reducing the amount made available for ''OPERATING EXPENSES OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT'', and by reducing the amount made available for ''CONTRIBUTION TO THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT FUND'', by $10,000,000, $5,000,000, and $5,000,000, respectively.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of June 8, 2006, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Arizona will control the time in opposition.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I will use significantly less than 5 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, I thank Chairman KOLBE and Ranking Member LOWEY. They deserve tremendous credit for recognizing long ago for many years the domestic and global benefits of tuberculosis control. They have been leaders in this body, and I thank them for that.

There are three compelling reasons to do this amendment: additional dollars will save lives; additional dollars will serve the purpose of fighting not just TB, but contributing to a public health infrastructure and preparedness for a potential bird flu pandemic; and additional TB control dollars now will result in a net reduction of outlays later because of better preparation.

This past March, the CDC reported a 13 percent increase in multidrug-resistant TB in our country, the largest single increase since the early 90s when in Mrs. LOWEY's State of New York there was a serious outbreak. When worldwide travel is an everyday affair, we can't afford to ignore this airborne infectious killer that can be spread by a cough or sneeze.

Research published in last September's New England Journal of Medicine showed that U.S. investment in TB control abroad saves U.S. tax dollars and protects health here at home. For example, $35 million invested in TB efforts abroad could save the U.S. over $100 million and prevent nearly 2,600 cases of TB here and over 300 related TB deaths. Even one outbreak of MDR, drug resistant TB, can result in a very costly and deadly resurgence.

Again, what this does is help us with an infrastructure that will help us stop bird flu or any other epidemic. It is essential that we fortify our public health infrastructure.

I again thank Chairman KOLBE and Ranking Member LOWEY for their outstanding leadership in helping this Congress fight tuberculosis here and abroad.

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

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, certainly the thrust of this amendment is a good one and what he is attempting to do with this is very good. I have some concerns about the cuts, continuing to cut in what is a very limited increase for the O&E for USAID. But having said that, at this time I am prepared to accept this amendment.

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word for the purpose of entering into a colloquy with the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas. I understand she has some comments she would like to make.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I thank the distinguished gentleman, and I thank the ranking member for her support on this issue.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I had an amendment that would focus on not having any funds be made available in this act to be used to assist any foreign government in enforcing any religious law that has the effect of punishing a victim of sexual assault or rape.

This is an area and an issue that has a heavy burden in many of our Muslim populations, including Indonesia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, the Middle East and North Africa, and as well incidents that have occurred in Nigeria, Libya, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Turkey.

Of course, many of these are our strong allies. However, I think it is befitting and important for this Congress to make a very strong statement.

For example, in South Africa, a woman is raped every 26 seconds. In South Africa, a woman is killed every 6 days. Bangladesh shows vigilantism against women for a perceived moral transgression. In Pakistan, a woman by the name of Dr. Shazia, a 32-year-old Pakistani physician, is no longer in that country after being raped because of some problems with the judicial system, although the government has expressed support for her and I hope that she will be able to come back to testify against the particular culprit. Because of the religious codes that surround these incidences, women are not protected.

□ 1245

My amendment will simply go on record, Mr. Chairman, to say that we are paying attention to this issue, we are concerned about it, and, of course, we want to be able to address it.

I would hope that in the statement of managers, as we move toward the Senate, we would be able to express our concern, in particular, about this unique issue

And, Mr. Chairman, if I might add, as you well know, I have just recently returned from Afghanistan, and had many, many women surround me, many of them elected officials, the newly elected parliament which we are excited about, has a high percentage of women.

These women said to me directly in general Chambers, we are afraid to go back to our provinces. I want to make sure that the security funds for Afghanistan have a particular sensitivity to the security of women elected officials after returning to their provinces and are fearful for their lives.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman for her comments. Let me just say gentlewoman has been a leader in this field. I appreciate the fact that she has brought this issue to the attention of this subcommittee and to this body.

There is no question that the treatment of women, as it relates to reproductive rights and their treatment in their relationships with their husbands and with others is horrific in many countries, and certainly violates all of the standards that we would consider minimal in this country.

Clearly there needs to be, in our appropriations, and in the money that we spend on foreign assistance programs, there needs to be an understanding of this issue. There needs to be a sensitivity to it.

And I appreciate the fact that the gentlewoman has brought this to our attention. I think by having this dialogue here today, we emphasize to USAID and to all of our mission directors around the world, that this is something that we believe they should be very much focused on, to be sure that the treatment of women in their respective countries, balancing, balancing the secular rights with the religious law that exists in some of these countries, balancing that, that we protect the rights of women, the basic human rights of women in these countries.

Mr. Chairman, I certainly believe that this subcommittee should work to that end. I know that my colleague, the ranking member, Mrs. LOWEY, has been very dedicated to doing this. And so together, as we move into conference, we will continue to do that.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, let me thank the distinguished gentleman. I might add that I think we are all aware of an incident that occurred with a gang rape in a country that has been very much an ally of the United States, Pakistan.

The government, however, took a firm stand against it. I think the remarks you have made, Mr. Chairman, on the floor today and the support of Mrs. LOWEY, if we can work toward a form of language, I would greatly appreciate it, as we move toward conference.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman, for her commitment to this issue here.

AMENDMENT NO. 18 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON-LEE OF TEXAS

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 18 offered by Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available in this Act under the heading ''INTERNATIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING'' may be used to provide training to children under the age of 18 in military exercises or military combat initiatives.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentlewoman's amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Arizona reserves a point of order.

Pursuant to the order of the House of June 8, 2006, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. As I begin this debate, Mr. Chairman, I do want to acknowledge again the hard work of Mr. KOLBE and Mrs. LOWEY in working together on probably one of the more different foreign operations bills in the appropriations process.

I would also offer to say in good humor and with a sense of caring, I really wish the point of order could be waived. But I hope this issue again gains the attention of the chairman and the ranking member, that we could, in fact, have report language on this.

Mr. Chairman, I have worked on this issue for a number of years. I am the co-chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus. This has to do with child soldiers. In 2002, the U.S. Senate gave unanimous consent to the U.S. ratification of the Child Soldiers Protocol which was the optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

I believe we have a moral imperative in the United States to make our views known, but to speak forcefully, if you will, to countries that insist on using children as soldiers. Uganda, for example, abduction rates reached their record level in late 2002, 2003, over 8,000 boys and girls were forced by the Lord's Resistance Army to become child soldiers.

We see this in the Democratic of the Congo. We see this in Burma, Burundi, the DRC, Liberia, Sudan, and Uganda. We see that Burma's national army alone includes an estimated 70,000 child soldiers. It is of course a burden on the children and there is no hope.

As I speak about the child soldiers, the most glaring example was heard from the eloquent presentation of the president of Liberia that talked about almost every child in Liberia was used as a child soldier during the vicious war headed by Charles Taylor.

I am hoping that we can continue to make our moral point, assert our moral point as the appropriations process moves forward, and that this too would engender or incur report language, if you will, the management statement that occurs as we move toward the Senate.

I would like, as I discuss this before I yield to the distinguished gentleman, is to mention my recent trip to Chad, and to indicate, in addition to I am sure the impact of the issue of child soldiers, the impact of refugees from Sudan.

Even though the Chad receives international military education training dollars, which I wanted to limit, my real focus is to have those dollars go toward humanitarian aid to take the burden off of the government of Chad, as it works to be a welcome refuge for our refugees coming out of Sudan and to protect them, providing security for them.

Mr. Chairman, I hope that all of these issues will receive the attention of the committee.

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

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, if the gentlewoman would yield, I appreciate again the good work that she has done in this area, and certainly in our subcommittee, she has asked for some consideration in the conference for language, and certainly we will want to consider that. I do appreciate that.

If the gentlewoman is prepared to withdraw the amendment, I would not have to insist on my point of order.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I thank the distinguished chairman. I am prepared to withdraw it. As I said, my earlier thoughts are that would not it be great to have had the point of order waived, because I think children are dying as we speak and the refugees in Chad need our help.

I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank Mrs. LOWEY for her support. I do want to acknowledge Rebecca Singer Cohen in my office who worked diligently on these amendments. With that, I look forward to working with you for language as we move toward the Senate.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today to support my Amendment to this Foreign Operations Appropriation bill, which states that none of the funds made available in this Act under the heading ''INTERNATIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING'' or 'FOREIGN MILITARY FINANCING PROGRAM'' may be used in contravention of the child soldiers protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The nations known to use child soldiers do not deserve military assistance from our Nation.

On June 18, 2002 the U.S. Senate gave unanimous consent to U.S. ratification of the child soldiers protocol, which was the optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict. This decision meant that the United States would not put anyone under the age of eighteen in combat. However, despite that fact that many nations throughout the world signed and ratified the protocol, the problem of children being put into combat situations is still prevalent in many regions of the world. Despite gains in awareness and better understanding of practical policies that can help reduce the use of children in war, the practice persists and globally, the number of child soldiers—about 300,000—is believed to have remained fairly constant. In some continuing armed conflicts, child recruitment increased alarmingly. In Northern Uganda, abduction rates reached record levels in late 2002 and 2003 as over 8,000 boys and girls were forced by the Lord's Resistance Army to become soldiers, laborers, and sexual slaves. In the neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where all parties to the armed conflict recruit and use children, some as young as seven, the forced recruitment of children increased so dramatically in late 2002 and early 2003 that observers described the fighting forces as ''armies of children.''

However, it is not just non-governmental armed opposition groups who continue to use children to fight wars. Governments including those in Burma, Burundi, the DRC, Liberia, Sudan, and Ugandan have continued to recruit and use children in armed conflict. Burma's national army alone includes an estimated 70,000 child soldiers, which is nearly one-quarter of world's total and routinely sends children as young as twelve into battle gainst armed ethnic opposition groups. Both Uganda and the DRC have ratified the optional protocol, but flout their obligations by using child soldiers. The Ugandan People's Defense Force has recruited children who escaped or were captured from the rebel Lord's Resistance Army, and has trained and deployed children recruited into local defense units. The government of DRC maintains children in its ranks despite a 2000 presidential decree calling for the demobilization of child soldiers.

While none of these nations are specifically targeted to receive any military assistance in this Appropriation, it is important that this amendment is passed so that a message against the use of child soldiers is sent throughout the world. Regardless of how unlikely it is that such funding may ever take place, we as a nation can not allow even the slightest possibility that taxpayer money may go to pay for military assistance to other nations who continue to use child soldiers. It is also important to note that these military assistance funds do not cover any humanitarian assistance, only funds under the International Military Education and Training and Foreign Military Financing Programs. It's a travesty that here in America we talk of holding our children above all else, but around the world children are being used as tools for war. I urge support for the Jackson-Lee Amendment to prohibit military assistance to nations that continue to use child soldiers.

We originally had this amendment include the words ''not against their will.'' The reason, Mr. Chairman, is that in the time that I spent in Chad with the refugees that have been resettled in Chad, I saw that the crisis in Darfur and the surrounding border areas between Sudan and Chad still exist.

We have made great strides in providing resources to the region; but as I traveled to Chad and met with the leadership of Chad, they talked about the enormous challenges that they are presently having with their refugees and the refugees from Sudan and the need for resources. At the same time as I talked one on one to the refugees that were there, they expressed to me that the brutality was still going on.

Of course, in Chad we find that there is a lack of sufficient water, adequate medical supplies, and, of course, the possibility that the Janjaweed will come across the border and raid them at will. But at the same time, these refugees were frightened about the possibility of being returned to Sudan because the Government of Chad may be overwhelmed with the resources needed to protect them.

I believe, of course, that we can help provide the resources to Chad needed to protect those refugees, and the United Nations refugee resettlement effort was very much in force and very much an effective tool.

But as we know, the genocidal regime in Sudan has left 2.5 million people displaced and at least 380,000 people dead in Darfur. We also know that there is a continuing number of refugees that have come across the border.

Due to increasing violence, 15,000 innocent civilians continue to die each month. Genocide cannot continue on our watch. The United States must move forward towards an effective action against this terrible crime.

We are gratified that this Congress voted on a genocide initiative and declared that genocide was occurring. The United Nations, of course, has had a more difficult time dealing with that question. But we know that genocide has occurred. We know that these refugees are fleeing for a very important reason. The United Nations Secretary General has described the situation in Darfur as ''a little short of hell on Earth,'' and expert John Prendergast calls it ''Rwanda in slow motion.''

Under cover of a decade-long civil war that has claimed 2 million Sudanese lives, the government-backed Janjaweed continues their campaign to wipe out communities of African tribal farmers who live in the region.

I understand that there have been changes in the Sudanese Government. In Chad, I met with the Sudanese ambassador. I have met with the Sudanese ambassador, to the dismay of many here in the United States, trying to find common ground.

I want to applaud the work of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) and the Committee on International Relations and the Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs, that has looked at this question and has fought it with great, great perseverance. The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON) provided additional dollars.

But I want to make sure that any Darfurian refugee that is in Chad is not forced to leave for any economic reason. Of course, we need more dollars to help Chad, more support of the United Nations Commissioner on Human Rights and Refugees. But we also need to ensure that resources here by this appropriation do not force anyone to go back to a place where they do not want to go.

Some refugees may want to go back. When I met with them one on one, they talked about their cattle being destroyed, they talked about there being no place for them, their villages had been destroyed. We looked and spoke with the African Union at the aerial footage that would show how large villages had been destroyed, so there is not much for them to return to.

I want to be able to say that we are working at all ends, the declaration of genocide, the negotiations with Sudan to stop the violence and stop the devastating destruction of these individuals in Sudan and stop the fleeing from Sudan.

But now that we are in the predicament that we are in, which is 380,000, up to 400,000 and growing, refugees in Chad, we want to make sure that there is no fear, no, if you will, requirement, no demand, no shuttling. Refugees who do not want to go back, they should not have to go.

Let me say this as well: if you speak to the women and the children that I had a chance to speak to, I can only say that tears would come to your eyes, the raping, the brutalization, the fear, the apprehension. I would ask my colleagues to consider an amendment that simply wants to give to those who are in fear of their lives the opportunity not to return if they desire not to return.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw this amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MR. POE

Mr. POE. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 10 offered by Mr. POE:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

REDUCTION IN APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 5xx. Appropriations made in this Act are hereby reduced in the amount of $597,000,000.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman will control the time in opposition.

Pursuant to the order of the House of June 8, 2006, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE) each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. POE. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the work that the committee has done on this foreign ops appropriations bill.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment resets the spending of this bill, however, to the 2006 foreign ops appropriation bill. Considering the ballooning size of the government, this would seem to be a modest gesture. Some say that $597 million is just a small drop in the bucket. That may seem true to some people who write checks for a living, but I disagree.

You tell that to the people down in Sabine Pass, Texas which was leveled during Hurricane Rita, that $597 million is not a lot of money. These good folks are wondering why we are spending money all over the world when 40,000 of them still have blue tarps on their roofs. It would seems to me that charity certainly begins at home before we raise spending to many third world countries.

I'm not asking for a massive cut in foreign programs, I am asking that Congress consider aid that we spend all over the world. I receive letters and phone calls every day from people asking us to take care of their money. It is an important to these individuals, especially people who have recently been hurt by Wilma, Rita and Katrina.

We can keep asking Americans to trust us with their money as we send it all over the world, but some day, after we have gone well too far, the American people will tell us that they have probably had enough. We cannot continue to be the guns, bread and butter to the world. We must hold the line on money we give away to other nations and take care of our people first.

So this amendment reduces overall spending. But because it would be up to the bureaucrats to decide where those actual cuts would be, and that aid that is in the interests of the United States, like aid to Israel, aid that probably ought to be increased, and they may remove that aid and continue wasteful aid that we spend, for example, the $4 million we give to Tibet so that they keep their culture, maybe even aid to Egypt, and that gives them too much discretion, I think it is in the best interest that I withdraw this amendment.

Mr. POE. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MR. POE

Mr. POE. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 11 offered by Mr. POE:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

LIMITATION ON ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN COUNTRIES

SEC. 5xx. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to provide assistance to any country the government of which does not accept the transfer from the United States of citizens or nationals of such country who have been issued a final removal order by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on this amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman reserves a point of order.

Pursuant to the order of the House of June 8, 2006, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. POE. Mr. Chairman, many Americans have joined Congress in the illegal immigration debate over the past several months. Important questions on guest worker programs, detention space, and the so-called catch and release programs have been discussed numerous times.

However, one overlooked aspect of illegal immigration is the delay or the refusal of foreign countries that we give aid to to accept the ordered deportation of citizens from the United States. Many of these ordered deported have been convicted of felonies, gone to prison and U.S. penitentiaries, and illegally entered the United States initially.

A report issued in April of 2006 by the Department of Homeland Security Inspector General states, that ICE's Office of Detention and Removal is being forced to devote a significant percentage of its funded detention beds, 14 percent, to illegals whose countries are either slow or unwilling to take those people back after they have been ordered deported.

The report also states that thousands of these individuals end up then being released in America as our government continues to get stonewalled by so-called friends, but turn out to be uncooperative foreign nations.

The cost incurred in fiscal year 2003 by the U.S. due to the delay or refusal of the top eight nations, including India, was $83 million to American taxpayers.

In June of 2004, America had 136,241 illegals from those top eight nations with orders to be departed, but those governments refused to take those individuals. So what happened? Of that 136,241 illegals, 98 percent of those were released and are walking free on American streets because we cannot detain them.

These costs are sure to increase along with illegal immigration from offending countries. What do illegal immigrants have to lose if they know their own country will not take them back after they have been deported?

They make their way to America, they come here illegally, they break our laws, and they know their country will refuse to take them back. The United States should not have to foot the bill for illegal immigrants because their home Nations are constructing roadblocks.

It is time we offer a proper incentive to these uncooperative nations, our so called friends. This amendment would require recipients of foreign aid to accept and repatriate nationals who have been deported from this country.

Those nations that do not accept the transfer of their nationals would not be eligible to receive American aid. These nations cannot have it both ways. This is not about punishing any particular nation, it is about asking these countries to work with us and accept our assistance, also to respect our sovereignty and sanctity of our borders and take back their lawfully-deported citizens.

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

The CHAIRMAN. Does the gentleman from Arizona wish to make a point of order or continue to reserve?

Mr. KOLBE. I would make the point of order unless the gentleman would like to say anything further before I make my point of order.

Mr. POE. I understand there is a point of order and with that I will withdraw my amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas is withdrawn.

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. SANDERS

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. SANDERS:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

TITLE VI—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS

PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS BY THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES TO APPROVE AN APPLICATION FOR A LONG-TERM LOAN OR LOAN GUARANTEE WITH RESPECT TO AN OIL AND GAS FIELD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

SEC. _____.

None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by the Export-Import Bank of the United States to approve an application for a long-term loan or loan guarantee with respect to an oil and gas field development project.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of June 8, 2006, the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and a Member opposed each will control 10 minutes.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I would claim the time in opposition.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman will control the time in opposition.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Chairman, this tripartisan amendment has wide support across the political spectrum. It has been cosponsored by RON PAUL of Texas, Mr. HINCHEY of New York, Mr. KUCINICH of Ohio, and has been endorsed by a number of leading national

organizations, including the U.S. Business and Industry Council, the Taxpayers for Common Sense, the Green Scissors Coalition, Public Citizen, Friends of the Earth, and the U.S. Public Interest Research Group.

□ 1300

This amendment is simple and it is straightforward. At a time when this Nation has an $8.2 trillion national debt, this amendment would simply prohibit the Export-Import Bank from providing corporate welfare to large oil companies for the development of oil and gas projects overseas.

Mr. Chairman, in America today there are proposals coming from the White House and the leadership of this institution to cut back on health care, to cut back on Medicare, to cut back on Medicaid, to cut back on financial aid for college middle class students. And yet if we do not have enough money to take care of the middle class and their needs, working families, lower-income families, I wonder why we have billions of dollars available to provide corporate welfare for the largest oil companies in the United States of America, companies that are receiving today billions and billions of dollars in profits.

It is beyond comprehension that anybody in this institution could come forward with a straight face and say that the taxpayers of America should be providing loan guarantees and subsidies to corporations like ExxonMobil, which last year earned $36 billion in profits, more profits than any corporation in the history of the world. Companies like ExxonMobil which had enough money to pay out $398 million for a retirement package for their former CEO. That the taxpayers of this country, that middle-class families, that working families should be subsidizing the largest oil companies in the world who are receiving record-breaking profits, who are paying their CEOs huge compensation packages is literally insane.

We have real needs in this country. We have needs for our veterans, needs for education, needs for health care. If oil companies in America cannot make a buck today without coming for corporate welfare to the taxpayers of this country, they are never going to make a buck.

Since 1996 the Export-Import Bank has given more than $7 billion in loans and loan guarantees for oil and gas projects all over this world, including $1.3 billion to ExxonMobil and nearly $2 billion to our old friends in Halliburton, another company that is obviously in desperate need of taxpayer funds.

Mr. Chairman, to add insult to injury, the top recipient, and I hope you hear this, of this corporate welfare is not even an American company. It is not even a privately owned company. I didn't know that my Republican friends were so supportive of state-owned nationalized industries. I learn something new every day. But the top recipient of this corporate welfare is PEMEX, a wholly owned oil company of Mexico. Well, isn't that great that the taxpayers of America are subsidizing a wholly owned oil company of Mexico. Well, how about paying attention to some small businesses in America?

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

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, as I have the right to close and I am the only speaker on my side, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY).

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Vermont, for offering this amendment which I think is very appropriate and very much to the point these days. But before I begin with that, I also want to express my deep appreciation to my friend and colleague on the other side of the aisle, Mr. KOLBE, the gentleman from Arizona who is the chairman of the committee which is overseeing this bill.

I want to just thank him for the good sound solid work that he has done, and I want to also tell him that I have very much appreciated having the opportunity to be associated with him in his work. I think he has done an extraordinary job in chairing this subcommittee on appropriations, and I think he has set an excellent example for his successor, whoever that may be. Of course, we hope that successor will be from this side of the aisle, but we will await and see what happens. Whoever it is, the example that Mr. KOLBE has set is one that is important for all of us, and I thank him very much.

Last year, the world's five biggest oil companies recorded a staggering $111 billion in profits. And for the first quarter of this year, these same companies have racked up about $28 billion in profits which puts them right on track for even exceeding the record profits that they established last year. The contrast between Big Oil's prosperity and the economic conditions of the vast majority of Americans is very, very obvious and deeply divided. People all across this country are finding it more and more difficult to heat their homes, and they are finding it true that each week a bigger chunk out of their paycheck is going to pay for the gasoline that they need just to get back and forth to work. So Americans are getting gouged twice. They are getting gouged at the pump and they are getting gouged in their tax bills.

So what this amendment does is begin to focus attention on this situation where we are subsidizing American oil companies that are making record profits to go off and spend the taxpayers' dollar to develop energy sources in some other part of the world. It just does not make any sense. They have more cash on hand right now than they know what to do with, and now we are providing them with additional subsidies.

So I thank the gentleman from Vermont for giving us the opportunity to vote on this amendment, to establish some clarity here with regard to how we use these funds. The kind of corporate welfare that is exemplified here in this particular example of taxpayers' dollars going to the richest companies in the world making the biggest profits in the world is just another example of how we have misallocated the taxpayers' dollars in this country, denying them the things they need in order to subsidize the coffers of people who do not need it. Let's pass this amendment.

Last year, the world's five biggest oil companies—ExxonMobil, Royal Dutch Shell, BP, ConocoPhillips and Chevron Texaco—recorded a staggering $111 billion in profits.

For the first quarter of 2006, these same companies recorded almost $28 billion in profits.

The contrast between Big Oil's prosperity and the struggles of ordinary families to pay for the high cost of energy has never been clearer.

Americans are getting gouged twice: once at the pump when they pay high prices and twice, when they pay taxes that end up in the pockets of some of the most profitable energy companies in the world.

Yet, despite these record profits, the oil industry continues to benefit from billions in giveaways—courtesy of the American taxpayer. This amendment would put an end to one such egregious subsidy.

As my good friend from Vermont has explained, since 1995, the Export-Import Bank has provided more than 7 billion US taxdollars for loans and loan guarantees for oil and gas projects all over the world—all funded by Uncle Sam, or should I say, by taxpayers?

And look where our tax dollars are going: $1.3 billion to Exxon-Mobil; $162 million to BP; $300 million to Chevron; and nearly $2 billion to Halliburton.

Can anybody tell us without laughing up their sleeve that these corporate giants need more help from the very people who are having a difficult time affording to heat or cool their homes or put gasoline in their cars?

And what's more, should we ever be subsidizing a foreign firm? As the gentleman from Vermont has already pointed out, the top recipient of this corporate welfare is Pemex, which is wholly-owned by the government of Mexico.

Since 1996, Pemex has benefited from over $4 billion in financing from the Export-Import Bank.

In fact, roughly 70 percent of total Export-Import Bank financing for oil and gas projects since 1996 has gone to Pemex.

So why can't we see the absurdity of American taxpayers who are already $8.3 trillion in debt, subsidizing the Mexican government's oil and gas operations?

American tax dollars should not be publicly financing oil and gas projects for a company that is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Mexican government. We should be embarrassed to ask that of our constituents.

This amendment would simply provide a time-out for more of this corporate welfare benefitting the most profitable companies in

the country when they want to develop energy overseas, at the expense of ordinary Americans.

This amendment would acknowledge that we are finished with putting American taxpayers at risk when we guarantee Export Import loans for risky oil and gas ventures overseas.

It would end the bilking the public trough for private gain.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment is again about fairness.

Why should the US taxpayer prop up the oil and gas industry in times like these? I can see no good reason, nor should my colleagues.

These companies can afford to do their risky business with no assist from the public.

They can get loans from banks. They are not strapped for cash to invest overseas.

They have told us loud and clear that they do not need our subsidies, so let's take them at their word.

Unfortunately, every time we do take them at their word, these same companies come back begging to Washington for more corporate welfare and taxpayer dollars. This simply has to stop.

If American companies want to invest in energy resources overseas, have at it, and good luck to you. Just don't expect hard-working, underpaid Americans to foot the bill.

Support your taxpayers. End corporate welfare. Support this amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Vermont has 3 minutes remaining.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, I gather many of my friends here are strong proponents of the free enterprise system. They like the idea of risk, venture taking, and I wonder why it is that when the Export-Import Bank is supposed to be the place of last resort when large oil companies like ExxonMobil are supposed to go to the banks, I wonder why ExxonMobil is not going to Citibank or other large banks to get any assistance they might need. It is beyond comprehension to me that ExxonMobil and Halliburton cannot get a loan from the private sector. Beyond belief.

Furthermore, I find it unbelievable, to be honest with you, as to why the taxpayers of this country are subsidizing a state-owned industry in Mexico, PEMEX, they are a state-owned oil company, when certainly my friends over there would never think of in a million years of subsidizing a state-owned oil company in the United States of America.

Here is the bottom line: historically the Ex-Im, the Export-Import Bank, has been a major provider of corporate welfare to the largest corporations in America. There are corporations that have received huge amounts of help from Export-Import and then they say, oh, thank you very much, taxpayers of America. By the way, we are shutting down plants in this country and we are moving to China. And now what we are looking at is one segment of their loans and loan guarantees to the oil industry.

Thank you, taxpayers of America, for subsidizing us, and now we are going to charge you $3 for a gallon of gas while we earn record-breaking profits.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment should in fact be passed unanimously. It is beyond belief; it would be beyond belief to the people of this country that there is anyone here who thinks the taxpayer money should go to the oil industry which is enjoying record-breaking profits while they rip off the American people.

I would hope we have widespread support for this amendment.

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

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, in fact, I think this amendment would be defeated unanimously if people understood what it is really about. It is not about big oil companies. It is not about supporting big oil companies. It is about supporting usually small suppliers, small U.S. manufacturers that work in the large, huge energy industry around the world. So I rise in very strong opposition to this amendment.

We are looking at one of the largest projects, in fact it is the largest infrastructure project in the world today at Saklan Island. The reserves there are larger than the North Slope. They are larger than the Gulf of Mexico. These are huge possible reserves.

Now, if we are concerned about energy in this country, if we are concerned about oil and gas in this country and having enough gasoline to run our cars, we ought to be concerned about developing this. And if we are concerned about making sure we have environmental protections for a project like this, we want to have some participation in this project, and that is exactly what the funding from OPEC and Ex-Im Bank allows us to do to have that kind of participation.

The gentleman made some comment about even though it is not the Saklan project about PEMEX, but there again PEMEX in Mexico, that is the state-owned oil industry in Mexico. There is nothing in here about supporting PEMEX. It is about supporting American business contractors, American manufacturers that export to PEMEX, that sell pipe, that sell drill equipment, that sell rigs, that sell all kinds of things. It is about keeping jobs here in the United States. That is what this is about and that is what it is about with the Saklan Island project as well.

This is absolutely not the right way to go. And, again, if we want to have some participation in this, if we want to make sure that this project is done the right way, we want to be sure that Export-Import Bank is involved with supporting those small suppliers that he was not talking about, supporting those contractors, those business people, because that helps us to participate in this.

It is really not so much about the big company, the ExxonMobil and the Kelloggs. It is about companies like Solar Turbines Incorporated, about S & P Steel Products. This is why we have the Ex-Im Bank to support these kinds of exports to other countries, to support jobs here in the United States. That is exactly what the Export-Import Bank is about, jobs here in the United States.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment is not the right way to proceed, and I hope that my colleagues will soundly defeated this amendment. If you are concerned about energy, if you are concerned about gas prices, and you want to develop in a reasonable way reserves of energy overseas and if you want to support American manufacturers and American jobs, defeat this amendment.

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

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS).

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Vermont will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MR. HEFLEY

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 15 offered by Mr. HEFLEY:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

REDUCTION IN APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 5xx. Appropriations made in this Act are hereby reduced in the amount of $213,000,000.

□ 1315

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of June 8, 2006, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, first of all, I would like to echo the comments of Mr. HINCHEY on the prior amendment concerning the chairman, and I have enormous respect for the work that you have done and wish you well in whatever you do after this, but you are a conscientious legislator, and we are to be proud of you for that.

Mr. Chairman, I rise again today to offer an amendment to cut the level of funding in this appropriation bill by 1 percent. This amount equals $213 million. It is only one penny off of every dollar spent.

I have several pages here of brilliant explanation of why. I am not going to go through all of that because I do not think I am going to change any minds, and yes, I know this will not balance

the budget. It is symbolic, but at least it shows that we are thinking about it and that we are serious about it. In my budget at home and your budget at home or any department's budget, if they cannot find one penny out of a dollar, then I think something is very, very wrong.

Mr. Chairman, I would move the amendment.

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

The CHAIRMAN. Does the gentleman from Arizona seek to control time in opposition?

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I take the time in opposition, and I will spend even less time than the gentleman from Colorado did as we both go out the door here, and we will follow each other out the door of this distinguished body.

I want to say to him that I would say the same thing about him, the kind words he said about me. He has had very distinguished service here in this body, and he is a person that is known for his integrity and his commitment to principles. One of those commitments is the holding down spending, and it is something that all of us could heed from time to time.

However, having said that, I would oppose this amendment for the obvious reasons, but I think that we have a carefully crafted bill and a $213 million across-the-board cut from every account would have some devastating impacts in certain areas.

For that reason, as much as I respect the gentleman from Colorado, I would oppose this amendment.

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY).

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado will be postponed.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

I rise in the closing moments of the legislative work on the Foreign Operations subcommittee report almost entirely to remind the Members that this is perhaps one of the most difficult bills of all those that we take through the appropriations process, not because it is the largest bill, not because there are not problems solving the bill, but because, generally speaking across the country, Americans tend to say if we are going to spend money, we ought to spend money at home first and forget about spending money anywhere else, except perhaps for national defense.

Ofttimes my constituents say why are we spending so much money on foreign aid, not recognizing that we are spending such a very, very fractional piece of our total dollar available in this arena, but it is through this vehicle that our voice is effectively heard around the world on behalf of freedom, of opportunity and, indeed, on behalf of American interests.

There is little doubt that this bill has done so well over the years because we have had the kind of leadership in this subcommittee that truly recognizes the importance of this. We have all talked about the fact that Mrs. LOWEY and our chairman, JIM KOLBE, have worked so well together, but this is JIM KOLBE's last bill on the floor where he is formally presenting his thought and his leadership relative to that role in the world. He has done a fabulous job for us. We are going to miss him in the House. I must say that if any regret regarding these remarks at all, it is to say that I only wish JIM KOLBE would be back next year working with us on this and many other projects for years to come.

So thank you, Mr. KOLBE, very much.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Chairman, I strongly support the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act and want to thank Chairman KOLBE and Ranking Member LOWEY for their hard work, thoughtfulness and dedication to bringing such a well-crafted bill to the floor.

There are so many important issues this bill addresses and so many ways in which it positively demonstrates the United States' values as a leader and a responsible member of the family of nations. I am grateful for the full funding of the President's request for aid to Israel and for humanitarian assistance to Sudan, and am thrilled it goes above and beyond the President's request for the global HIV/AIDS pandemic.

I appreciate the inclusion of reporting requirements for the protection of children affected by humanitarian emergencies, an issue I've worked with Representative LOWEY on, as well as the inclusion of $45 million to support research and development of microbicides as a means of combating HIV/AIDS.

I appreciate the chairman and ranking member's support of the Community Action Program in Iraq—known as CAP. The CAP program directly engages Iraqis in reconstructing their own communities, while building a nationwide grassroots constituency for democracy. Typical CAP projects use both U.S. and Iraqi funds and resources to rebuild schools, repair water and sewage lines, build health clinics, as well as a host of other infrastructure and development projects.

I have traveled to Iraq 12 times—4 times outside the umbrella of the military—and have seen first-hand how the CAP program improves the lives of Iraqis and, most importantly, how it helps us accomplish our mission of creating a secure environment for the Iraqi people so democracy can prosper.

This legislation provides $50 million for the CAP program, and I would urge the chairman to consider, as the bill moves forward, that a higher funding level would certainly be money well spent.

Regarding the Peace Corps, I am grateful for the inclusion of $325 million for the Peace Corps, which is an increase of $5 million above the fiscal year 2006 level, but is unfortunately $12 million below the President's request. I wish we could have done better. As the U.S. strives to create a better understanding of America in the world, the 7,800 Peace Corps volunteers serving from Armenia to Zambia are tangible evidence that America cares about its global neighbors.

Peace Corps volunteers have worked in every corner of the world, including the Middle East, and demonstrated the "human side" of American assistance: promoting friendship, cross cultural understanding along with sustainable international development.

Again, I appreciate the hard work that went into this bill and urge all my colleagues to support its passage.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2007.

The United States should plant seeds of peace, not seeds of war. Tragically, however, this legislation appropriates nearly $5 billion—or about 25 percent of total spending—for direct military assistance. H.R. 5522 also includes more than $2.5 billion for so-called "Economic Support Funds" that recipient countries often direct toward security budgets. This spending subsidizes armed conflict, encouraging violence rather than diplomacy around the world.

At the same time, the legislation includes several provisions I would have loved to support as a stand-alone bill. For example, it provides $450 million for humanitarian relief efforts in Sudan. Significant financing is included for much-needed disaster and famine assistance, temporary resettlement of refugees, development aid, and peacekeeping operations. I hope that this assistance will help ameliorate the consequences of the genocide in Darfur. Similarly, I support bipartisan efforts to combat global AIDS.

But in the end, the bad outweighs the good and I must vote against this bill, which encourages billions in counterproductive military assistance.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chairman, one of the hardest jobs Members of Congress face while in office is deciding whether to support or oppose a bill that is half good and half bad. Too often, we are forced to vote in favor of issues we strongly oppose while supporting goals with which we agree because our viewpoint was not the prevailing view. That is exactly what I faced today with H.R. 5522, the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act of 2007.

Mr. Chairman, I am on the record today as voting "aye" on the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act. I voted "aye" because the bill contains many worthwhile and effective provisions. Most importantly, the bill offers financial support to Israel and many other of our partners in democracy. Without backing from the United States, countries that uphold democracy and freedom could suffer, and I, for one, will always support countries that cherish and promote freedom and democratic ideals.

Another important provision that I strongly support in this bill is the withholding of 60 percent of the funds allocated for Russia until its president certifies that they have terminated any arrangements to provide nuclear assistance to Iran.

I am also extremely pleased with the many pro-life provisions maintained in the bill. These pro-life provisions send a clear message to foreign governments that if you engage in

population control and abortion practices, you will not receive assistance from the United States.

These measures, along with other provisions designed to keep jobs in America are examples of why I chose to support this piece of legislation.

However, Mr. Chairman, there were numerous provisions within the bill that I have serious reservations about and that did not have enough support to be removed from the bill. I would like to go on record highlighting the portions of the bill I do not support.

Mr. Chairman, I am deeply concerned about the International Export and Investment Agencies funding included in the bill. This provision requires the Federal Government to provide insurance to private companies investing in foreign countries. I cannot for the life of me understand why taxpayer dollars should fund this agency. If private companies wish to insure their investments overseas, they should use private insurance companies to do so, not the Federal Government.

Mr. Chairman, I am also very concerned about the economic aid for Egypt contained in the bill. To be giving such economic assistance to Egypt at a time when it has been cracking down on top political dissidents and opponents within and without its borders is unwise. Many of my constituents who follow international affairs have contacted me abhorring the actions in the Sudan and wondering why Egypt continues to support the government in Khartoum. We need to send a message that we will not tolerate human rights abuses or support for such abuses, especially from one of our important strategic allies.

Mr. Chairman, the bill provides $4.1 billion for the Agency for International Development, USAID, which provides funds for development related projects in developing countries. I am not opposed to helping out those countries in need, but this program has not proven effective enough over the course of its existence to warrant this level of funding.

Additionally, I want to express my opposition to the $522 million for the Trade Capacity Enhancement Fund.

Mr. Chairman, this bill tested my beliefs and forced me to make a very difficult decision. In the end, I believe the good outweighs the bad, but I want my colleagues to know that I will continue working to remove these disturbing provisions. I was voted into this office to reduce Federal spending and bring common sense back to the legislative process. That is exactly what I will do.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 5522, the FY07 Foreign Operations Appropriations Act.

I am pleased that the bill includes $50 million in funding for Afghan women, including $2 million for the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission.

This funding builds upon funding for Afghan women and girls included in an amendment that I offered to the FY04 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill.

Over the past few years, the United States has invested in the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan both because it is the right thing to do and because it is critical to our security.

However, I, like many of my colleagues, am troubled about the recent acts of violence that have been occurring in Afghanistan.

Clearly, we have more work to do.

Afghan women were brutally oppressed by the Taliban regime, but they have been working to reclaim their role in society, in part because of critical U.S. assistance provided to Afghanistan.

Millions of girls have attended primary schools and equal rights for women are guaranteed in the constitution.

However, while women are vastly better off than they were, many continue to endure hardships including targeted violence, limited mobility, illiteracy, and a high rate of maternal mortality.

I also am very concerned about reports that schools continue to be targeted for violence, including dozens in the past year.

By giving women access to the skills and opportunities that they need to become partners in creating Afghanistan's future, we will ensure that women will no longer be second-class citizens.

I particularly want to note the $2 million that is directed for the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission.

I recently met with Dr. Sima Samar, chair of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission, who discussed the valuable work of the Commission and the challenges that remain.

Dr. Samar is a courageous advocate for the rights of Afghan citizens, including women and children.

Her work is invaluable in ensuring that human rights are protected and respected in Afghanistan.

While I hope that all the aid for Afghanistan will help women, I commend the Appropriations Committee for continuing to recognize the needs of Afghan women.

I also am pleased that the bill includes $34 million for the life saving work of UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund.

UNFPA is a global leader in providing reproductive health care, including family planning services to the world's poorest women.

UNFPA helps women undergo pregnancy and childbirth safely and helps women and men to plan their families and avoid unintended pregnancies and protect themselves from HIV/AIDS infections.

Despite the unequalled and vital work that UNFPA provides, for the past four years, President Bush has denied them funding by refusing to release the $34 million that Congress has appropriated.

Claiming unproven and unsubstantiated assertions regarding UNFPA's work in China, this Administration is turning its back on those most in need.

It has been estimated that the loss of each year's funding could prevent 2 million unintended pregnancies; nearly 800,000 abortions, 4,700 maternal deaths, nearly 60,000 cases of serious maternal illness; and more than 77,000 infant and child deaths.

The Bush administration's refusal to release these funds puts at risk the very lives and health of women and children in the world's poorest regions.

In anticipation of the president cancelling the FY07 funding again this year, I was grateful to Representative CAROLYN KILPATRICK for offering an amendment during full committee mark-up to ensure that the appropriated funds are released for the UNFPA's campaign to end obstetric fistula, a devastating and completely preventable condition that afflicts young women whose bodies are not mature enough to deliver healthy babies.

Unfortunately, the committee rejected the amendment.

I am very concerned that this amendment failed and hope that a solution to release the funds will be provided in Conference.

Most importantly, it is my hope that this year, President Bush reconsiders the impact of his decision and releases the life-saving funding that this chamber is wisely approving today.

This important bill will provide critical funding for organizations doing important work on the ground in countries all over the world.

One of those organizations is located in my congressional district.

CARE is currently in 72 countries worldwide helping to educate children, provide health care, give food to the hungry, and fight poverty.

And they do so much more.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill so that we can continue to fund these valuable initiatives.

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of this amendment by my friend from California. Human trafficking is slavery, plain and simple, and we are morally bound to do everything we can to put an end to it.

The sad truth is that human trafficking is one of the fastest growing types of transnational criminal activity. And yet, resources to combat it remain scarce.

My district, Orange County, is home to many victims of human trafficking, and I've had the opportunity to meet with some of them and also with some of the community groups who are providing these survivors with the support services they desperately need.

Orange County is also home to a Counter-Trafficking Task Force working to develop strong partnerships between local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. The Task Force trains first responders to identify and rescue trafficking victims, disrupt and apprehend traffickers and make subsequent referral of victims to needed support services.

We're very fortunate to have programs like these in the United States, but many other countries lack the resources or the expertise to combat human trafficking on their own. Without coordinated international efforts, we have little hope of defeating the traffickers.

That's why we need to dedicate many more of our foreign assistance dollars to helping our friends around the world in their anti-trafficking efforts. This amendment is a good first step, and I am pleased that the Chairman has agreed to accept it.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chairman, I come to the floor today in support of the fiscal year 2007 Foreign Operations Appropriations bill.

I would like to commend the chairman, the gentleman from Arizona, Mr. KOLBE and the ranking member, the gentlewoman from New York, Mrs. LOWEY for their hard work and leadership on this legislation.

As this will be his last time chairing the subcommittee on foreign operations, I especially want to thank you Mr. KOLBE for your commitment to the issue of foreign aid and for consistently working in a bipartisan manner over the years with Ms. LOWEY, myself, and others.

With respect to the legislation before us, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to take a moment to highlight three particular provisions.

First, I am pleased that this bill includes $450 million for humanitarian assistance in

Sudan. Of this, $138 million is specifically for the war-torn Darfur region. The release of the rest is contingent on the certification that hostilities by the Government of Sudan and its Janjaweed militas have ended in Darfur and that humanitarian assistance can flow unimpeded.

Mr. Chairman, as we all know, a terrible genocide has been taking place in Darfur since February 2003.

Unfortunately, Mr. Chairman, the international community has been slow to respond this as a humanitarian disaster.

I traveled to the Darfur region twice and have witnessed first-hand the life and death situation of the refugees. They lack even the most basic needs. For example, because of limited funds the WFP has reduced the food ration for refugees to a mere 1050 calories per day. This is not enough to live on.

That's why, I am pleased that the funds allocated in this bill will help support efforts by the U.N. and the African Union to bring food, clean water, and other basic humanitarian assistance.

Second, I am pleased that this legislation includes funds to support the post-conflict democracy in Haiti.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, the first democratically elected president of Haiti, Jean Bertrand Aristide was ousted from office in 1994 and again in 2004. For the last dozen years, Haiti has struggled in an economic and humanitarian crisis.

This February's election of Rene Preval is a significant milestone for our hemisphere's most fragile democracy.

We must do everything we can to allow peace and security to return. That's why this legislation's inclusion of $164 million is so important.

And finally, Mr. Chairman, I am pleased that this bill includes $3.4 billion to fight the global AIDS pandemic, including $445 million for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria.

In the 25 years since the CDC reported the first cases of a rare form of pneumonia among 5 gay men in Los Angeles, HIV/AIDS has infected nearly 70 million throughout the world and killed more than 25 million.

We have made significant steps in the last few years to bring relief and hope to millions of infected and vulnerable individuals in the developing world, and with this increase in funding we acknowledge the work that still remains to be done.

Although I am disappointed that we could not match the need based figure of $7.54 billion to combat AIDS, TB and Malaria, I hope that in conference we can at least support the Senate in seeking a funding level of $4.826 billion.

Mr. Chairman, with our Nation embroiled in an unnecessary war in Iraq, and our international credibility and standing at it's lowest in history, this bill helps us showcase what it best about American humanitarian efforts.

I thank the committee for it's just consideration of many competing priorities within a limited allocation and for bringing to the floor a bill that will provide a meaningful contribution to international aid.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

SEQUENTIAL VOTES POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 7 by Mr. MCGOVERN of Massachusetts.

Amendment No. 8 by Mr. MCGOVERN of Massachusetts.

Amendment by Mr. WEINER of New York.

Amendment No. 5 by Mr. KING of Iowa.

Amendment by Mr. KUCINICH of Ohio.

Amendment by Mr. SANDERS of Vermont.

Amendment No. 15 by Mr. HEFLEY of Colorado.

Amendment No. 1 by Mr. BLUMENAUER of Oregon.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. MCGOVERN

The CHAIRMAN. The pending business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 174, noes 229, not voting 29, as follows:

[Roll No. 242]

AYES—174

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Berkley
Berman
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Brown (OH)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Carnahan
Carson
Chandler
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Conyers
Cooper
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Doggett
Doyle
Ehlers
Emanuel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Flake
Frank (MA)
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, Al
Grijalva
Gutknecht
Hall
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herseth
Higgins
Hinchey
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Hulshof
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson, E. B.
Kelly
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
Kucinich
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Matsui
McCarthy
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Otter
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pelosi
Pitts
Platts
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sabo
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz (PA)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sherman
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Spratt
Stark
Strickland
Stupak
Tanner
Tauscher
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Wexler
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn

NOES—229

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachus
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Beauprez
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Boozman
Boustany
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cantor
Capito
Cardoza
Carter
Case
Castle
Chabot
Chocola
Coble
Cole (OK)
Costa
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Culberson
Davis (AL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
Delahunt
DeLay
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Dicks
Dingell
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Feeney
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Foley
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Green, Gene
Harris
Hart
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holden
Hostettler
Hunter
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Istook
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Kanjorski
Keller
Kennedy (MN)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Latham
LaTourette
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Marchant
Marshall
Matheson
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McMorris
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Murphy
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Ortiz
Osborne
Oxley
Pearce
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pickering
Poe
Pombo
Porter
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Saxton
Schmidt
Schwarz (MI)
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Sodrel
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tancredo
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walden (OR)
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—29

Baker
Becerra
Blunt
Boehlert
Bono
Brady (PA)
Cannon
Conaway
Costello

Davis (FL)
Diaz-Balart, M.
Engel
Evans
Ford
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gutierrez
Jones (OH)
Kaptur
Kingston
Manzullo
McHugh
McKeon
Nussle
Peterson (PA)
Reyes
Walsh
Watson
Wicker

□ 1344

Messrs. TIAHRT, GOODE, ORTIZ, KNOLLENBERG, BURGESS, and COSTA changed their vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California and Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. MCGOVERN

The CHAIRMAN. The pending business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The CHAIRMAN. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 188, noes 218, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 243]

AYES—188

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boucher
Brown (OH)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Camp (MI)
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Carnahan
Carson
Chabot
Chandler
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Conyers
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dicks
Doggett
Doyle
Duncan
Ehlers
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Filner
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Flake
Foley
Ford
Frank (MA)
Gilchrest
Goode
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutknecht
Harman
Higgins
Hinchey
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Hulshof
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kelly
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
Kucinich
LaHood
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
LaTourette
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Matsui
McCarthy
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sabo
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanders
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz (PA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Shays
Sherman
Simmons
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Solis
Stark
Strickland
Stupak
Tauscher
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn

NOES—218

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachus
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Bean
Beauprez
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boustany
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Campbell (CA)
Cantor
Capito
Cardoza
Carter
Case
Castle
Chocola
Cole (OK)
Cooper
Costa
Cramer
Crenshaw
Cubin
Cuellar
Culberson
Davis (AL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeLay
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Dingell
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier
Edwards
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Ferguson
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Hall
Harris
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hostettler
Hunter
Hyde
Issa
Istook
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Keller
Kennedy (MN)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kuhl (NY)
Latham
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Marchant
Marshall
Matheson
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McIntyre
McMorris
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Murphy
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Ortiz
Osborne
Otter
Oxley
Pearce
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Porter
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sanchez, Loretta
Saxton
Schmidt
Schwarz (MI)
Scott (GA)
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Skelton
Smith (TX)
Snyder
Sodrel
Souder
Spratt
Stearns
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tanner
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Walden (OR)
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—26

Baker
Becerra
Blunt
Boehlert
Bono
Brady (PA)
Cannon
Conaway
Costello
Davis (FL)
Diaz-Balart, M.
Evans
Gibbons
Gutierrez
Kaptur
Kingston
Manzullo
McHugh
McKeon
Nussle
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Reyes
Walsh
Watson
Wicker

□ 1350

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina and Mr. DICKS changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Chairman, on rollcall Nos. 242 and 243 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted ''no.''

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. WEINER

The CHAIRMAN. The pending business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. WEINER) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The CHAIRMAN. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 312, noes 97, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 244]

AYES—312

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Bass
Bean
Beauprez
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonner
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brown (OH)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Camp (MI)
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Chabot
Chandler
Chocola
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Cramer
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Dicks
Doggett
Doyle
Drake
Duncan
Edwards
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Everett
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fossella
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Graves
Green (WI)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutknecht
Harman
Harris
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Herseth
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hostettler
Hoyer

Hulshof
Inslee
Israel
Jefferson
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson (IL)
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Keller
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kirk
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
LaTourette
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lungren, Daniel E.
Maloney
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKinney
McMorris
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Ney
Norwood
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Otter
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Paul
Payne
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Ramstad
Rangel
Renzi
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz (PA)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Sodrel
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Strickland
Stupak
Sullivan
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden (OR)
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)

NOES—97

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Barton (TX)
Biggert
Bishop (UT)
Boehner
Bonilla
Boustany
Bradley (NH)
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Buyer
Calvert
Campbell (CA)
Carter
Case
Castle
Cole (OK)
Crenshaw
DeLay
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dingell
Doolittle
Dreier
Ehlers
English (PA)
Etheridge
Fortenberry
Frelinghuysen
Gilchrest
Gohmert
Granger
Hall
Hensarling
Herger
Hobson
Hunter
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Johnson (CT)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Kelly
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
LaHood
Latham
Leach
Lewis (CA)
Lucas
Lynch
Mack
McCrery
Miller (NC)
Northup
Nunes
Oxley
Pastor
Pearce
Pombo
Price (NC)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Reynolds
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Saxton
Schwarz (MI)
Sessions
Shadegg
Sherwood
Simpson
Skelton
Smith (TX)
Snyder
Sweeney
Thomas
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Watt
Weller
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—23

Baker
Becerra
Blunt
Boehlert
Bono
Brady (PA)
Cannon
Conaway
Costello
Davis (FL)
Evans
Gibbons
Gutierrez
Kaptur
Kingston
Manzullo
McHugh
McKeon
Nussle
Peterson (PA)
Reyes
Walsh
Watson

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN (during the vote). Members are advised 1 minute remains in this vote.

□ 1357

Messrs. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, SHUSTER, TURNER, HAYES, COSTA, Ms. MCKINNEY and Miss MCMORRIS changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. KING OF IOWA

The CHAIRMAN. The pending business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The CHAIRMAN. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 93, noes 311, not voting 28, as follows:

[Roll No. 245]

AYES—93

Abercrombie
Akin
Bachus
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Beauprez
Blackburn
Bradley (NH)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burton (IN)
Cantor
Chabot
Chandler
Chocola
Coble
Cubin
Culberson
Davis, Jo Ann
Deal (GA)
Duncan
Everett
Feeney
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Forbes
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gillmor
Gohmert
Goode
Graves
Gutknecht
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hostettler
Issa
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Keller
Kelly
King (IA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lynch
McCotter
McHenry
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Ney
Norwood
Nunes
Otter
Paul
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Porter
Price (GA)
Putnam
Rahall
Ramstad
Reynolds
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Royce
Rush
Ryun (KS)
Schmidt
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shuster
Tancredo
Tanner
Taylor (MS)
Wamp
Weldon (PA)
Westmoreland
Whitfield

NOES—311

Ackerman
Aderholt
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barton (TX)
Bass
Bean
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blumenauer
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Brady (TX)
Brown (OH)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Burgess
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Carter
Case
Castle
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cole (OK)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Tom
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
DeLay
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Edwards
Ehlers
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Foley
Ford
Fortenberry
Fossella
Frank (MA)
Frelinghuysen
Gilchrest
Gingrey
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Green (WI)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hall
Harman
Harris
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
King (NY)
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Maloney
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKinney
McMorris
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Northup
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Pombo
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Radanovich
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Rogers (AL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sabo
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz (PA)
Schwarz (MI)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Simmons
Simpson
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Sodrel
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stark
Strickland
Stupak
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tauscher
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden (OR)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Wexler
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)

Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—28

Baker
Becerra
Blunt
Boehlert
Bono
Brady (PA)
Cannon
Conaway
Costello
Davis (FL)
Evans
Gibbons
Gutierrez
Istook
Kaptur
Kingston
Manzullo
McHugh
McKeon
Nussle
Oxley
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Pickering
Reyes
Stearns
Walsh
Watson

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN (during the vote). Members are reminded 1 minute remains in this vote.

□ 1400

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Chairman, on rollcall No. 245 I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. KUCINICH

The CHAIRMAN. The pending business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The CHAIRMAN. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 118, noes 288, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 246]

AYES—118

Abercrombie
Allen
Andrews
Baird
Baldwin
Bartlett (MD)
Berry
Bishop (NY)
Boucher
Boyd
Brown (OH)
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Carson
Chandler
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Conyers
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
Dicks
Doggett
Doyle
Duncan
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Filner
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Gilchrest
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hastings (FL)
Higgins
Hinchey
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hostettler
Inslee
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (NC)
Kanjorski
Kildee
Kucinich
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Lee
Lewis (GA)
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Maloney
Markey
Marshall
Matsui
McCarthy
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Miller, George
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Nadler
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Otter
Owens
Pallone
Paul
Payne
Pelosi
Rahall
Rangel
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sabo
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Schakowsky
Schwartz (PA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Slaughter
Solis
Spratt
Stark
Strickland
Tancredo
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Thompson (CA)
Tierney
Towns
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Velázquez
Visclosky
Waxman
Weiner
Woolsey
Wu

NOES—288

Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachus
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Barton (TX)
Bass
Bean
Beauprez
Berkley
Berman
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boustany
Bradley (NH)
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cantor
Capito
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carter
Case
Castle
Chabot
Chocola
Cole (OK)
Cooper
Costa
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Culberson
Davis (AL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
DeLay
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dingell
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier
Edwards
Ehlers
Emanuel
Emerson
English (PA)
Etheridge
Everett
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Gutknecht
Hall
Harman
Harris
Hart
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Israel
Issa
Istook
Jefferson
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (OH)
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Langevin
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Marchant
Matheson
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McIntyre
McMorris
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moran (KS)
Murphy
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Ortiz
Osborne
Pascrell
Pastor
Pearce
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Salazar
Saxton
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwarz (MI)
Scott (GA)
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skelton
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Sodrel
Souder
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tanner
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Walden (OR)
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Watt
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—26

Baca
Baker
Becerra
Blunt
Boehlert
Bono
Brady (PA)
Cannon
Conaway
Costello
Davis (FL)
Evans
Gibbons
Gutierrez
Kaptur
Kingston
Manzullo
McHugh
McKeon
Nussle
Oxley
Peterson (PA)
Reyes
Walsh
Waters
Watson

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN (during the vote). Members are reminded 1 minute remains in this vote.

□ 1405

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ changed her vote from "aye" to "no."

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. SANDERS

The CHAIRMAN. The pending business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The CHAIRMAN. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 178, noes 228, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 247]

AYES—178

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Bartlett (MD)
Bass
Bean
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bilirakis
Bishop (NY)
Boswell
Bradley (NH)
Brown (OH)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Carnahan
Carson
Chabot
Chandler
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cramer
Cummings
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Dent
Doyle
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Flake
Foley
Ford
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gordon
Grijalva
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hayworth
Herseth
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hostettler
Hoyer
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Johnson (CT)
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
Kucinich
LaHood
Langevin
Lantos
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Maloney
Markey
Matsui
McCarthy
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Otter

Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Platts
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (NC)
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Rohrabacher
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sabo
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schwartz (PA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Shays
Simmons
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Solis
Stark
Stearns
Strickland
Stupak
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden (OR)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (PA)
Wexler
Woolsey
Young (FL)

NOES—228

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Barton (TX)
Beauprez
Biggert
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Boozman
Boren
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cantor
Capito
Cardoza
Carter
Case
Castle
Chocola
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Culberson
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (KY)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
Delahunt
DeLay
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Emanuel
Emerson
English (PA)
Etheridge
Everett
Feeney
Ferguson
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Gutknecht
Hall
Harris
Hart
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hulshof
Hyde
Issa
Istook
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Kanjorski
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kuhl (NY)
Larsen (WA)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Marchant
Marshall
Matheson
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McIntyre
McMorris
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Murphy
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Ortiz
Osborne
Pearce
Pence
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Poe
Pombo
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Ros-Lehtinen
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Salazar
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwarz (MI)
Scott (GA)
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Skelton
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Sodrel
Souder
Spratt
Sullivan
Sweeney
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Turner
Upton
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—26

Baca
Baker
Becerra
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Bono
Brady (PA)
Cannon
Conaway
Costello
Davis (FL)
Evans
Gibbons
Gutierrez
Kaptur
Kingston
Manzullo
McHugh
McKeon
Nussle
Oxley
Peterson (PA)
Reyes
Walsh
Watson

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN (during the vote). Members are reminded 1 minute remains in this vote.

□ 1409

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MR. HEFLEY

The CHAIRMAN. The pending business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The CHAIRMAN. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 107, noes 300, not voting 25, as follows:

[Roll No. 248]

AYES—107

Akin
Bachus
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Bass
Bean
Beauprez
Bilirakis
Blackburn
Bonner
Brady (TX)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Campbell (CA)
Chabot
Chocola
Coble
Cooper
Cubin
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Jo Ann
Deal (GA)
Diaz-Balart, M.
Duncan
Everett
Feeney
Flake
Forbes
Ford
Fossella
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Garrett (NJ)
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Graves
Gutknecht
Harris
Hart
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Hoekstra
Hostettler
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Keller
King (IA)
Larson (CT)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Mack
McCotter
McHenry
McMorris
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Myrick
Neugebauer
Norwood
Otter
Paul
Pence
Petri
Pitts
Poe
Price (GA)
Rahall
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Schmidt
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shimkus
Shuster
Stearns
Sullivan
Tancredo
Tanner
Taylor (MS)
Terry
Tiberi
Walden (OR)
Wamp
Weldon (PA)
Westmoreland
Wilson (SC)
Young (FL)

NOES—300

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Barton (TX)
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blumenauer
Boehner
Bonilla
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brown (OH)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Carter
Case
Castle
Chandler
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cole (OK)
Conyers
Costa
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Tom
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
DeLay
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Edwards
Ehlers
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Ferguson
Filner
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Foley
Fortenberry
Frank (MA)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Gerlach
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gonzalez
Gordon
Granger
Green (WI)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hall
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Herseth
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hobson
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hyde
Inslee
Israel
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
King (NY)
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Maloney
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy
Murtha
Musgrave
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Ney
Northup
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Pickering
Platts
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sabo
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz (PA)
Schwarz (MI)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Simmons
Simpson
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Sodrel
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stark
Strickland
Stupak
Sweeney
Tauscher
Taylor (NC)
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tierney
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—25

Baca
Baker
Becerra
Blunt
Boehlert
Bono
Brady (PA)
Cannon
Conaway
Costello
Davis (FL)
Evans
Gibbons
Gutierrez
Kaptur
Kingston
Manzullo
McHugh
McKeon
Nussle
Oxley
Peterson (PA)
Reyes
Walsh
Watson

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN (during the vote). Members are reminded 1 minute remains in this vote.

□ 1413

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi changed his vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. BLUMENAUER

The CHAIRMAN. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 1 offered by Mr. BLUMENAUER:

In the item relating to ''DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE'', after the aggregate dollar amount, insert the following: ''(increased by $250,000,000)''.

In the item relating to ''FOREIGN MILITARY FINANCING PROGRAM'', after the aggregate dollar amount, insert the following: ''(reduced by $250,000,000)''.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The CHAIRMAN. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 182, noes 224, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 249]

AYES—182

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Bean
Berman
Berry
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brown (OH)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Dicks
Doggett
Doyle
Duncan
Ehlers
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Ford
Frank (MA)
Gerlach
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hall
Herseth
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
Kucinich
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Owens
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pelosi
Petri
Platts
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Rothman
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sabo
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz (PA)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Shays
Sherman
Simmons
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Solis
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Strickland
Stupak
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Weldon (PA)
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn

NOES—224

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Andrews
Bachus
Barrett (SC)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Beauprez
Berkley
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Boozman
Boren
Boustany
Bradley (NH)
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Case
Castle
Chabot
Chandler
Chocola
Coble
Cole (OK)
Cramer
Crenshaw
Cubin
Cuellar
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeLay
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dingell
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier
Edwards
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Feeney
Ferguson
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Gutknecht
Harman
Harris
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Higgins
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hostettler
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Israel
Issa
Istook
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Langevin
Latham
LaTourette
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maloney
Marchant
Marshall
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McMorris
Meek (FL)
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Murphy
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Ortiz
Osborne
Otter
Pallone
Pearce
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Pickering
Pitts
Poe
Pombo
Porter
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Saxton
Schmidt
Schwarz (MI)
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Skelton
Smith (TX)
Snyder
Sodrel
Souder
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walden (OR)
Wamp
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—26

Baca
Baker
Becerra
Blunt
Boehlert
Bono
Brady (PA)
Buyer
Cannon
Conaway
Costello
Davis (FL)
Evans
Gibbons
Gutierrez
Kaptur
Kingston
Manzullo
McHugh
McKeon
Nussle
Oxley
Peterson (PA)
Reyes
Walsh
Watson

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN (during the vote). Members are advised 1 minute remains in this vote.

□ 1417

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

I know people want to get out of here. This is my wedding anniversary; I do, too. This will take just a moment. Yes, my wife is a saint. Yes.

I know people want to catch their airplanes. But the gentleman from Arizona has served 22 years in this House, and this is the last time that he will be handling a bill on the floor of the House, and I think that we owe him to take note of that fact.

Mr. Chairman, for 10 years I chaired this subcommittee, and I know how easy it is to demagogue this subcommittee and the bill that it handles. And on behalf of every Member on both sides of the aisle, I want to tell the gentleman that he has done honor to this House and to each and every Member, because at every moment that I can recall, he has dealt with the subject matter at hand on the basis of substance, not politics; he has brought an intellectual quality to his argument that is very seldom matched. We don't always agree on everything, as was evidenced by the debate yesterday; but as Will Rogers said, when two people agree on everything, one of them is unnecessary.

But I just want to say, JIM, good luck in whatever you do, and we appreciate what you have done for the House and for the country and for the world in the way you have handled this bill.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY).

Mrs. LOWEY. For me, it has been a great privilege to work with JIM KOLBE. And since this is probably the 10th retirement speech that we have given for JIM KOLBE, I just want to add that he is probably a person that all of us would agree has the most integrity, wisdom, and compassion, and for me it is a real, real privilege. But, above all, JIM KOLBE is the most punctual person I know, so I won't give my 10-page speech today. Good luck. Congratulations. We love you. And let us go on.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will read the last three lines.

The Clerk read as follows:

This Act may be cited as the ''Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2007''.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I was going to move to strike the last word and give a 5-minute speech, but I sense a sense of urgency here. So, Mr. Chairman, I simply move the committee do now rise and report the bill. And I thank the Members for their comments.

But let me say, I move that the Committee do now rise and report the bill back to the House with sundry amendments, with the recommendation that the amendments be agreed to and that the bill, as amended, do pass.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California) having assumed the chair, Mr. THORNBERRY, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5522) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes, had directed him to report the bill back to the House with sundry amendments, with the recommendation that the amendments be agreed to and that the bill, as amended, do pass.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 851, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The amendments were agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

Pursuant to clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 373, nays 34, not voting 25, as follows:

[Roll No. 250]

YEAS—373

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

NAYS—34

Bartlett (MD)
Berry
Davis, Jo Ann
Duncan
Flake
Franks (AZ)
Goode
Goodlatte
Graves
Green (WI)
Hefley
Hostettler
Jenkins
Jones (NC)
Keller
King (IA)
Kucinich
Lucas
Miller (FL)
Moran (KS)
Norwood
Otter
Paul
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pombo
Rahall
Rohrabacher
Ryun (KS)
Sensenbrenner
Stark
Tancredo
Tanner
Taylor (MS)

NOT VOTING—25

Baca
Baker
Becerra
Blunt
Boehlert
Bono
Brady (PA)
Cannon
Conaway
Costello
Davis (FL)
Evans
Gibbons
Gutierrez
Kaptur
Kingston
Manzullo
McHugh
McKeon
Nussle
Oxley
Peterson (PA)
Reyes
Walsh
Watson

□ 1439

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona changed his vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber today. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 242, 243, 244, 246, 247, 249 and 250 and "no" on rollcall votes 245 and 248.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 5522, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that in the engrossment of the bill, H.R. 5522, the Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections and conforming changes to the bill.

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

There was no objection.

REPORT ON H.R. 5576, TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY, AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, THE JUDICIARY, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of California, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109–495) on the bill (H.R. 5576) 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, 2007, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for a safe and secure homeland, and for providing local governments and our first responders with the tools and resources they need.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 5441, the Homeland Security Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2007, which passed the House on Tuesday, June 6. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of this legislation.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4939, EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, AND HURRICANE RECOVERY, 2006

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109–496) on the resolution (H. Res. 857) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 4939) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise for the purpose of addressing the schedule with the majority leader for next week. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. BOEHNER. I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, next week the House will convene on Monday at 12:30 for morning hour, and 2 p.m. for legislative business. We will have a number of measures considered under suspension of the rules. A final list of those bills will be sent to Members' offices this afternoon.

Any votes called on those measures will be rolled until 6:30 on Monday evening. Also on Monday, we will consider the rule to H.R. 4939, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery.

We will likely debate the bill Monday night with final passage on Tuesday. For the balance of the week, we will do the Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill on Tuesday and Wednesday. And the resolution on the Global War on Terror and Iraq we expect to be considered on Thursday and probably spilling into Friday morning.

And so I would expect that there will be votes next Friday.

Mr. CROWLEY. I thank the gentleman. I would ask the gentleman, is it 100 percent certain that we will have votes on Friday, or it is still up in the air?

Mr. BOEHNER. It is likely at this point that we will, in fact, have votes on Friday.

Mr. CROWLEY. And if I could ask for further clarification of the schedule for next week, if the majority leader could clarify the sequence of business for next week, we will debate the supplemental conference report on Monday, roll the vote on that measure until Tuesday, and then take up the Transportation, Treasury, HUD bill Tuesday.

Do you expect that bill to be completed on Tuesday? And will the Iraq resolution then be debated on Thursday?

Mr. BOEHNER. I do not expect that the Treasury, Transportation and HUD appropriation bill will be finished on Tuesday. It could be finished on Wednesday, but that will even be a push, especially considering the commitments that Members have on Tuesday evening.

Mr. CROWLEY. How much total time do you expect will be allotted for debate on the Iraq resolution you referenced previously? And which days are you anticipating the debate will take place? And will ranking members and leadership be included in negotiating the text of that resolution?

□ 1445

Mr. BOEHNER. The resolution is coming together. The Committees on International Relations, Armed Services, and Intelligence, all three of those committees were consulted and worked to put the resolution together. That debate will begin on Thursday morning. And I expect that there will be blocks of time available assigned to all three committees. What the length of that debate is is still uncertain. I would expect it will be at least all day Thursday, and, as I said earlier, could likely consume Friday morning as well.

Mr. CROWLEY. If I can, I just have one last question. In reference to the work that is being engaged on right now on developing the language for the resolution on Iraq, is that being done in a bipartisan way? Are ranking members on those committees also participating in that?

Mr. BOEHNER. We consult with the committees. How the chairmen and ranking members relate to each other is above my pay grade.

Mr. CROWLEY. I thank the gentleman for his clarification and for his honesty.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2006, AND HOUR OF MEETING ON TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2006

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday next for morning hour debate; and further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 13, 2006, for morning hour debate.

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

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

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

There was no objection.

HONORING THE HOUSE PAGES

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like the pages to come on down and join me in the well of the Chamber, please. If you could fill in the seats in these first two rows and try to stay in the central part if you can.

Well, I have had the great privilege over many years, some people would say a great curse, but I would say great privilege, to be chairman of the page board for now a good handful of number of years. And so I have been able to experience this time in thanking the pages a couple times now and it is never easy. It is never the thing you want to do, but it is the thing that we all learn in life, that life goes on.

We as Members of the House want to thank you for your service first and foremost. You are an integral part of what we do here, and as we have said to many of you when we welcomed you here months ago, you have a unique opportunity to see the inner workings of the House of Representatives, an opportunity that I am sure many people would pay to do, but you do it as a service rendered to your country.

Hopefully, we at the Federal level continue to support this program, not just so you at this moment and this time of your life see how we operate and what we do, but then we do believe that somewhere in the future you will continue in this public service part of your experience to help make the world and our country a better place. And whether that is involved in partisan politics, which I think is an honorable cause, or that is running for office

yourself or being a good voter, being somewhat involved in the process, being concerned about your local community, it really takes individuals to step up to be leaders. And you really cannot be a member involved in the page program and not experience all those aspects about commitment to the government, to your country and as service to other people.

So thank you for what you have done. To highlight that for future generations, I am going to submit the list of the page program for the year 2005 to the Clerk so that it gets placed into the official CONGRESSIONAL RECORD from now on so when you have children or grandchildren and they ask you what you did as juniors in high school, you can say, oh, I was a page. And they would say, no, you were not. And you say, check the RECORD, there is my name.

Mr. Speaker, the following is the list of the page program for 2005–2006:

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 2005–2006
PAGES

1. Stephen Archer (NY)
2. Arielle Askren (OR)
3. John Atsalis (NH)
4. Katelyn Baird (FL)
5. Jack Barnhill (MI)
6. John Bell (SC)
7. Katie Bellantone (IL)
8. Vitaliy Benz (AL)
9. Adam Brault (MA)
10. Elizabeth Breen (CA)
11. Phoebe Brosnan (VA)
12. Sarah Brehm (MN)
13. Susan Carr (PA)
14. Sara Dillion (CT)
15. Rachel Douglas (PA)
16. Michelle Elkins (CA)
17. Linwood Fields (TX)
18. Stephanie Fleming (MO)
19. Robert Forsythe (WI)
20. William French, Jr. (VA)
21. Kelly Freund (PA)
22. Richard Frohlichstein (MO)
23. Jeanette Garcia (NY)
24. Elizabeth Gartzke (FL)
25. Chelsea Goldstein (MD)
26. Jorge Granillo (TX)
27. Christopher Guizlo (KS)
28. Travis Hargett (OH)
29. Shataya Hawley (NJ)
30. John Hayes (KY)
31. Steven Henderson (NC)
32. Sieglinde Hindrichs (VA)
33. Nathaniel Hutcheson (FL)
34. Lap Huynh (CA)
35. Eric Imhof (VA)
36. Sergio Jimenez (AZ)
37. Ellen Johnson (WI)
38. Taylor Krebs (OH)
39. Henna Mahmood (NY)
40. Hannah Marrs (CA)
41. Jenna Matecki (IL)
42. Emily Medcalf (CA)
43. Ryan McHenry (WI)
44. Frank Moran (MA)
45. Mary Ellen Nocero (NY)
46. Elliot Osgood (CT)
47. Jody Owens (NC)
48. Liliana Pereira (NJ)
49. Mary Jo Pham (MA)
50. Michelle Ramirez (AZ)
51. Ivvette Rios (AZ)
52. Alixe Ryan (LA)
53. Joseph Schmitz (NE)
54. Matthew Sheppard (FL)
55. Stephanie Shifalo (MS)
56. Saul Spady (WA)
57. Andrea Spencer (AZ)
58. Christopher Stergalas (MI)
59. Travis Trawick (TX)
60. Nancy Waters (WA)
61. John Vance (TX)
62. Michaela Wilkes Klein (MD)

Mr. Speaker, with every farewell there is always the good times of telling stories and remembering friendships.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SHIMKUS. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Let me just add some accolades. But first of all, I want to commend first my friend and colleague from Illinois, Representative SHIMKUS, for the tremendous dedication and service and leadership that he has provided to the page program as its chairman. But let me also commend and congratulate all of you for the tremendous service that you have provided. Many of us make use of your skills, make use of your energy, of your legs, your ability to go from one place to the other and bring things, but I am amazed at the number of people that I have met here who are now Members of this body who at one time served as pages.

So I suspect that in the future we will see some of you here as Members from the community where you live and perhaps we will even see one of you sitting in the big chair up in the White House.

Congratulations to all of you. Thank you so much for your service.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, Mr. DAVIS from Chicago, but I am a legislator and I believe that the big chair is the Speaker's chair. So I am an article I guy, not an article II guy.

But having said that, with living and working and sweating and being together for all these opportunities, there are some very important historical events that have occurred here and I said that when you came in. I am not sure what they will be, but here in Washington there is always something that happens that is unexpected. Like surviving the Page Plague I, where it was hard for us to find a page because you were all sick. And then we had at the second semester, mini-Page Plague which affected a good number of folks. I see my friend JIM KOLBE here, but maybe we can take some lessons here on bird flu and epidemics based upon studying the page class and how they survived the illnesses.

You got to attend a State of the Union address, and probably it is historical in the fact that we had so many, four, joint sessions of Congress with leaders from around the world, just most recently the President of Latvia, but the President of Liberia, the Prime Minister of Italy and the Prime Minister of Israel. All very momentous occasions.

You all really being in tune to the current cultural climate have been able to observe and participate in many of the celebrity sightings that occur here which is always a challenge as we work around here because we really do not want you trying to seek out these celebrities but somehow you know where they are at and where they are going. Like Dave Chappell or Chuck Norris, Queen Latifa, Glenn Close, George Lucas, Bono, I pronounced it right, Jessica Simpson, and of course we cannot forget Brangelina. I read this and I said, Brangelina? And they followed up as they knew I was going to say this. For those of you who do not know, like me, that is Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie.

Some of you had the opportunity to see numerous cities, New York, Baltimore, Philadelphia, to name a few; and then there was the black-out in the Capitol. Always momentous. And then I still cannot get true clarification of what occurred, but there was something about being locked out of the page cage for some reason. But Ms. Ivester and Miss Sampson, they are around here keeping an eye on you, would not elaborate on it any further, protecting you. All I could get from them was some mumbling and shaking their heads and walking away without comment.

I know you all had a great time on your prom. I didn't know I was that powerful, but I was able to make sure that we had no votes that day so all you young ladies could spend all the hours you needed to get prepared for the prom event.

Being a page is a special program. We love having you here. We know you are going to do great things in the future. It is a great investment that we make. But we also understand that you are high school juniors, and that balance between adulthood and adolescence, there are trials and tribulations, but you all have performed well.

One of the worst things that I have to do as the head of the page board is the disciplinary actions, and it is great for me to say that you all have stuck together and I haven't been able to exercise the full force of my authority and that you are to be commended for that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend, the gentleman from Arizona, Mr. JIM KOLBE, who has always had a great relationship with the page program. I appreciate his mentorship and this will be his last farewell also.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois for yielding. And I get the chance tonight at your quasi-graduation, your finishing exercise, tonight to say a few more words to you so I will save most of the thoughts I have, which probably are not terribly profound anyhow, until this evening.

I did want to be here on the floor. I think it is appropriate, as a matter of fact, that this is the last time I will speak to you and the last vote that you got to see was on Congressman KOLBE's appropriations bill for foreign operations. So you can say the last set of votes the last day was spent on the floor with Congressman KOLBE in the

debate on the bill that he was responsible for.

It has been a great pleasure. It gives me an added sentimental value to this occasion.

I think most of you know that I have a special relationship with the page program that stems from the fact that I started as a page. Albeit as some of you know it was over on that other side in that other body over there, but you will forgive me for that. At that time it was really run as one single program.

I have to say that the page experience, as you can probably tell from where I am standing today, is one of those things, those experiences that had a profound change on my life. But having started here as a page, I promised Peggy and Miss Ivester and the others that I would not tell you all the stories about the things that I did, that we did as a page. So I promised not to tell you the story about how we hauled the English teacher's Volkswagon bug up the steps of the Library of Congress and planted it in the middle of the platform up there. And I promised not to tell you about the story of how we faked the suicide of one of the pages jumping from the balcony and there was a page spread out down below.

Mr. SHIMKUS. If the gentleman would yield, you would not have survived my mentorship as the chairman of the page board.

Mr. KOLBE. There was no question that almost all of us in the page program would not have survived the mentorship.

I promised not to tell you those kinds of things. Fortunately, it is on your last day anyhow, so you are probably not going to find time to do too many of those things today.

The gentleman from Illinois was talking about the celebrity sightings. Some people would think there are celebrities enough here in the House of Representatives and in the Senate and with all the joint sessions that we have. But I remember not too long ago when I had that actor. What's his name? Oh, Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie down in my office down below here on the first floor just below the Chamber here.

□ 1500

When I finished the meeting and came out, there were a bunch of secretaries and few pages there with their cameras, and I thought, wonderful, they want pictures of me. But no, none of them were interested at all in having a picture with me. It was this actor and actress that were there.

So I guess we know that really Members of Congress are pretty second-rate when it comes to celebrity sightings, and sometimes maybe we are just a little bit of chopped liver.

But I do want to say to you that this experience obviously is one that you may not realize it now, but you are going to carry away with you some very important things, some things that will change your life in ways that you probably cannot even imagine right now.

It does not mean that all of you are going into politics, because probably only a handful of you might. As a matter of fact, in my graduating class at the page school, we went all the way through high school in those days. In my graduating class, I am the only one that ultimately stayed in elective politics.

But there, it does not matter. This experience will make a difference to you. It will make a difference not only in your school and make a difference not only in the way you look on things and events in the world, but hopefully will make you more of a citizen of the world and a citizen of the United States, and I think this is the important thing.

Many people ask us why do we continue this program. Let us face it. We could do this a lot easier with a lot less expense if we just contracted out and hired some people to serve as messengers, but year after year, the Congress of the United States supports this program for young men and women, and through the course of the more than 150, or really almost 200 years, several thousand young men and women like you have come through this program and had this experience because we think it makes a difference, and we think that your experience becomes the experience of the future leaders of the United States.

So I hope that whatever you do when you go back, you will think about this program, and, of course, you will think about your friends, the friendships you have made here and you will maintain those friendships and you will come back for your reunions. You always come back for the first year reunion, 5-year reunion, 10-year reunion. It is wonderful to have these friendships, but you will also remember what you learned here and you will incorporate into your daily lives and into the thinking of whatever you do, if you are in business, if you become a physician, if you become a lawyer, if you become a teacher. All of these things will be valuable to you.

So you have had a rare, rare experience, and I hope that you can appreciate that. But I want to say now in closing how much we appreciate what you do. You make our lives just a little bit easier every day. You are the grease that makes the wheel go round without squeaking quite so much, and sometimes we take it for granted and we do not realize how much of a difference that you make in our lives and the work of this body.

So it is my great privilege to be here to say thank you to you for the wonderful job that you have done for us, and I hope that I will see many of you in the years ahead, that we will stay in touch and I will follow your career, your successful careers in business, but most important, in your lives with your families and with the people that you interact with. God bless you all and God bless America.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague for his comments, and every time JIM KOLBE speaks, as you have heard in the last comments at the end of the appropriation bill, the Foreign Ops bill in which Members from both sides, especially the Democrats, talked about his integrity, his commitment, his honesty, and those are comments from the heart, and you will get to hear him one more time at the graduation ceremony.

I bring you thanks from all the folks who you have worked with, the dorm staff, the school staff and of course, the floor staff here who are always well represented in keeping track of where you are.

Thank you for keeping track of each other during this time. Thank you for keeping each other safe and being friends to those who needed friends at that time, and thanks for keeping each other out of trouble. Those things that you have learned during this time, let us hope that you carry them on with you, that you will just make this world a better place.

So thank you. God bless you, and God bless the United States of America. We appreciate your service.

SPECIAL ORDERS

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

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

(Mr. MCHENRY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING CONSTABLE DALE GEDDIE

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today with a heavy heart. A constituent of mine, Smith County Constable Dale Geddie, was shot to death in Smith County and Deputy Daniel Leon was injured Wednesday morning as they responded to a domestic disturbance dispute call just outside Tyler, Texas.

Tyler deputies called for backup that morning, and Dale responded the same way he had his whole life, by getting to the scene as quickly as possible, without regard for his personal safety or what might be waiting for him at the scene.

Having known Constable Geddie well and understanding what a crucial role he played in his community, it is understandable, Mr. Speaker, that the

community, the county, the State and so many around the country, including law enforcement, have extended condolences to his family during this tragic time. It is, indeed, a sad day for East Texas and the United States.

Born in 1960, the son of a Smith County sheriff's deputy, Dale Geddie attended Rice Elementary School and Whitehouse Elementary School before his parents bought a ranch in Winona. Constable Geddie graduated from Winona High School in 1979 and began his law enforcement career as a jailer with the Smith County sheriff's office on August 23, 1985.

To further expand his expertise and intellect in the law enforcement arena, our fine constable attended the East Texas Police Academy at Kilgore College in 1986 and graduated at the top of his class.

Following graduation from the academy, Dale transferred to the criminal investigation division as a deputy investigator, and during his time as a detective, Dale also served for a time as an undercover narcotics officer.

Our friend Dale left the sheriff's department in 1996, and he spent some time as a freight driver and even as a farrier before opening Lovelady-Geddie Private Investigators and Polygraph Service.

Dale signed up to be a reserve deputy for the Smith County Sheriff's Department in July of 2004 as he was gearing up for his first political race. Many in the community encouraged Dale to run for constable, which he won, garnering around 58 percent of the vote.

Constable Dale Geddie's personal life, as well as his professional life, was shaped by his integrity. Many friends who knew him best cited his deep faith and his commitment to his family. Whether for family, friends, community or Nation, Dale truly did strive to serve and to protect.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, let me read a short quote that Mr. Geddie's neighbor, Justice Sam Griffith, gave when hearing of the constable's death: ''When I heard he had been killed, I immediately thought of the scripture, 'Well done, good and faithful servant,' '' Justice Griffith said.

Mr. Speaker, God be with the Geddie family, his loved ones, as well as the Daniel Leon family and Daniel Leon as well.

THE DEATH OF AL-ZARQAWI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, Americans woke up yesterday morning to the news that Abu Musab al-Zarqawi was killed in an air raid in Iraq. Even though he was a vicious man, who had contempt for every single thing America represents, I do not believe his death signals a particular turning point in the Iraq War.

There have been other supposed watershed moments that were loudly trumpeted by enthusiasts for this war, but none of those turned out to have long-term significance, and I do not believe this to be any different. It will disrupt the operational capability of al-Zarqawi's organization, but most certainly will not end the civil strife that has engulfed Iraq.

Although Zarqawi was the leader of a group called al Qaeda in Iraq, it is important to note that he was not closely allied to Osama bin Laden. In fact, the two men had something of a long-standing rivalry. Zarqawi's death is not in any way a blow to bin Laden and the al Qaeda that is responsible for 9/11.

Mr. Speaker, the insurgency is a decentralized force that extends well beyond the influence of a single man. As foreign policy scholar Ivo Daalder points out, the anarchy that has taken hold in Iraq cannot be attributed to just one terrorist. Iraq has mushroomed into what Daalder calls a ''large-scale sectarian conflict'' and what I would call a full-blown civil war.

Dueling militias, fueled by ethnic hostilities that are centuries old, are fighting for control of the streets of Iraq and leaving a trail of carnage and bloodshed in their wake. It is difficult to see how the elimination of one man changes that tragic dynamic.

To the extent that Zarqawi's death has any impact, it will probably further animate the insurgency and lead to even more violence.

We can never forget what Lieutenant Colonel Frederick Wellman said last year about the insurgents, and I will quote him. He said, ''We can't kill them all. When I kill one, I create three.'' So if killing one insurgent creates three more, what happens when you kill one of the most visible insurgent leaders?

And here is an interesting twist. If killing Zarqawi was a primary goal of the Bush administration, why did they not act when they had an opportunity 4 years ago? According to NBC News, on three separate occasions in 2002 and early 2004, Zarqawi was within our sights, but all three times, the plan for attack was vetoed at the White House and the National Security Council. Why the hesitation on the part of this famously trigger happy administration? According to NBC sources, it was all about selling the Iraq War.

At the time, the administration was furiously trying to build public support for the preemptive invasion of Iraq, resorting to all kinds of misinformation if necessary. And they did not want to lose the public relations value of keeping Zarqawi alive and dangerous, which just goes to show that this misadventure in Iraq seems to have always been more important to the administration than actually stopping terrorists.

Remember when the President made the reference to: ''Wanted, Dead or Alive''? Maybe the real motto should have been: ''Wanted, Dead or Alive, Unless You Might Be a Useful Propaganda Tool.''

Mr. Speaker, conditions in Iraq are unspeakable. According to the BBC, the morgues in Baghdad alone have reported more than 6,000 violent deaths so far this year, an average of 40 a day in a single city.

The administration lit the match that ignited this inferno. The death of al-Zarqawi will not extinguish it. We must remove the one thing that gave rise to the violence in the first place, the very appearance of American occupation.

For the safety of our Nation and the long-term stability of Iraq, there is only one answer: Bring our troops home.

□ 1515

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

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Colleagues, I have tremendous concern about the lack of preparedness in our Nation for the potential of a flu pandemic. Now, it is not certain that the current H5N1 bird flu is going to become a human-to-human type pandemic, but all the experts say we are overdue for a pandemic in the United States so it is prudent that we look at our preparedness or lack thereof.

Recently, in the Homeland Security Committee on which I serve, as does the gentleman in the chair, we held a hearing called ''Are We Ready: Implementing The National Strategy For Pandemic Influenza.'' There were a number of disturbing things that came out during that hearing, and one in particular has been highlighted a number of times by GAO reports and recently by press reports. I asked some questions regarding that during the hearing, and that is the lack of ventilators in the United States.

Basically, experts say that medical professionals will be triaging ventilators because we have such a severe shortage of ventilators in this country. It is the one way to help take someone through an acute phase of the H5N1 virus. The very few survivors that are known have been on ventilators and received intensive antiviral drugs and others. So were this to be a pandemic, as opposed to a few isolated cases, we are woefully short.

In fact, the estimates are that we would be 637,500 ventilators short. That is, people would be dying unnecessarily because they wouldn't be able to get near a ventilator, and that number assumes that none of the existing ventilators are being used for any other purpose in the United States.

Now, when I raised this issue with Dr. John Agwunobi, who is the Assistant Secretary For Health, he is a recent Bush appointee, his expertise was being Health and Human Services Director for President Bush's brother in Florida, so he brings tremendous expertise to this job and great professionalism, as do many of the political appointees we have seen with this administration, but when I asked Dr. Agwunobi about the ventilator shortage, he said, well, that is not our job.

I said, well, what about the national stockpile? He said, oh, yeah, we'll get some for the national stockpile. How many? Oh, well, 4,000 or 5,000 ventilators. Remember, we need another 640,000 or so in the case of a pandemic.

So I said, well, whose duty do you think it is to enhance the stockpile? How are we going to enhance the stockpile? He says, oh, no, that is the job of the States and the hospitals. He said, in fact, you know, hospitals or some county somewhere might not build a swimming pool; instead, they should be investigating in preparedness for pandemics.

Well, he doesn't live in the world that most of us live in. My counties are pretty short of money for essentials. They are not out building swimming pools. We don't have public hospitals in my State. The other hospitals that are there can't get reimbursed. You can't work it into a Medicare reimbursement schedule to buy a bunch of ventilators to stockpile for a pandemic. They have to justify the current clientele needing the ventilators, otherwise they are not allowed to put that into their rate base.

So I raised these issues with Dr. Agwunobi, and he just basically blew it off. He is really not too concerned. Now, this is the Assistant Secretary For Health, political appointee of George Bush. He started to kind of remind me of another famous appointee, Michael Brown. But this time it is before the fact. We need action to prepare for a pandemic.

I am writing to the Appropriations Committee recommending that they deal with this in the Labor-HHS-Education appropriation bill; that we mandate some purchases for the national stockpile, minimally of ventilators. We should also be doing a much better job of stockpiling the antivirals; and we should also be, with more urgency, instead of waiting for the private sector or the pharmaceutical companies, who aren't much interested in vaccines or other things they can't make a bunch of money on, to give us some new installed capacity in this country, modern capacity, to develop vaccines. I mean, this pandemic will come in waves. And between the waves, if it goes on for 6 months or a year, you could develop and deploy vaccines once the specifics are known. Unfortunately, there are no modern facilities in the United States of America capable of manufacturing vaccines.

But, again, Dr. Agwunobi and the Bush appointees don't look at this as a particular problem. We need to better prepare to protect the American people for the possibility of a flu pandemic.

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

(Mr. PAUL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SALUTE TO THE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL FOR METROPOLITAN OPEN HOUSING

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 40th anniversary of Reverend Martin Luther King's northern campaign. In January of 1966, Dr. King and his family moved to Chicago's west side, not far from where I was living and working at the time. Chicago was one of the most segregated cities in the Nation, and real estate agents were deeply engaged in racial steering and block busting. Beginning in July of 1966, Dr. King organized a series of marches demanding open housing. To the shame of Chicago and the Nation, marches were met by shouts of ''White Power,'' bricks, and even bombs.

Mr. Speaker, those who have been reading the Taylor Branch three-volume biography of Dr. King will be reminded of one of the great ironies of our time. We know less about Dr. King's stay in Chicago than almost any other period of his life because, for some reason, the FBI was relatively unsuccessful in bugging Dr. King's communications in Chicago. One of the things we do know for certain was that although the northern campaign was deemed a failure by many, it gave birth to one of America's great fair housing organizations, the Leadership Council for Metropolitan Open Communities.

For 40 years, the Leadership Council has fought the good fight, seeking equality and justice for families who just wanted equal access to the housing market, just wanted a fair shot at finding a decent, affordable place to stay of their own choosing. The Leadership Council made it possible for more than 10,000 public housing families to improve their housing situation as a result of a Federal court settlement with the Chicago Housing Authority.

They relentlessly pursued housing discrimination in the courts through a program of testing. They trained tens of thousands of real estate agents in fair housing law. And though much remains to be done in the arena of fair housing, the Leadership Council is now preparing to close its doors due to lack of funding. These are indeed hard times for nonprofits in general, but fair housing advocates tell us that they have been hit particularly hard.

Mr. Speaker, the Leadership Council left a little of their vision wherever they ventured, even here in the people's House, where they helped to lead the grass-roots movement which led to passage of the Federal Fair Housing Act.

Mr. Speaker, the Leadership Council will be missed but not forgotten. They leave a proud legacy and can retire with their heads held high. Their resolve and their work will live on as other organizations and individuals pick up where they left off. And although they are closing their doors and going out of business, I say to them and all of those who were associated, A job well done.

CIVIL RIGHTS AND IRAQ

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

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, as always, I appreciate the honor and the privilege of addressing the Speaker and, in doing so, addressing this Chamber as well. I know that the voices that come to this floor to make these addresses echo across America, as our Founding Fathers envisioned.

Before I pick up the issue I came to this floor to speak about, I would say a few words in support of the remarks made by my colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), with regard to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sometimes we lose perspective of that time in America, back in the 1960s, when there was the institutionalization of segregation, particularly in the South.

Those were glorious days when there were civil rights marches for civil rights reasons and the rights that everyone has in this country that are guaranteed by our Constitution. These are individual rights. They are rights without regard to what group you might think you are aligned with. They belong to men and they belong to women, and they are rights that preclude group rights. They are individual rights, the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, but more specifically freedom of speech, freedom of press, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly, freedom to keep and bear arms, and the right to property ownership, which has been eroded by the Kelo decision here in these last few months, I might add for your benefit particularly, Mr. Speaker, and for mine.

In those days, when there was a peaceful civil rights movement in this country that stood on solid philosophical ground that all people that are citizens of this country, that live here, have equal rights. That is a different kind of a civil rights call than we have heard sometimes across this country today.

There is the argument that there is a civil right to marry anyone that you choose, say, for example, a same-sex marriage civil right they claim. Or a civil right that people claim because

they are illegally in this country and they say I have a global civil right to come to the United States of America and the Americans do not have a civil right to set immigration policies. Those are not civil rights, Mr. Speaker. There is not any civil right to come to America and demand the rights of citizenship; and there is no civil right to marriage, even for opposite sex couples that are madly in love, that traditionally have and will hopefully continue to be joined together in holy matrimony. That is not a civil right.

In fact, we give a license for marriage. And a license is, by definition, a permit to do that which is otherwise illegal. So the State, meaning the government, the Federal Government, there are State governments and some of our local governments, take an interest in that sacred institution of marriage when a man and a woman are joined together in holy matrimony. Because we know that the value of this entire society and civilization is poured through into the next generation of our children through that relationship of holy matrimony between a man and a woman.

We teach our children in that relationship everything that we know and everything that we believe about our values. We pass our religious values along through that marriage relationship. Children are our projects for our life. There is nothing more important that we can do in our lifetime than raise children. So we make them projects. And our first and most important thing is to be able to teach them our religious values and our moral values and our work ethic. And all the things that flow from our culture flow from a father and a mother and a family.

Now, that is the ideal circumstance. And it doesn't mean that there aren't millions of children in America that aren't raised in that kind of an environment. It doesn't mean that they will not have opportunities. They will. And they will pick up their values sometimes from a single mother or a single father. But they need extra nurturing from their pastors and teachers in the neighborhood. We know that statistically most of society's pathologies can be solved by two people joined together in marriage raising children in that marriage and having them also keep a job.

But the fact that there is a marriage license that is granted precludes the idea that there is a civil right to marriage, just like there is not a civil right to someone who lives in another country to come into the United States. Those are not civil rights. Civil rights are specified in title VII of the Civil Rights Act, and those are defined characteristics. There will be no discrimination against people based upon race, creed, religion, ethnicity, skin color, or national origin. And I am not sure that is exactly the quote, but it is exactly the theme, Mr. Speaker.

I know that behind that some of the States have added also age or marital status. But those are all immutable rights or immutable characteristics, characteristics that can be independently identified and can't be willfully changed. Those are the reality. It is not something that I decide I am going to be a man or a woman or a person of a certain other country or color. You can't change that, Mr. Speaker.

The immutable characteristics are those that are real, they are distinct, they can't be changed, and they can be independently identified. And what we say in title VII of the Civil Rights Act is it shall be unlawful to discriminate against people for that list of immutable characteristics that I have given.

□ 1530

That is what gives the Civil Rights Act the dignity and respect and sets it apart for many of the claims for civil rights that come out today. There is always looking to be another successor to the civil rights movement, and there will never be another need for the civil rights that were demanded in the 1960s, and provided by peaceful demonstrations done in the right way for the right reasons with the right ideals, and those were glorious days for America to go through that change and emerge. I will say we are very sensitive to these issues of race and ethnicity, and we are very respectful of the issues of race and ethnicity, and the work that was done in the 1960s, the benefits flow to us today.

The legacy is with us today. We look across our public life and see successes in people from all avenues, from people that have come from any origin. They have overcome many obstacles, and we applaud that as Americans. As Americans, we are for the underdog. We are for the one who pull themselves up by their bootstraps. We are for the ones who had the least opportunity and made the most from the least opportunity.

The reason that we are is because that embodies the American spirit, the American spirit which is embodied by the massive number of immigrants that have come to this country legally.

Mr. Speaker, 66.1 million Americans have come to the United States legally, many of them through Ellis Island starting when we first began keeping records in 1820 until the year 2000 is the last time I can get the numbers added up and be firm on them. So 66.1 million self-selected individuals that brought their vitality to the United States because of the clarion call of freedom and liberty, and that liberty that was ensured and enhanced during the civil rights era.

I applaud Mr. DAVIS for his remarks, and I am a great fan of the contribution of Martin Luther King, Jr.

But, Mr. Speaker, I came to speak on an issue which has significant impact on the destiny of the United States of America. That is some of us found out very early yesterday morning, it came to my information about 3:30 yesterday morning here, that perhaps the worst, most horrible murderer on the face of the earth had been brought to justice by Coalition Forces and Iraqi intelligence as well as Task Force 145 of the United States military, and I will say, all of the Coalition Forces together, and that would be the end of the very tyrannical career of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

We know they had followed him to a safe house where he was having a meeting with six of his other colleagues, some of them high level. Our surveillance had tracked him there. As they watched that safe house, they thought about different ways that they might be able to take action against Zarqawi, the person who was responsible for thousands of murders in Iraq.

Zarqawi was the inspiration, was the person that led the recruitment of al Qaeda fighters to come into Iraq and take on Coalition Forces and try to foment an insurrection, tried to foment a civil war. One who argued and promoted and schemed and planned and strategized to attack Shiites within Iraq for the specific and stated purpose of fomenting civil war in Iraq.

It was not just to fight Americans, which was bad enough, but it was to get Iraqis to fight Iraqis. And al Qaeda knew that if they lost a base of operations in Iraq, they didn't have another place to go to.

When our military went into Afghanistan in the fall of 2001 and won the significant victories there, that took out a base of operations for al Qaeda. They had operations that were beginning to take place down to Mogadishu, and when they moved some of those operations up to Afghanistan, they had a base of operations that would allow them to penetrate anywhere in the world and mount their terrorist operations against the United States embassies in Africa, the USS Cole, and bombings across the globe against other countries as well as the United States.

But when they had a base of operations, then they could raise funds, control those funds, bring in military supplies and munitions. They could train and recruit and send people out around the world. We picked out a lot of Taliban fighters during the Afghan operation, and many of them were brought to Guantanamo Bay. As we began to interrogate them, we found out that they had been going into Afghanistan to train. They came from different places in the world. And there was a handful of Americans that went to Afghanistan to train with al Qaeda to come back and fight somewhere in the world against the United States of America. Certainly we know that is the case for other countries as well.

Well, that base of operations in Afghanistan was wiped out in the fall of 2001. Justifiably so. And then the base of operations shifted over to Iraq. Now we know that there was an al Qaeda training camp in northern Iraq up in the Kurdistan region. We know that Saddam was working and strategizing

with al Qaeda. Some would say Saddam was secular; and, therefore, he would not have collaborated with Osama bin Laden. We know better than that.

The thing that is in history that we know the enemy of one's enemy is their friend. But Stalin and Hitler teamed together in World War II and converged in their battles over on Germany's eastern front until such time they met and clashed, and then Hitler turned around and attacked Stalin. The enemy of my enemy is my friend.

So we joined up with Stalin at that point and began to engage in that war that turned it into a two-front war for Germany. The idea that someone like Hitler could not have collaborated with Emperor Hirohito in Japan because they didn't match the same ideology doesn't matter throughout history. That is an erroneous assumption. That does not matter. It is an erroneous assumption throughout history that people will not cooperate and collaboration because they do not match the same goals or ideology. It is the enemy of my enemy is my friend. That is what was going on over between bin Laden and Saddam.

We know that Zarqawi went to Iraq and established himself as the leader of al Qaeda in Iraq. He said that he pledged his allegiance to Osama bin Laden. We have watched on television the horrible beheading of at least one American at the hand of al-Zarqawi. We know how bad this evil individual was.

I believe it was a year ago last April that he produced a letter. And the letter stated what the circumstances were like in Iraq. It should have been given us great heart. All Members in this Chamber should have read the letter and understood what it was Zarqawi was writing about.

Many people on the other side of the aisle denied the reality of what Zarqawi knew last April when he wrote this letter. If I remember right, it was about a 17-page letter. I remember some of the things that were in the letter, and it followed along these lines of now we are here in Iraq and we have to find a place where we can hide because if we are going to operate out of this country, it is a very dangerous place to do it because we have coalition forces and U.S. military that are breathing down our neck at every turn.

He said there is a difference between some countries where they have been successful in their guerrilla warfare and Iraq. And these are the reasons why Iraq will never be a Vietnam. He said there are no mountains or forests to hide in, we must hide in the homes of the Iraqi people who are willing to take us into their homes, and Iraqis willing to do so are as rare as red sulfur. That was a quote from the letter. Iraqis who are willing to receive al Qaeda and harbor and protect them are as rare as red sulfur.

Now I don't know how rare red sulfur is. I don't know if I have ever actually seen red sulfur. I have seen quite a lot of yellow sulfur. I am going to assume it might be an expression like as rare as frog's hair or as rare as hen's teeth. But as rare as red sulfur.

So there weren't many places for al Qaeda to hide in Iraq even last April. They had to take over communities, and then we would go in and break up those cells. So they kept reforming again, kind of like flies do. We would scatter them and swat some and arrest some and kill some, and it was going along at a very brisk pace.

In fact, as recently ago as last summer the Coalition Forces, and this includes the Iraqi military of which there are at least 245,000 that are in uniform defending Iraqis today with those numbers going up 70,000 to 90,000 within a year, but these Coalition Forces were taking out between killed and captured 3,000 a month.

So as those numbers diminished within Iraq, so did Zarqawi's supporters. And the stronger the opposition to Zarqawi and the terrorist was, and the more confidence the Iraqi people got, the more tips that they handed over then to the Coalition Forces that we could act on.

We know that Uday and Qusay, Saddam Hussein's two sons, and actually one of his grandsons that were taken out in Mosul a couple of years ago, that was as a result of a tip.

Our 101st Airborne reacted and took them out. In the end the house that they were in, they demolished the house and hauled the rubble away and graded the lot empty. There will not be a martyr's shrine on that location, Mr. Speaker.

It was intelligence that did that, and it was intelligence that took out Saddam Hussein some months later, to find him and track him and find him in his spider hole. This is another high level of intelligence to be able to close in on Zarqawi.

We know they were close to him a number of times in the last few months. We have heard different people in the news state that eventually they would get Zarqawi. This should not be a surprise to us. Sometimes it is a surprise that a person can stay on the run and last as long as they did, but he stayed on the run until a little more than a day ago when our task force people put the laser on the safe house that he was in and then directed two 500-pound bombs into that house. We have seen the pictures of it. The house, made of cement blocks, is just a jumbled pile of broken up cement blocks.

Of the people who were in there, Zarqawi was the only one that was alive by the time our forces arrived there. I understand he expired not too long after they closed in, but he had at least enough left to recognize that it was Americans that had closed in and put an end to his terrible reign as the leader of al Qaeda in Iraq.

Now, I believe that Zarqawi got his just desserts. I believe he has been sent to his eternal reward, or his eternal punishment is a more precise way to speak of that. I am grateful to the Coalition Forces, to the Iraqis, and especially to the United States military for the job they are doing over there in that country and in all of the theaters that we have in operations now in this global war on terror.

We know that things have heated up some in Afghanistan and the intensity that is there in Iraq, and the futility of the people on the other side who believe they can keep blowing up women and children and noncombatants.

The other day they pulled a bus over and sorted out the Sunnis and gave them a pass and executed the Shiias and the Kurds on the bus. It is a horrible thing to create that kind of violence.

This man, Zarqawi, there was no level, no depth he would not stoop to. We know he has done the beheadings. He initiated the beheadings. Even today there were heads that were found in banana boxes in Iraq. They were put there to drive fear into the hearts of the people who would oppose al Qaeda.

We know also there are retribution killings, revenge killings on the other side. But the truth of it is there is progress being made in Iraq, and the progress that has been made in the last 3½ years while we have been in those operations has been slower than many of us would have liked. But compared to any other similar operation in history, it is going along pretty good.

Mr. Speaker, we need to keep in mind that the Iraqis have established themselves as a sovereign nation. That is no small task in a nation of 25 million people torn by violence and strife and torn by an al Qaeda parasite that came into that society that was determined to tear them apart, that was attacking and fomenting the kind of violence that was designed to produce a civil war.

With all of those forces inside, with Iran providing resources to try to incent a civil war within Iraq, Iran not wanting to see free people in Iraq, for obvious reasons, the clerics, the mullahs that run the country of Iran, they want to stay in power.

□ 1545

And we know that there is a significant amount of unrest within Iran. The people in Iran have memories of a more modern, open society under the Shah, and they want to join the world community of nations and they want to move into the future. And they understand that if they are held back into the Dark Ages by a clerical group of leaders who are determined to hold them there and tell them what they can wear and what they can say and how they are going to live, to hold women back, to not allow elections, at least legitimate elections, that they will not be able to move Iran into the 21st century. And they want their opportunity. But the leaders in Iran want to hang on to the power.

That is all the way it is, Mr. Speaker. The leaders want to hang onto the

power, and so they are promoting the violence also in Iraq. Some of that violence has been supported out of Syria the same way and the infiltrators that come in that are the fighters for the insurgents come across the border from Iran into Iraq and from Syria into Iraq in the greatest numbers from those two countries. There is support in both of those countries for an insurgency that had we had the cooperation of Iran, had we had the cooperation of Syria, this operation in Iraq would have been over a long time ago.

And, Mr. Speaker, I would point out for the edification of the folks that don't think about this very much that a war is never over until the losing side realizes that they have lost. It isn't a function of how many people are killed, or a function of how much land is occupied, or a function of how many battles are fought and won. They are all factors. But those are all factors that are designed to influence and convince the other side that they will eventually lose, in fact, may have lost the war. And so every operation that we have, military operation, any kind of a sanction that is there, any kind of a blockade, any kind of psyops, any psychological operations that are going on, media message that is going out there, the voice of the President, the Secretary of Defense, the voices on this floor of Congress, Mr. Speaker, should all be designed to promote the idea that America will not blink, that we will not back out, that we will stand up for freedom and stand up for liberty. And if that consistent message goes across the ocean into the Middle East, those people that are sitting in those huts making bombs and deciding that they are going to plant them and detonate them on American troops or coalition troops or Iraqi troops, or Iraqi women and children, at some point they will understand, we will not blink. We will not flag. We will not fail. We will carry out our efforts on this war on terror globally, and Iraq is a battle field in the global war on terror.

This country cannot fail in our resolve. We will be resolved and we will finish this task. And the task will be over when the enemy realizes that they have lost. That is the very definition of winning a war, Mr. Speaker. In fact, Von Clausewitz wrote in his book on war that the object of war is to destroy the enemy's will and ability to conduct war. Destroy the enemy's will and ability. And Von Clausewitz understood that if you could destroy the enemy's will, they would not have the ability to conduct war. And if you take away the enemy's ability to conduct war, part of that ability is having the will. Without the will, no amount of weapons, no amount of resources would even be used at all because there would be a lack of will to ever use them.

So to destroy the enemy's will and ability to conduct war boils down in the Steve King version to make the enemy realize that they have lost. Once they reach that realization, then they will give up their arms, they will give up their efforts and there will be peace and there be a peaceful reconciliation that resolves things hopefully for the better so that people can live free. That is the effort that is going on in Iraq. And we lose sight of the reason that we want to see the Iraqi people with peace and freedom and, in fact, I would say freedom first and peace second. And the reason for that is because, after all, we have an obligation to promote freedom throughout the world, but we also can't be denying this freedom to anyone.

And we need peace in the Middle East. It is a critical part of the world. It puts a threat on everyone in the world when we don't have peace in the Middle East. One of those things would be to look to the freest people that are in the Middle East today, and that would be the citizens of Israel. And where they sit with enemies surrounding them all around, the threat to them, the pressure on them is a threat and the pressure that threatens to annihilate an entire people. They have a right to be there. That is their sovereign nation. And they are a lamp of liberty in the Middle East. The people that live around them don't have the freedom that Israel has.

But soon, I believe they will. I believe they will because Iraq is emerging as a free Arab nation. And Afghanistan has emerged as a free Arab nation. Not without trouble, not without strife, not without violence, not without some more outbreaks of Taliban violence, not without some more battles with al Qaeda over in Afghanistan, certainly not without more battles with al Qaeda within Iraq. But if Afghanistan, a nation of 25 million people, and Iraq, a nation of 25 million people, can emerge a free people, Afghanistan has, Iraq is poised to do so. They become the lode star for all the Arab people in the world. And the people that have lived the least under freedom now have an opportunity to live under freedom.

And I don't believe that the force of freedom can be held back, because the march of history is always, Mr. Speaker, a march towards freedom. And it has been a gradual progression throughout the ages, but in our age, in our lifetime, and this past half a century and peripherally in this next half a century, we will see more progress towards freedom than ever in the history of the world and, in fact, in all the rest of the history of the world put together, I believe we will look back on this time and say this was the time that freedom emerged on the globe. And it emerged in the aftermath of World War II and it burst out when the Berlin Wall came down, November 9, 1989, and we saw freedom echo across Eastern Europe, almost bloodlessly, in a historical miracle of people that now live and breathe free. Five hundred million people at least freed in that echo of freedom when the Berlin Wall went tumbling down and families were reunited.

And as I watched that on the news, I noticed that the national news media missed it. They thought it was about reuniting families and breaking champagne bottles on the Berlin Wall. They didn't realize it was the crashing down of the Iron Curtain. They didn't realize that that era was over. And even for 2½ years after that, as nation after nation emerged free, as they stood in the square in Prague and people stood there and shook their keys by the tens of thousands and just rattled their keys, Mr. Speaker, in a chorus, in a din that said we will be free, and that country is free today. They had their Velvet Revolution and separated again and they seem to be happy between the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic and their neighbors are free.

And as I look at the coalition troops that are there in Iraq today, the ones that I have met as I have been over there in my several trips over to the Iraq region and into Iraq, I recognize that the participation in this effort is greater within the countries that lived under tyranny up until the fall of the Wall and the end of the Cold War on November 9, 1989. That participation of those countries is greater in percentage than the countries that have lived under freedom longer. Those that got their freedom back from the Third Reich at the end of World War II, some of those countries forgot what it was that they achieved 60 years ago. But those countries that just achieved their freedom less than 15 years before sent their troops to fight for freedom in Afghanistan and in Iraq because they have an institutional memory within the people in the government and within their leaders on what it is like to live under tyranny.

But here in this country, we have a better memory than that. We have not ever lived under tyranny here in the United States of America. We have lived free from July 4, 1776, even though we had to fight a few wars to keep it, all the way up until today. Some of us would argue that our freedom gets diminished and we argue, here, Mr. Speaker, rather than going to the streets to clash in the streets, we have our debates here. We have an outlet for our desire to make change. And this is that outlet. And there are outlets in the State legislatures all across this land and in the county supervisors and the city halls. We take our disagreements to the public forum, and we have a civilized debate. And as the former majority leader and my friend and colleague, TOM DELAY, said on this floor, this very podium about this same time yesterday, you show me a nation that doesn't have partisanship and I will show you a tyranny.

If there is not a forum for debate and for disagreement and dialogue, then that means a tyrant will be in control and be denying that forum. Well, a tyrant was in control in Iraq and he is now under trial, Saddam Hussein. And there were tyrants in control of the lawless regions in Afghanistan. And

now they are free and there are people who have a future. And now, Iraq has a brighter future because the tyrant, the murderer, the baby slaughterer, the person who beheaded people on television has gone to meet his eternal justice. And I think I know where he will spend eternity, Mr. Speaker, and I can think of no better justice for someone like Zarqawi than that.

Some of the things that he did would be to go take someone off the street and kill them because maybe they had a different viewpoint about what the future of Iraq should be. Kill them, disembowel them, fill their body up with explosives and projectiles such as screws and bolts and ball bearings and then put their body alongside the road and sit back and wait for the family to come and recover the body and then detonate the body and blow it up and kill the rest of the family. I cannot think of anything more horrible than an act like that.

But I can tell you that Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, Mr. Speaker, spent a great deal of his time trying to think of more brutal things that he could do, more shocking things that he could do, more ways that he could try to crack the nerve of the Iraqi people so that somehow, in that conflict, in the confusion into a civil war that he would have like to have created, he could have found a way to take power and turn Iraq not into a sovereign nation, not even into a real tyranny, but to turn it into a terrorist camp so that he could bring funds in, train people and dispatch people around the world to attack civilizations unlike him.

And that is what the hatred is of al Qaeda. That is the kind of enemy that we are up against, Mr. Speaker, and that is that this is a battle and Western Civilization is an element in this battle. And I will submit that al Qaeda, radical Islam is a parasite on the religion of Islam. And this parasite has attached themselves to Islam. And a parasite will attach themselves to the host; Islam is the host. And they will travel on the host. They will feed off the host; they will reproduce on and within the host. And they will attack the host and they will drop off the host and attack other species. That is what a parasite is.

And I will submit that al Qaeda and radical Islam is that parasite that is now riding on the host of Islam. And we need to be asking Islam to rid themselves of this host, with our help, help guide us, but purge yourselves, rid themselves of this parasite. Purge themselves of the parasite radical Islam, al Qaeda, because sometimes parasites are fatal, and they will consume their host and the host will perish. Well, this parasite has caused numerous Muslims to perish because they have turned and attacked the host and, in fact, I believe that there is not really any question about it. When we look across the world and we count the bodies, the bodies of Muslims lie in significantly greater numbers than the bodies of Jews or Christians that are victims of al Qaeda, victims of radical Islam. They turn on their own. Zarqawi was one of those people. He drew a distinction between Shiias and Sunnis. And when he did that, he began attacking Shiias to try to get them infuriated. He blew up their mosque to try to get them to turn around and attack the Sunnis so that they could have a civil war.

□ 1600

And we had leaders within this country and this Congress, Mr. Speaker, that would join together and declare that there was a civil war in Iraq, and their definition of a civil war would be when the unrest in Iraq got to the point where they had lost their level of tolerance to watch it on the news, I guess. And so some came to the floor and said that there was a civil war. Many said so in the news. There was a group of Senators from the other body that did so. A junior Senator from Iowa declared a civil war to be taking place in Iraq. And I contend that you need to define a civil war before you declare there is one, and I will define it this way:

We will know when there is a civil war in Iraq, and I do not believe for a moment there will be one. I think the steps that were taken yesterday and the death of Zarqawi move things closer towards peace and freedom and further away from the threat of a civil war. But a civil war in Iraq will be defined when the Iraqi military that are in uniform protecting Iraqis, and remember we have Kurds and Shiias and Sunnis all wearing the same uniforms, Mr. Speaker, and they all take the same training and they all carry the same weapons, and they answer to officers that are officers, without regard to whether they are Shiias, Kurds, or Sunnis. But if that ecumenical military, if I can use a little license to describe them that way, chooses up sides and starts to shoot at each other, that is how we will know there is a civil war.

But what we have are at least 250,000 Iraqis in uniform protecting Iraqis without regard to whether they are Shiias, Sunnis, or Kurds, wearing the same uniforms, mixed up in roughly proportionate numbers and defending Iraqis against al Qaeda, defending Iraqis against terrorists, defending Iraqis against criminals, and defending Iraqis against former Baathists that are in their last gasps.

Now, there are also some that believe that somehow Saddam Hussein will come back to power. And because he is alive, because he is able to put up a fight in the courtroom, it gives inspiration to those people that have always been intimidated by Saddam and believe that somehow he has, I don't want to call it a supernatural power, but a power that transcends the limits of a mortal human being in a way that they can't be confident that he is out of power forever until he checks into the next life and joins Zarqawi.

For that reason, I am hopeful that we can get the trials over in Iraq. I am hopeful that we can move forward and if Saddam is found guilty, and so in this country we say innocent until proven guilty and I will afford him on this floor, Mr. Speaker, at least that much latitude, he is innocent until proven guilty. But I have seen and the world has seen plenty of evidence to the contrary.

Now, if that evidence is continually presented in court and the Iraqi court finds him guilty, I did meet with the judges over there last August and sat down with the panel of the judges and one of the questions that I asked the judge was, what is the penalty for Saddam? And he said, Well, first I cannot speak about a case that is before the court. That is appropriate. That is the rules we have in this country. And I should probably not have asked him such a direct question, but I did test out apparently his good judgment to not speak about a case that was before the court.

So I asked him the longest convoluted question one could imagine, at least that I could imagine at the time, which is: If there were crimes that were committed or alleged to have been committed which would be of a similar vein, of the murders up in the region in Kurdistan and the killing of the swamp Arabs in the south, I went through the whole list of hundreds of thousands of Iraqis that had died, if that had happened and if hypothetically we had someone who was found responsible for committing those kind of atrocities, if that person were brought before this court and they were faced with a penalty that would be similar to or charges that were similar to a charge that was being faced by Saddam Hussein then, what would the penalty be?

That is how you have to ask the question without him addressing the case. And he said if someone is charged under Iraqi law the charge of crimes against humanity, then there is only one penalty available and it all is in one paragraph in Iraqi law and I have read it, and that one penalty is death. And so that would be I think a suitable punishment for someone who may well be responsible for the deaths of half a million Iraqis.

I have looked at some of the statistics, and under Saddam's reign there are varying numbers, but I am always asking these questions trying to quantify how bad was the violence under Saddam Hussein, and I can come up with some conclusions. The number that I see come up the most often, the annual deaths in Iraq or the total deaths during Saddam's regime, and then divide it by the year and by the day. And, Mr. Speaker, the most common number that came up was that Saddam was killing his own people at the rate of 182 per day; 182 of his own people per day murdered, many of them tortured, many of them raped in rape rooms. Can you imagine an administration that had professional rapists that

are on salary to torture and terrorize and rape family members within the presence of other family members in order to extract certain confessions out of them or just simply punish them to watch their loved ones treated in that fashion? Put through shredders, plastic shredders and ground into little pieces, fed to lions. Those are the kinds of things that Saddam Hussein was doing as well as unleashing gas on the Kurds, for example.

This was going on in that country for years and years. And maybe that number is not 182 a day. The lowest number I can find is about 135 a day. But if you add these numbers up and you subtract from it the numbers of Iraqi civilians that have lost their lives in this conflict since the aberrations began in March of 2003, if you add that up, there are at least 100,000 Iraqis alive today in Iraq that would not be if we had not intervened and pulled Saddam Hussein from power and given the Iraqi people their opportunity at freedom. 100,000 lives at least statistically have been saved in this operation that the news media characterizes as so utterly violent that we should sack up our bats and hit the road no matter what the consequences.

I have heard that statement made even in the aftermath of Zarqawi. The gentleman from California (Mr. STARK) made the statement, or at least the news reported that, this is, that we should get out of Iraq. This is a sign that tells us to get out of Iraq.

Well, those that want to get out of Iraq will use any excuse to try to make the argument. But I asked the question sometime back and I have made the statement on this floor, Mr. Speaker, and I will go down this path of making it again. And it is from memory and not some notes, so there could be a decimal point or two that I could be off, but I will be exactly right on the substance and on the theme.

I asked the question, myself: How can the regular Iraqi civilian, people that are living there scattered all over Iraq in random places, some in Baghdad, some in Kirkuk, some in Mosul, some down in Basra, some in smaller towns, Tikrit and wherever, how can those people, those citizens that want to live a peaceful life and raise their families and have a future, how can they tolerate living in a country that has the level of violence that every day shows these bombings on television to the point where we are jaded here in America and hardly look at them anymore. We kind of do a little mental calculation of what kind of casualties there are over there in civilians. Here was a bombing with 10, here is a bomb that killed 20, here is the bus they pulled aside and, by Zarqawi's orders everyone has to assume, when they sorted out the Sunnis and let them go and killed the Kurds and the Shiias, how can one live in a country that has that level of violence? How violent is Iraq?

And I will have to admit that some of the places that I have been in this country and the statistics that I see caused me to pay attention. And not too long ago, Mr. Speaker, I was down in Brazil in Sao Paulo, and some of the briefings as I came into that city from the airport and it is a large city in southern Brazil that they have 10,000 homicides in that city every year. 10,000. A division, a number greater than a division are annihilated in that one city in Brazil by murder.

So I began to simply calculate, statistically what does that mean. And I didn't get good statistics on how large an area that was, so I didn't commit those numbers to where I could repeat them here, Mr. Speaker. But you divide the 10,000 into the population of Sao Paulo to find out how many homicides per 100,000. And internationally that is the way we measure the risk of violence and homicide.

And so I don't have that number, but that is the one that inspired me to look. So we went back and we added up all the deaths, all the deaths that are in Iraq, all the deaths that we can calculate and tabulate. And there are a couple of Web sites that do that, and at least one of those Web sites is designed to be able to add as many numbers as possible to this.

Now, here are the statistics then, Mr. Speaker, on how dangerous it is to be a regular civilian living in an average place in any of these countries that I have laid out here on this graph, and you can see by the chart.

Here is the United States. Out of every 100,000 people, every year annually there are 4.28 Americans that are murdered, that die violently at the hands of someone who willfully wished them harm and acted upon it: 4.28 per 100,000. Mexico's rate is three times greater than ours, a little more than three times greater. Theirs is 13.02 per 100,000.

We move up the line. Here is Iraq down here pretty low in this graph scale, 27.51 per 100,000 people. That is their level of violence. Now, it is possible that the tabulation has missed some murder in Iraq that maybe didn't get reported perhaps out in some of the obscure towns and cities because their bureaucracy is not very efficient at this point. But it is also likely and in fact very probable that they double-counted some of the other homicides; so I can't tell you if this number is maybe a little bit lower than it is in reality or it is a little higher than it is in reality, but I can tell you this, we don't expect this number to be down here. And if we would double this number, we would still not anticipate that is the case, and the reason is because of the United States news media, Mr. Speaker. And I so will take you up the line.

Venezuela, 31.61 violent deaths per 100,000; Jamaica, 32.42 violent deaths per 100,000. I can remember these. Venezuela and Jamaica, I teamed those together. They both average out at 32 deaths per 100,000. That happened to be OJ Simpson's jersey number, so I will never forget that number. You can ask me in 20 years. Thirty-two violent deaths per 100,000 for Venezuela and Jamaica.

And then you go to South Africa, and down in that country, a great welcome when I visited and met good people and they are struggling to move themselves into the 21st century as well, Mr. Speaker, but in reality you look around and you will see that there are fences built around the homes and walls built around the homes. And they will take glass, and when they finish their wall on top of their wall put mortar on top and set broken glass in the top of that mortar, so those people that want to climb across the wall have to get cut up on that glass.

And then I talked to one of our U.S. council employees and asked him what it was like to live in a country that was walled in, that you were shut in in your own little fortress of your home. And he said, Well, it is not so bad for me because we have a good wall around our house and it has got good security on top of it, and we have got cameras and we have got warning devices, and we have got good solid doors and bars across the windows. And, if they get through those doors or through those bars and get into the interior of the house, we have good solid doors there, too, but we have a chamber that we can go into to protect ourselves that is almost impregnable. So we can always retreat into that if someone invades our home.

It kind of sounds like a war. It sounds like an invading army coming into a country the same way one might consider to be an invading terrorist, criminal coming into a home. It is not a lot different when someone comes across our border, especially when they are armed.

South Africa, 49.60 violent deaths per 100,000. Colombia, one of the highest murder rates in the world and it ranks significantly higher than the United States. So of 61.78 violent deaths per 100,000 in Colombia, well over twice as high as the violent deaths in Iraq.

Now I start to ask the question: How can an individual, an average citizen in Colombia, tolerate the level of violence in Colombia? How long has it been since you have seen the mainstream news media run a story on that? And I would say you could do a Lexus-Nexus search, but never wouldn't surprise me, Mr. Speaker. So Colombia is not the highest murder rate in the world, but they are multiple times greater than the United States. Honduras is not on here, but their rate is nine times that of the United States. And Swaziland is out there at 88.61 violent deaths per 100,000. Now, that is a lawless society. But I just about guarantee, Mr. Speaker, that nobody hears a word about that lawless society in Swaziland, but it approaches that number of three times as dangerous to live in Swaziland, in fact it exceeds that of number as three times as dangerous to live in Swaziland as it is to live in Iraq today.

And yet people think that civil society has broken down in Iraq and that there is not a way to operate in that country because it has been taken over by violence.

Well, we had a little violence there for al Zarqawi and lots of people were dancing in the street and firing their weapons in the air like they did when Saddam Hussein was collared, and it is a significant moment in the history of this war on terror, and it is an indicator of what will happen to the next person that emerges to take the head of the operation of al Qaeda and the enemy operations within Iraq. We will always be targeting those people at the top, those people that are second tier, third tier, grabbing them wherever we can. And we have an individual here on the floor with us who has, as I know, been to a very intense and detailed and informative briefing on the operations that were able to take Zarqawi out.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield so much time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE).

□ 1615

Mr. PEARCE. I thank the gentleman from Iowa, and I appreciate his dealing with this subject. It is important right now, while we are talking about Mr. Zarqawi and his timely departure, that we consider why it has taken so long to find him.

Under President Clinton, we began to see the budget cut for our intelligence services by up to 30 percent. But one of the most damaging things that happened during that time was that the intelligence services, under Presidential order, began to refuse to pay or refused to use the services of anyone who had a criminal background or anyone who had an association with unsavory elements.

It was an attempt to bring purity into a system that frankly cannot work on purity. Many times people with information are insiders, and they are insiders because they are willing to cooperate with the officials.

So what we did when we eliminated all intelligence sources with any crimes in their background, we eliminated in Iraq, for instance, all of the people who had fought with the Ba'athists, either willingly or unwillingly.

Because we eliminated them, we eliminated any capability to really get information from them. So we dismantled in the 1990s, we began to dismantle our overseas operations, especially in North Africa, we said we do not need information anymore. I do not if the President looked at the falling of the Berlin Wall and assumed that the American threats were finished.

But President Clinton severely hindered our capability to find information from human sources, and instead said we will accomplish all of our intelligence operations through electronic means.

Well, electronic means do not tell you the heart and soul and plans of what people want to do. And so 9/11 had many indicators and in the period leading up to it, but we were not able to capitalize on those, because we did not know future plans.

The entire operation that nabbed Mr. Zarqawi was, in fact, a very strong indicator that our intelligence system is beginning to work again. President Bush reinstated our security, our using of human intelligence in other countries.

We began to search for information. And because of that, we began to reestablish intelligence that, in the end, began to tell us where Zarqawi was. Then we watched him for several days. We saw the places where he went, and a coordinated attack took out not only Mr. Zarqawi, we took out several of the people that he was with.

But we hit 17 different sites on the same day. Now we did not damage or completely take out of all of those sites, we simply hit the sites, cleared everybody up and then we went in and captured all of the hard drives, the computers, all of the intelligence.

Now the important thing about what our opponents are saying these days in the streets of America, that we should not be listening to any of the conversations of al-Qaeda on the telephone, is that in the aftermath of those 17 sites being captured, we have access to computer records, phone numbers, that tell us who the terrorists are talking to every day.

And we do not have the time, if we want to get timely information, to go through the laborious process of filing all of the documents, building the case, taking them in, getting the warrants under the FISA provisions. Instead, the President has said, we are in a time of war. The Constitution says that the President can use means to monitor the enemy in times of war. And, in fact, we are doing that at this point.

We have got good, well-meaning people in America who would dismantle that program and hinder our capability to even capture or kill more of the terrorist, but I think that President Bush is on the right track, and the fact that we cannot not only hit the leader of al-Qaeda, Mr. Zarqawi, but in addition to that, hit 17 different spots in the same day and take out other people and capture important hard drives, computer-generated information, is an exceptional thing.

I have more comments, but I would yield back to the gentleman from Iowa for him to make his comments.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Mexico. In the interim I was able to come up with this picture that I think is important to have posted here for us to remember this individual.

Remember, Zarqawi was an inspiration to our enemy. And I do not believe that Zarqawi is going to end up being the inspiration in the form of a martyr as we often consider them to be.

You know, when you think about what a martyr is, that would be one person who committed and dedicated their lives to a cause selflessly, in an inspirational way, and perhaps one who might have died in that cause.

Can you think of two martyrs for the same cause, Mr. Speaker? And I think back, I cannot think of two martyrs for the same cause. But I would point that out. Maybe there are.

But if I cannot think of two, I am convinced I cannot think of three, or four or five or six or ten martyrs for the same cause, or 100 or 1,000 or 10,000. Martyrs come along in groups of 1, not groups of 2, 5, 10, 20 or 1,000.

I would submit this, Mr. Speaker, that the more of these alleged martyrs that there are, the less they are martyrs and the more they become statistics, and the less anyone is inspired by someone who is full of murder and hatred and brutality.

They do not stand for anything except murder, hatred and brutality. I would be happy to yield to Mr. PEARCE.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I would make a short comment, Mr. Speaker, that we, in essence, have helped the message. Mr. Bin Laden and Mr. Zarqawi have been telling all of their peers that it is better to die for your beliefs, that you should go out and die for your beliefs.

Please, go out and through yourself into the enemy, sacrifice your life. And so Mr. Bin Laden and Mr. Zarqawi, up to this point, have been unwilling to do that. They have been willing to preach it, but not to do it. So either unwilling or willingly, Mr. Zarqawi has been given over to his fate.

So I would just say that we are beginning to see the dismantling of the leadership. I will tell you that the Civil War failed for the South because they could never keep enough generals in the field. The Union had more generals and more depth. And as the Confederacy began to lose generals, then the decisions that were made became not so sound, the military maneuvers, the military battlefields were not commanded with the same professionalism, and that is where the South began to really have its difficulties.

I think we are going to see al-Qaeda have the same difficulties. I think we are going to continue until we ultimately tap Mr. Bin Laden, allow him to find his glory in this great struggle also.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman. I point out also to key into that point, that Stonewall Jackson may have been the most inspiring general in the South, but you cannot inspire people from the grave. Well, you can do that, but you cannot recruit military to fight underneath you from the grave.

This fellow, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi is done recruiting for al-Qaeda. They are not going to come here to fight in his memory, because they are going to meet the same kind of end as Zarqawi.

But I want to point out his statement here, Mr. Speaker, because I think it is important for Americans to burn into

their mind his attitude towards Americans. He said, ''Americans are the most cowardly of God's creatures. They are an easy quarry, praise be to God. We ask God to enable us to kill and capture them.''

That was his letter to al-Qaeda, February 2004. Americans, the most cowardly of creatures? You know, in this entire conflict, the battle in the global war on terror, in the breadth of Afghanistan and Iraq and all points in between and the periphery of all of those, I have yet to hear of a single incident of an cowardly American soldier.

I mean, it may have happened. But I have not heard of a single incident. I have only heard of bravery and courage and sacrifice. And each quarter, I never let it be longer than that, I go to visit our wounded Americans in places like Bethesda, Walter Reed and Landstuhl there in Germany. And when I go in to visit those wounded soldiers, they give me strength, they give me inspiration. They believe in this cause, and we must not let them down.

And most of them feel guilty that they were wounded, because now they are not with their men. Most of them want to go back to their unit. In fact, we have had amputees that have gone back to their unit and engaged in combat again. That is the kind of inspiration, that is what Americans are about.

Zarqawi could not be more wrong. I am happy to say today he could not be more dead. I yield to the gentleman from New Mexico.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Iowa. I would remind the body that we had warning signs. Just because Mr. Zarqawi is no longer part of the conspiracy of al-Qaeda, the war of terrorism, just because of that, that does not mean this struggle is over.

Again, the war on terror started in 1972 with the Munich Olympics. At that point, the world negotiators gave the terrorists center stage. They allowed them to come to the table. That was a mistake that we continued all of the way up through President Bush, almost 30 years of giving them credibility instead of trying to dismantle the operation.

So I would remind our viewers that this is not going to be an easy task, even with this significant loss this week. And I would yield back to the gentleman from Iowa to close the discussion.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Mexico for joining me and raising his voice and standing up for United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I have this one quick chart that I am going to run through quickly. That is, the Iraq numbers again for civilians, 27.51 for 100,000.

Where is the place most comparable to that in the United States today? Oakland, California. If you are safe in Oakland, that is about how safe they feel in Iraq today with the exception of the national news media's exceptions.

God bless our troops. I yield back.

30-SOMETHING WORKING GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor being before the House once again. As you know, the 30-something Working Group, we come to the floor as often as possible to not only share with the Members what is going on as it relates to legislation here in Washington, D.C., but also what is not going on on behalf of the American people.

And hopefully we can put forth ideas and extending the arm to work in a bipartisan way on behalf of the American people. So we are glad to come to the floor week after week. Also, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Democratic Leader for allowing us to have this hour, and also our Democratic Whip, Mr. STENY HOYER, and Mr. JAMES CLYBURN, who is our chairman of our Democratic Caucus, and Mr. LARSON, who is our vice-chair.

I think it is important that we come to the floor to share a unified message from this side, that we are willing and able. We have the will and the desire to work on behalf of the American people in general. Not just Democrats, not just Republicans or independents, but the American people in general, to make sure the people of good will prevail in their everyday lives.

If they are a veteran, if they are an individual that has fallen on hard times, if they run a small business in this country, if they have a mid-sized business that they want to turn into a big business, we want to be able to be of some assistance as it relates to legislating here on behalf of the American people.

Also, I think it is important that we do not leave our children behind. Even though they cannot vote, many of them are under the age of 18 years old, not eligible to vote, I think it is important that we stand for them.

There are a number of things that I am going to try to touch on today, Mr. Speaker, to make sure that we can cover all of, just about all of what is happening and what is not happening here in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, I took the time when we were on break last week to really look closely at some of the comparisons, because when you are trying to figure out what is happening to the issues that we all came to Washington to work so hard on, you have to compare, it is almost like you have to have, Mr. Speaker, a side-by-side what we call it here in Washington, D.C. to compare.

It is almost like for someone who goes to the grocery store to buy an orange, I am from Florida, nine times out of ten, you are going to pick up those two oranges if they are from two different orange groves and kind of compare, to see if it is an orange.

You are not going to grab an apple and grab an orange and start saying, well, which one looks like an orange. But I must say here in Washington, D.C., it is almost like an orange and an apple experience, because we are so far apart as it relates to working together on many of these issues that are facing our constituents back home, and the American men and women that are overseas fighting on our behalf.

Mr. Speaker, I looked at the issue of fiscal responsibility, and I could not help but notice, within the House GOP budget, that the budget calls for deficits as far as the eye can see, never achieving a balance. And adding another $2.3 trillion to the national debt over 5 years, compared to the Democratic alternative and the Democratic philosophy, if we can work in a bipartisan way to be able to balance this budget, balance the budget over the next 5 years, making sure that we can balance it over the next 6 years on a pay-as-you-go philosophy.

□ 1630

Mr. Speaker, I will talk a little bit about that as I continue to go down this chart. We believe that we can balance this budget because we have done it before, unlike the Republican conference or the Republican side of the House which has not.

There was a surplus when the Republicans took control of this House or when the President went into office and President Bush went into office. Now we are into record deficits, and I think it is important that we point this out. And I have charts to be able to break that down for the Members.

I think it is also important to think about making America safer here at home. I looked at the Republican budget, and I could not help but notice that it made homeland security cuts by $488 million this year, and it is up to $6.1 billion over the next 5 years of cuts to homeland security. And it is not much better than the President's budget that came out of this House. It estimated that port security grants and rail transit security grants will all be rolled into a smaller program. And I think that that is something that is going to hurt a lot of local communities.

On the Democratic side in our budget and our motion to recommit of our philosophy as it relates to what we should be doing by the homeland is to provide $6.5 billion more over the next 5 years for homeland security here by guaranteeing funding for border security, port security, and first responders which are so important to so many counties and local governments that are out there on the frontline that have to respond to the American people in their time of need.

Adequate funding for veterans. This is another point, Mr. Speaker, I will elaborate a little bit more during this hour of the facts. Like we always say

during the 30-something Working Group, this is not what we came up with. These are the facts and they are backed up by the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD or either a very credible third-party validator. We start looking at that and we look at the Republican budget that passed off this floor. It cuts funding to veterans health care by $6 billion over the next 5 years. The Democratic alternative budget provides $8.6 billion more over the next 5 years for veterans health care.

Then there is the GOP budget. It also rejects an increase in TRICARE, which is a health care program for veterans for more than 3 million military retirees and their families. These are increased costs that the Republican budget has put on them, and I am going to talk about that a little further. It targets, as it relates to tax cuts for the middle class, the Republican budget follows the President's budget. That goes back to the rubber-stamp Congress, the rubber-stamp Republican Congress that I talked so much about, Mr. Speaker, and it also happens to be a reality.

When you look at this issue, you have to look at it from the standpoint of the President's budget which provides $2.5 trillion in tax cuts over the next 10 years targeted for the very wealthiest Americans, the wealthiest taxpayers versus the Democratic alternative that provides $105 billion for the middle class tax relief such as child tax credit, marriage penalty relief and the 10 percent individual bracket.

I think it is also important for me to point out here as it relates to the issue of college, making college more affordable, and I had to look at this part of the budget and this is another area, Mr. Speaker, that I am going to talk a little bit more about because we have so many people and some middle-aged people. In America, we do know that we have some Americans that do not go from high school straight into college because they have to, nine times out of ten, get a job to be able to build up the money to go to college, to be able to maybe take care of a family member that is up in age and they need that kind of assistance. Or they cannot go off to college or they have to go to a community college before they can go to a 4-year institution. Everyone does not have a turn-key life. So we have to look at policy that is going to be able to help all Americans, not just some.

When we look at the Republican majority budget, what it had in it, this is straight from the budget, this is not anything that I have put together to have some sort of lean towards making our proposals look better than the Republican majority. These are just the facts here in the House. When you look at it, it is identical. Once again, Mr. Speaker, and I think it is important, the reason why I have this rubber stamp back here, that I will proudly bring out in just a few moments, is the fact that the President hands down what he would like to, the policies that he would like to have here in this Congress, he would like for us to rubber-stamp. And the Republican majority honors him in rubber-stamping exactly the way it was written.

I think it is important, Mr. Speaker, in America, in the people's House, the only House that you have to be elected to, that you cannot be appointed to, over in the Senate you can be appointed by a Governor, that the people should have an opportunity to be heard. Once again, not just Democrats, not just Republicans, not just Independents, not just folks who vote, but the American people should be represented. And for them to be represented appropriately, I think it is important that we have the kind of conversation and dialogue here that is going to benefit all Americans. And in this case it is identical to the President's budget.

It freezes Pell Grants for colleges and denies more than 460,000 students low-cost loans. This also is on the top of $12 billion cuts in the student loan funding that Republicans just enacted. It is already there. So what we are trying to do is, I believe, to turn that around. And I am going to talk about legislation that we have to turn that around. But as it relates to our alternative budget, it rejects the GOP cuts and higher education programs. It also lowers the costs of student loans by cutting the interest rate per student loan in the fall of 2007. I think that is important.

There are a lot of folks that are sending their kids off to college right now. There are a lot of folks that are writing letters for just $1,000 scholarships for local organizations because the costs of college have gone up. When we make these cuts here in Washington, DC, the State government has to make their cuts to the students and to the families that live down in those States, and I think it is important that we look at this. And I will talk about that a little further, explaining educational opportunities.

I think it is important when you look at this part of the budget, identical to the Bush budget, well, that seems to be a common theme here, which underfunds No Child Left Behind by 39 percent, denies extra math and reading help to 3.7 million children and shutting 2 million children out of after-school programs.

On the Democratic side, our alternative provides 4.6 billion more dollars in 2007 and $35.3 billion over the next 5 years for education and training programs, more than the GOP budget. I think this is important for families and parents like myself who know what it means that when your kids go to school you have to pay for aftercare. And nine times out of ten that aftercare is like $150 to sometimes $200 a week. Some of you parents know what I am talking about.

Unfortunately, Members of the Republican side of this House do not understand what you are talking about and opt to invest $87,000 in tax cuts to millionaires. So I think it is important that we look at this as it relates to a comparison. One other thing that I think is important and justified here in this case, Mr. Speaker, that we roll right into what this means as it relates to the dollars and cents before we get into some of the policy issues that are called out here. We can get right down to the nitty-gritty by saying over the last 5 years President Bush and also the Republican majority here came in and had a projected surplus in the next 10 years when the President took office of $5.6 trillion, $5.6 trillion; and that has now turned into a $3.3 trillion deficit.

Now, it would be kind of hard to say, well, the Democrats took us down that line and they made us do this and they made us do that. I can tell you that is not true. That is not true. We have tried to substitute a number of policies that would save this country in the future and would save our future for our children so they are not paying exorbitant tax and fees that this Republican Congress has put on them and have put on the American people. It affects everything. It affects Social Security. It affects education. It affects our way of being able to come up with alternative fuels. It affects the way our troops are treated when they come back. It affects our veterans. It affects everyday families.

The decisions that are made here on this floor as it relates to the budget and as it relates to the spending affects everyone, all Americans. It affects everyone that depends on this government to govern, not to follow, not to rubber-stamp but to govern. And, Mr. Speaker, I think that is very, very important. When you look at the tax bill that, obviously, the President wanted and the Republican majority rubber-stamped, I think it is important that you look at the fact that we have now mortgaged our children's future.

The Republicans have passed this tax cut which has sunken us deeper, $80 billion deeper into debt over the next 10 years and will benefit the few, the wealthy. I think it is also important for us to understand that we have to have fiscal discipline.

Let's just talk a little bit about that because I want to make sure that everyone understands what we are talking about here. Well, here is a chart again, Mr. Speaker. It is so self-explanatory. We just continue to use it and use it and use it. The unfortunate part, Mr. Speaker, is that the numbers will change soon. It will not change in the way of saying we are doing better. No, it will change in that we are doing worse. When I say ''we,'' I am saying led by the Republican majority here in the House. Two hundred twenty-four years, $1.01 trillion borrowed from foreign nations since the President has been President, President Bush and the Republican majority has been in control.

Over the last 4 years, 2001 to 2005, President Bush and the Republican Congress, that is under his picture, have borrowed $1.05 trillion. I do not care, there is no way you can explain how this is good. No Member, need it be Republican, the one Independent or Democrat on this floor, can explain how this can be good for the American people.

Now, time after time I have asked for an explanation from Republicans during their time when they are on the floor to explain this. All I hear is cricket sounds. I look down the hall, no one is there. I am wondering where the fiscal conservatives in this House are as it relates to the Republican majority. I wonder where the leadership is as it relates to being able to turn this around.

There has been, Mr. Speaker, no attempt and I mean no documented attempt to be able to turn this around. This is unprecedented, the first time in the history of the country. Now, this is not the first time in this century or the first time in the last 20 years or the first time in the last 200 years. This is the first time in the history of the Republic that any Congress and any President has borrowed $1.05 trillion from foreign nations. The first time. The first time. I mean, it is not like, well, this happened a couple years ago. No. The first time in the history of this country.

Should you be alarmed? You doggone right you should be alarmed. Forty-two Presidents could not do it; 224 years of a country with all of its challenges could not do it. But when you get President Bush in the White House and you get a rubber-stamp Republican majority here in the House of Representatives, they can do it. Unfortunately, if we continue with the same team that we have leading in this House and in the White House, this is going to continue to grow. And it is going to be very, very unfortunate because countries are going to start to disrespect this country because we do not have, not ''we,'' the Republican majority here in this House does not have the ability to govern and to govern in a way that it should following the President, unfortunately, on this issue where we could show clearly that this is not a winner.

Did this chart come from the Democratic Caucus? I think not. These numbers came from the U.S. Department of the Treasury. So you can get on whatever Web site you want to get on and you can find this. You can definitely find it on www.HouseDemocrats.gov/30Something. All of these charts will be there. I suggest you download the chart and print it and show it to your friends because they need to know.

□ 1645

What does it mean when I say folks start to disrespect this country? We get Members coming in this chamber and people giving speeches throughout the country, burning all kinds of Federal jet fuel, talking about terror, talking about what you should be scared of.

I can tell you right now, we need to be dealing with terror and we need to be dealing with it in a smart way and protect the homeland, and that is not happening right now. Take it from me, I am the ranking member on the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Oversight, and I can tell you, it is not happening right now. We have not issued one subpoena to be able to rein in individuals that are stealing from this government, contractors and individuals within the department, that is allowing it to happen. That is another Special Order that I will not get into right now.

But if you want to talk about disrespecting the United States of America, this is not something that is foreign born or someone that released an audiotape or a videotape here. This is what happened right here on the floor.

The borrowing that I talked about over the last 4 years, how did it happen? Japan, $882.8 billion, bought our debt. Japan did not say, hey, we want y'all to overspend; we want you to give tax cuts to millionaires and billionaires; we want you to do things that you cannot afford to do just because you can. Japan did not say, well, just because the President said we should do it that you should rubber stamp it. No, that is what the Republican Congress did, and we do need a change and we need alternatives. We have talked about those alternatives.

China, $249.8 billion, they bought our debt, China, red China, Communist China.

The U.K., want to talk about our ally and friend, yeah, they are our friends all right. They bought $223.2 billion of our debt. We did have the prime minister here. He addressed a joint session. I did not hear him, and I was reading his speech as he was up here, Mr. Speaker, giving his speech. He did not say, hey, keep spending in an irresponsible way so we can buy your debt and own a piece of the American apple pie. He did not say that, but the Republican Congress continues to rubber stamp President's Bush's policies to say that we are being fiscally responsible, meanwhile there is $1.05 trillion that we borrowed from foreign nations.

Caribbean countries, $115.3 billion, bought our debt.

Taiwan, $71.3 billion, little Taiwan. They are even in the game of getting part of this American apple pie. With the Republican Congress giving it away, they are willing to buy it up.

Guess who we owe? We owe every last one of these countries that I have ripped off this chart so far. Canada, just north of us, $53.8 billion; Korea, $66.5 billion; Germany, $65.7 billion.

OPEC Nations, well, you know, Mr. Speaker, OPEC Nations, who are they? Oil producing countries whether it be Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, you name it, these countries are in this OPEC Nation, and they are even in the game of buying a piece of the American apple pie at $67.8 billion.

Well, I have this kind of flag here that is kind of draped over the United States of America, and I said we want to get back there, Mr. Speaker. I would urge the Members to do one of two things. One, work in a bipartisan way and pick up pay-as-you-go policies, as we have talked about and have put on this floor here in this House time after time again and saying that if you are going to give $1 billion to a contractor to do whatever he wants to do with it, without any little oversight, then doggone it, you better figure out how you are going to pay for it. If you are going to give tax cuts to folks who are not asking for them, you better show how you are going to pay for it, not just saying we will borrow from these foreign nations.

We continue to borrow because we can borrow and make history in 4 years that was not accomplished in over 224 years. No, we are going to make history. The Republican majority is going to make history in 4 years at $1.05 trillion. That is a lot of money with a big T. 224 years, $1.01 trillion. Forty-two Presidents could not even muster up that. If you want to get back to a balanced budget that I talked about earlier, that I am going to continue to pound on, then have a Democratic majority or work in a bipartisan way, one of the two.

I have more faith in the fact of the Democratic majority getting the job done than the Republicans allowing us to work in a bipartisan way towards having a balanced budget.

You want to talk about partisanship, partisanship over the budget is at the highest level that it could be, because you have one side with the will and the desire to balance the budget, and you have the other side, Republican majority, that says they want to balance the budget but do not have the will and the desire to do it. That is the side-by-side on that. You have to have the will and the desire to do it.

I cannot go to my daughter and say, Lauren, I want you to go out and play softball. Well, she may not have the will and the desire to play softball, but just because I have the will and desire does not necessarily mean that she has to have it.

Well, guess what, on this side of the ball, we have the will and the desire to balance the budget. Not only do we have the will and the desire, history is on our side. History is on our side because we balanced the budget. We actually did it. The Democratic House did it without one Republican vote, not one. Maybe I could say maybe two, three, four—not one Republican vote. We balanced the budget and put this country in surplus. We could have dealt with Social Security, could have took it beyond the time it is supposed to have issues, could have made sure that veterans did not have to pay copayments, could have made sure that we could have been ahead as it relates, not to below the 39 percent in funding Leave No Child Behind, could have provided more tax cuts for the middle class. It is what it is.

And I would tell you, if folks want to get back to a balanced budget and not have these countries, in all due respect, in our pocket—these countries have their hand in our pocket, not because of the folks that are running around here trying to make a living every day. It is because of the Republican majority, what they have done.

OPEC Nations got their hands straight in our pocket. Germany has their hand in our pocket at $6.7 billion, the U.S. taxpayers pocket. Korea $66.5 billion, they have their hands in our pocket. Taiwan, $71.3 billion, have their hands in our pocket. Canada, $53.8 billion, have their hands in the American taxpayers' pocket. Caribbean countries, $115.3 billion, have their hands in the American taxpayers' pocket. The U.K., $223.2 billion, have their hands in the American taxpayers' pocket. And China have a hand-and-a-half in the American taxpayers' pocket and reaching for their credit card while they are at it at $249.8 billion.

Japan has just outright snatched the wallet out of the back of the taxpayers pocket and grabbed someone's pocketbook and have their hand in the pocket of the U.S. taxpayers at $682.8 billion. Not because the American people went out there and said let us make sure that we spend money that we do not have and let us make records in 4 years in borrowing money from foreign nations. The Republican majority, they have rubber stamped the Bush administration policy and here we are.

So what do we do? What we do is we make changes, and what we have tried to do on this side is do exactly that. It would be hard for me, Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Republican Conference to come to this floor and speak with a straight face about the issue on the budget. I do not know. I would have to go into the bathroom and look in the mirror and practice because it would be hard for me to keep a straight face when I come to the floor to talk about the fact that I am a fiscal conservative and I care about the budget and responsible spending and making sure that we do not overspend and we are not like the others, we do not spend.

Well, let me tell you something. The congressional record says that you spend. The American people are noticing that you spend and borrow, and spend and borrow, and spend, and when you cannot borrow anymore, you go to foreign Nations and you borrow.

Well, this is what we have tried to do. Mr. SPRATT's substitute amendment to House Concurrent Resolution 95, 2006 budget resolution, failed, 228 Republican votes against it. Not one voted for it. This is pay-as-you-go. Once again, if you are going to spend $1 million, where are you going to get the $1 million from? That is all we ask. It was identified, and this opportunity for the Republican majority to vote for fiscal opportunity, no. They said no.

Mr. SPRATT again, amendment to House Concurrent Resolution 393, 2005 budget resolution, failed. Republicans, 224 voted no. Zero voted for it. Reminds me, Mr. Speaker, of when we balanced the budget, zero. It is almost like the old saying, put your money where your mouth is. Well, put your vote where your mouth is. That is what I am saying and that is what the American people are going to say hopefully in November.

Bottom line is folks can come to the floor, we can have these big floor debates and come close to making each other mad, but in the final analysis, when the budget is printed and the deficit continues to go up, the fact is is that the Democrats are for fiscal responsibility and the Republican majority, rubber stamping President Bush's policy, is for continuing to borrow from foreign Nations and putting them in the pockets of the American people.

Now, I think it is important that we continue to talk about this issue as it relates to veterans. Veterans of all people, despite the serious problem in military recruiting, the President's budget will increase health care costs and deny health care for millions of veterans and military retirees. I think it is important that we look at these increases that have happened for a million veterans for the fourth year in a row, the budget rises, health care costs for 1 million veterans, by imposing new fees.

For most of them, veterans' cost will rise some $2.6 billion over the next 5 years and also drive at least 200,000 veterans out of assistance. It will double the copayments for prescription drugs from $8 to $15 and impose an enrollment fee of $250 a year for a Category 7 or 8 veteran, who makes very little, makes $26,000 a year.

I think it is also important for us to look at the increases in health care costs for military retirees. The budget increased TRICARE health care premiums, which is the health care provided to the military for $3.1 million, for the Nation's military retirees under 65. I think it is important that we look at these premiums and look at what they are costing the folks that signed up to defend this country and allow us to salute one flag. I think it is also important for us to look at what we are talking about on this side of the aisle Mr. Speaker.

The GI Bill of Rights for the 21st Century that has been offered here on the Democratic side will just do the reverse as it relates to what I just mentioned. It makes health care accessible and affordable for our veterans and improves veterans' health care. It improves mental health for returning soldiers.

A number of the IEDs, improvised explosive devices, I think is going to affect a number of our troops, those that have fallen victim to it and survived, injured, those that have witnessed IEDs going off, those that have to worry every day when they drive down one of the streets in Iraq, will they be hit by an IED.

□ 1700

Some of that stuff is going to come back home, and it is home, and we need to be able to deal with it on a psychological standpoint because it affects many of our families. These are individuals that have signed up and said they wanted to serve our country, and they are serving.

It also blocks the increase in prescription drug copayments and the enrollment fee for veterans. I think it is important that we do that. And on this side of the aisle, we have that legislation that has been put forth through our frustration of the fact that we can't work in a bipartisan way. The only way we can work in a bipartisan way, Mr. Speaker, is if the Republican leadership allows bipartisanship to work in the House.

Now, how does that happen? Well, when you have a conference committee, how about inviting the Democratic members to that conference committee, or at least letting us know where the meeting is? We have day after day, especially this time of year, when we have a number of pieces of legislation stacked up on top of one another. And I just want to make sure that I break this down so everyone understands. When we pass a bill here in the House, and the Senate passes a similar bill, they have what they call a conference committee, and that conference committee sits down and works out the differences between those bills. Well, that is not a common thing here in the House. Yes, it would be a majority of Republicans that will be on that conference committee, but there are some Democrats on that conference committee. And we have a number of Democrats, when the meeting is set and the decision is made, that are not even told about it.

That is not working in a bipartisan way, and that is why our Democratic leader has said that when Democrats take control of this House, we will work in a bipartisan way and we will make sure that the American people are represented. If they have a Republican representing them here, then they will be represented. Because, guess what? It will not be a stonewall. It will be a democracy in the way that we are supposed to carry out business here in this House, of making sure that everyone benefits. That is true bipartisanship.

It also provides benefits to veterans who have earned and deserve respect. It ends the disability veterans tax. It reduces waiting time on disability claimants and also expands outreach to veterans.

Now, this is very, very important. We are talking about individuals coming back and moving back into their community, going to church or synagogue, or what have you, to mosque, what have you, and when they come back home to their families, we are saying that we want a government, and the Department of Veterans Affairs that will work with that veteran, will work

with that family in making sure that because they signed up, he or she signed up to go out on behalf of this country and fight on behalf of this country, that we have their back. That is the least that we can do.

That is what this GI Bill of Rights of the 21st Century will do, and I would urge the Members to go on Housedemocrats.gov and get a copy of that piece of legislation so that you can take a look at it and hopefully endorse it and hopefully help us pass it. We will need that very much.

I said I would talk about the student loans, Mr. Speaker, and I think it is important. We have a piece of legislation, and when I say ''we,'' the Democratic side, we have a piece of legislation that reverses what the Republican majority has done with the endorsement of the Bush administration. Of course, whatever the President wants, the Republican majority in this House will give it to him.

Earlier this year, the Congress cut $12 billion out of the Federal student loan program in order to help finance tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans. I think it is also important that most of the savings generated from the cuts to student loans continues the practice of forcing students and parents to borrow, in many cases to pay for the expensive increase in the rates as relates to student loans. By increasing college loans, parents have to go out and borrow.

Well, now, the Republican majority is pushing their philosophy on the American people. Because the Republican majority has decided to take away from the student aid and student loan program to give special interest tax breaks to wealthy individuals here in the United States of America, the American people are now forced to go to the credit union. They are forced to put their house up even a little bit more to pay for college because this majority, coupled with the President's policies, has done this.

We are going to reverse that. We are going to reduce and replenish the dollars that were taken out of the budget and were placed in special interest projects that the Republican majority did, and it is called Reversing the Raid on Student Aid Act. It is H.R. 5150. It would help make college more affordable. It would cut interest rates in half as relates to the borrowers, those that are borrowing money; and also it would subsidize student loans from a fixed rate of 6.8 to a fixed rate of 3.4. It also cuts the rates on parent loans for undergraduate students from a fixed rate of 8.5 to a fixed rate of 4.25.

I think it is important for us to look at those numbers, because that is a drastic cut, taking us back to families being able to afford to send their kids to college. Under the bill, a typical undergraduate student has something like $17,500 in debt and would save $5,600 over the life of his or her loan. I think it is important for us to look at that, Mr. Speaker. And that is the complete opposite of what has been put forth thus far.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think it is important for us to look at the issue on energy, but I wanted to make sure I went through my list here that I said I would go through. We talked about fiscal responsibility, we have talked about veterans, we have also talked about making college more affordable; and, yes, Mr. Speaker, we are on the issue of energy.

I think when you start looking at energy, you can't look at investing in the Middle East. We want to invest in the Midwest. When we invest in the Midwest, it is investing in America and not just investing in special interests. The Republican majority way of doing things, and also the Bush White House way of doing things is to sit down with oil companies and cut secret deals, to have them write the energy policy in this country, to trust oil companies to make the decisions and run the energy policy here in the United States of America.

Well, the folks didn't sign up for oil companies to have a vote here on this floor. The American people didn't go vote one early Tuesday morning to allow someone from ExxonMobil to come in here and vote on the floor.

Case in point: again, Washington Post, third-party validator, November 16, 2005, front page: ''White House documents showed executives from big oil companies met with Vice President Cheney's energy task force in 2001, something long suspected by environmentalists but denied as recently as November of 2005 last week by industry officials testifying before Congress. The document obtained this week by The Washington Post shows that officials from ExxonMobil Corp., and Phillips, Shell Oil Company, and B.P. of America met in the White House complex with Cheney aides who were developing a national energy policy, part of which became law, part of which is still being debated here in Congress.''

I think it is important that we look at it from that standpoint. And while I am on the individuals who are saying that they want to help so much in alternative fuels, take a look at this. Nothing like third-party validators. I love them. I really do, Mr. Speaker. I love third-party validators because the reason you have to have them is that some of this stuff is just hard to believe.

Someone may be in their office saying, I do not know what that Member from Florida is talking about right now. Well, I want to show them as many third-party validators as possible, because it is truly unbelievable. When I was elected to Congress some 4 years ago, I didn't think we would even be in the posture we are in now because I thought maybe bipartisanship would prevail, or common sense on behalf of the country would prevail. But what has happened is that because special interests, through the K Street Project, where special interests had an opportunity to have access into this process that was so-called no longer going on, we are where we are now. That article I just read.

And here is a picture of a gas pump. We talk about alternative fuels, and we have CEOs going on the ''Today Show'' and all these other little shows and all talking about, oh, we believe in alternative fuels. Well, as you can see, you have your Regular, Special, and then you have your Super Plus, then you have this thing called E–85, which is ethanol, which is an alternative fuel. Right here in the United States of America.

Well, I want you to pay very close attention to what these two stickers are saying here. Basically, it is saying that you cannot use your ExxonMobil card to buy E–85. That is interesting. You can walk in that ExxonMobil place and buy, what, a bag of chips with your card? You can go in there and buy a case of soda, if you want to. Some individuals even go in and buy a pack of cigarettes with their ExxonMobil card. But you can't buy E–85, which is an alternative fuel.

Now, I mean, yes, they are a company and all, and they can do what they want to do. But you know what is different about ExxonMobil and everyone else, not just that company, but oil companies in general? Man, they are backed and certified by this Republican majority here. They are getting record-breaking tax breaks and gifts from this House. Man, they can't give the oil companies enough. I mean, goodness gracious, access in the White House, they get to sit down with the administration and talk about how it should be written: on this line, this is what we want. No, we shouldn't do that because, you know, I don't know.

Now, I am not a Member of Congress with a conspiracy theory, but record-breaking profits, record-breaking subsidies and gifts given to the oil industry? Some may say on behalf of innovation. I say it has a lot to do with the record-breaking profits, especially when they do not have to spend their money, spend the taxpayers' money, and the shareholders run away and laugh, going to the bank, but they are not willing to allow people who come to their station to use their ExxonMobil card to buy E–85, which is an alternative fuel. These are the individuals who have access into this Republican majority and into the White House.

Let's talk about the profits. Wow, let's look at this. We said that meeting happened in 2001 in the White House complex. In 2002, these are the oil companies' record profits: $34 billion in profits. I think their policy is working, for them. $59 billion in profits. I think it is getting better. I think that was a good meeting. $84 billion in 2004. $84 billion in profits. Man, I am glad I went to that meeting, that task force in the Republican Congress with the rubber-stamp that made that happen. $113 billion. Wow, I can't wait until the 2006

numbers when they come in. I think we can go out and get about eight more Lear jets and I will take that home that I've been dreaming about.

You know what it means? It is on the backs of the taxpayers. And I want to make sure everyone sees this chart and understands what is going on, because I am also hopping mad, Mr. Speaker. I can tell you that for those of us who serve in public service, we wish we would have a retirement like this after going to all those town hall meetings, going out talking to all those American people and coming here early in the morning, leaving late at night, working every day, and then here we are.

Now, I am not going to identify him as an individual, I am just saying it is what it is, and this is what is happening: $398 million in a retirement package and $2 million in tax breaks. A $2 million tax break. That is how you get rewarded.

Now, it goes against logic, Mr. Speaker, for someone to say, you know, we are for finding alternative fuels and we are for saving the taxpayers money, but meanwhile they are making record-breaking profits. I wonder what the speech that they give not on the ''Today Show'' or not on one of the news shows, I wonder what the speech is that they give before their shareholders.

□ 1715

The speech that they are giving is saying thanks to the Republican majority in the House, thanks to the President of the United States, the future looks good. We are going to have a great year.

I think it is important for us to look at investing in the Midwest versus the Middle East, and E–85 is a big part of the plan. I want to bring Members' attention to this document that they can find on HouseDemocrats.gov and how we can start making ourselves energy independent in a matter of years. It's not just a philosophy and not just a speech. It is not someone just saying maybe one day we could, but saying we can.

In this document it says we are looking to increase production of American-made biofuels, using things like corn and sugarcane, sugar beets, things that we have right here, coal. Alternative fuels that we have here in the United States. We do not need to go to foreign countries and hear from people from South America and the Middle East, and having the President say it's not us, it is the fact that the American people are addicted to oil. I mean, that is a statement that I think you need to let sink in.

It also will make sure that the biodiesel, that we have a way to be able to increase that, expand tax credits for ethanol and biodiesel through 2015, and increase tax benefits to small biofuel producers. It expands also the market for distribution of biofuels. That is going to be important, Mr. Speaker.

Oil companies are just not going to do it because it is the right thing to do. We are going to have to make them do it so we can wean ourselves off of this addiction to oil. We want to give them an alternative. We do not just want to talk about it, we want to give the American people an alternative so they can move in that direction.

We talk about increasing the number of gas stations offering E–85 through new initiatives and requirements to make sure that we get the oil companies to do so.

In 7 years, 75 percent of all cars made in America would be flex fuel cars. Those are cars that can take the E–85 and can take regular gas. I think it is important for us to head in that direction. I think it is important for the future of our country, and I think it is important to have a true debate and a true philosophy towards alternative fuels and saving money.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think it is important for us to be able to do the things that we talk about and we preach about. The Republican majority is going to have to drop this stamp. It is going to have to give it up. You are going to have to go to group and say ''We can no longer rubber stamp whatever the President of the United States sends to the Congress.'' The President wants tax cuts for wealthy Americans, they have to say Mr. President, we cannot do it.

Now for the Republican majority to have group, it is going to have to make a change in philosophy. They may have to work in a bipartisan way. They may even have to take a Democratic proposal, the pay-as-you-go philosophy, and make a change. I personally feel the Republican majority is not capable of doing that.

I have been on this floor going on 3 years. If I thought it made a difference in the Republican majority and encouraging them to work in a bipartisan way, then I would feel a little more encouraged, but I do not. I think the Republican majority knows exactly what the 30-something Working Group talks about when we come to the floor. We talk about fiscal responsibility and respecting hardworking Americans. We talk about making sure that we do right by our children and that we educate our children at all levels, whether it be K–12 experience, higher education, postgraduate, making sure that we have the workforce to compete with other countries that are competing against us.

I am not talking about competing against the school down the street or the school in the other county. We are competing against other countries as it relates to math and the sciences. That is talk for the Republican majority. We have a true mission. We have the will and desire on this side, through our innovation agenda which is on HouseDemocrats.gov, the Republican majority has to stop rubber stamping.

And I can tell you right now, they can't help it. They just continue to hit the rubber stamp. Let's not even have a committee hearing, let us just get this bill to the floor and get it out because that is what the President wants. We have a number of issues that the Republican Congress has rubber stamped. One was $1.05 trillion in record-breaking borrowing from foreign nations, rubber stamped, no problem. Deficits as far as the eye can see. Yes, you can have all of the study groups and all of the folks that write documents, and you can have all of the Republican Members come to this floor, but the reality is that this Congress has overseen the largest increase in the deficit in the history of the Republic, period.

Go to CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, pick up the newspaper, it's there. The Republican Congress, the only way I think that the Republican Congress is going to change its ways is when we have real leadership in this House. And the only way we do that is when the Democratic Caucus becomes the majority caucus in this House on this floor to put in the policies that need to be placed in the statute books, in the budget, in committee and making sure that we put this country back on the fiscal track it should be on.

How can I say that with boldness? Because we have done. It's almost like a job application. Someone tells you they can do something and you don't see it on their résumé that they have actually done it, it is hard to believe they can do it. It is on our résumé without one Republican vote balancing the budget.

I think it is also important to get the Republican Congress of the rubber stamp so you're making sure that they don't have the ability to rubber stamp. When you have the ability to rubber stamp, you are in the majority and that is what the American people are going to have to speak to, Mr. Speaker.

I am hoping we are able to see some change in philosophy here in the House. And we encourage the Members, if you want to share your thoughts or comments or you have other alternative ideas, we want to hear them because we believe in working in a bipartisan way. House_Democrats.gov/30somethingworkinggroup.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I would like to thank our working group that met earlier this week a couple of days ago, and I would also like to thank the staff and thank everyone that takes part in what we do and why we come to the floor. I would like to thank the Democratic leader for the time.

Mr. Speaker, it was an honor addressing the House of Representatives.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BECERRA (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today after 11:00 a.m.

Mr. COSTELLO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of attending the funeral of a relative.

Mr. REYES (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of family illness.

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 Mr. DAVIS of Illinois) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

The following Members (at the request of Mr. GOHMERT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. GOHMERT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, June 15 and 16.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, June 12.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House reports that on June 8, 2006, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.R. 1953. To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the Old Mint at San Francisco, otherwise known as the ''Granite Lady'', and for other purposes.

H.R. 3829. To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Muskogee, Oklahoma, as the Jack C. Montgomery Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

H.R. 5401. To amend section 308 of the Lewis and Clark Expedition Bicentennial Commemorative Coin Act to make certain clarifying and technical amendments.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, June 12, 2006, at 12:30 p.m., for morning hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7939. A letter from the Attorney, Office of Assistant General Counsel for Legislation and Regulatory Law, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standby Support for Certain Nuclear Plant Delays (RIN: 1901-AB17) Receievd May 18, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7940. A letter from the Attorney, Office of Assistant General Counsel for Legislation and Regulatory Law, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedures for Distribution Transformers [Docket No. EE-TP-98-550] (RIN: 1904-AA85) received May 1, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7941. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, HRSA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Smallpox Vaccine Injury Copensation Program: Smallpox (Vaccinia) Vaccine Injury Table (RIN: 0906-AA60) received May 24, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7942. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, HRSA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Smallpox Vaccine Injury Compensation Program: Administrative Implementation (RIN: 0906-AA61) received May 24, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7943. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, CMS, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medicare Program; Inpatient Psychiatric Facilities Prospective Payment System Payment Update for Rate Year Beginning July 1, 2006 (RY 2007) [CMS-1306-F] (RIN: 0938-AN82) received May 1, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7944. A letter from the Regulations Officer, CMS, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment to the Interim Final Regulation for Mental Health Parity [CMS-4094-F4] (RIN: 0938-AN80) received April 28, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7945. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — New Animal Drugs; Removal of Obsolete and Redundant Regulations [Docket No. 2003N-0324] received April 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7946. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks: NUHOMS HD Addition (RIN: 3150-AH93) received May 23, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7947. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Revision of Fee Schedules; Fee Recovery for FY 2006 (RIN: 3150-AH83) received May 24, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7948. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Revision of Fee Schedules; Fee Recovery for FY 2006 (RIN: 3150-AH83) received May 24, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7949. A letter from the Director, Regulations and Rulings Division, Alcohol & Tobacco Tax & Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Change to Vintage Date Requirements (2005R-212P) [T.D. TTB-45; RE: Notice No. 49] (RIN: 1513-AB11) received May 10, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7950. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Coordinated Issue: All Industries Credit for Increasing Research Activities — Extraordinary Expenditures for Utilities [UIL 41.51-01] received May 10, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7951. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Sample Amendment for Roth Elective Deferrals [Notice 2006-44] received May 11, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7952. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Exempt Facility Bonds for Qualified Highway or Surface Freight Transfer Facilities [Notice 2006-45] received May 1, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7953. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Last-in; First-out Inventories (Rev. Rul. 2006-28) received May 25, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7954. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Determination of Issue Price in the Case of Certain Debt Instruments Issued for Property (Rev. Rul. 2006-29) received May 18, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7955. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Determination of Issue Price in the Case of Certain Debt Instruments Issued for Property (Rev. Rul. 2006-24) received April 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7956. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Announcement of Rules to be Included in Final Regulations Under Sections 897(d) and (e) of the Code [Notice 2006-46] received May 25, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7957. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Computer Software Under Section 199(c)(5)(B) [TD 9262] (RIN: 1545-BF57) received May 31, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7958. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Administrative, Procedural, and Miscellaneous (Rev. Proc. 2006-21) received May 31, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7959. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Methods of Determining W-2 Wages for Purposes of the section 199(b)(1) Limitation on the section 199 Deduction for Income Attributable to Domestic Production Activities (Rev. Proc. 2006-22) received May 31, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7960. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Qualified NMWHFIT Exception Extension [Notice 2006-30] received May 31, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7961. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Guidance Necessary to Facilitate Business Electronic Filing and Burden Reduction [TD

9264] (RIN: 1545-BF26) received May 31, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7962. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Income Attributable to Domestic Production Activities [TD 9263] (RIN: 1545-BE33) received May 31, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7963. A letter from the Regulations Officer, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Administrative Review Process for Adjudicating Initial Disability Claims (RIN: 0960-AG31) received April 24, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7964. A letter from the Regulations Officer, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Rules for Helping Blind and Disabled Individuals Achieve Self-Support (RIN: 0960-AG00) received May 23, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7965. A letter from the Regulations Officer, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Civil Monetary Penalties, Assessments and Recommended Exclusions (RIN: 0960-AG08) received April 25, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7966. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, CMS, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medicare Program; State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) [CMS-4005-F] (RIN: 0938-AJ67) received May 25, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

7967. A letter from the Regulations Officer, CMS, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Conditions for Coverage for Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs) [CMS-3064-F] (RIN: 0938-AK81) received May 31, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

7968. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, CMS, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medicaid Program; State Allotments for Payment of Medicare Part B Premiums for Qualifying Individuals: Federal Fiscal Year 2006 [CMS-2231-IFC] (RIN: 0938-AO31) received April 28, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. SENSENBRENNER: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 1595. A bill to implement the recommendations of the Guam War Claims Review Commission; with an amendment (Rept. 109–437 Pt. 2). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 5576. A bill 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, 2007, and for other purposes (Rept. 109–495). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 857. Resolution waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 4939) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes (Rept. 109–496). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. DEAL of Georgia (for himself, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. RUSH, Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. BASS, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. GILLMOR, Mrs. BONO, Mr. UPTON, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. HALL, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. WYNN, and Mrs. MYRICK):

H.R. 5573. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide additional authorizations of appropriations for the health centers program under section 330 of such Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DEAL of Georgia (for himself, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. PITTS, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. BASS, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. GILLMOR, Mrs. BONO, Mr. UPTON, Mr. HALL, Mr. WAXMAN, and Mr. WYNN):

H.R. 5574. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize support for graduate medical education programs in children's hospitals; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CHABOT (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. BACHUS, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. WATT, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi):

H.R. 5575. A bill to provide a mechanism for the determination on the merits of the claims of claimants who met the class criteria in a civil action relating to racial discrimination by the Department of Agriculture but who were denied that determination; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. CAPITO:

H.R. 5577. A bill to enhance protection of records of the Department of Veterans Affairs containing personal identifying information that is required by law to be confidential and privileged from disclosure except as authorized by law; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. DEGETTE (for herself and Mr. GILLMOR):

H.R. 5578. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the protection of human subjects in research; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. LEE, Mr. STARK, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. OLVER, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. FARR, and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California):

H.R. 5579. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include heavier vehicles and sport utility vehicles in the limitation on the depreciation of certain luxury automobiles and to impose the gas guzzler tax on such vehicles; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:

H.R. 5580. A bill to promote global energy security through increased cooperation between the United States and India in diversifying sources of energy, stimulating development of alternative fuels, developing and deploying technologies that promote the clean and efficient use of coal, and improving energy efficiency; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:

H.R. 5581. A bill to prevent abuse of Government credit cards; to the Committee on Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, 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. HIGGINS (for himself, Mr. PENCE, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. CROWLEY, Mrs. MALONEY, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. ROTHMAN, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. NORTHUP, Mr. NADLER, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. KIRK):

H. Res. 858. A resolution condemning the recent vote by the British National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education (NATFHE) to boycott Israeli academia; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. RANGEL (for himself, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. LEE, Mr. WYNN, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. OWENS, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. DAVIS of Alabama):

H. Res. 859. A resolution honoring the life and accomplishments of Katherine Dunham and extending condolences to her family on her death; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H. Res. 860. A resolution calling on the Government of Germany to take immediate action to combat sex trafficking in connection with the 2006 FIFA World Cup, and for other purposes; to the Committee on International Relations.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 65: Mr. PAYNE and Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia.

H.R. 198: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 239: Mr. PICKERING.

H.R. 303: Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD and Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 427: Mr. MCNULTY.

H.R. 475: Mr. KUCINICH and Mr. HOLT.

H.R. 559: Mr. STARK.

H.R. 713: Mrs. EMERSON.

H.R. 807: Mr. HINCHEY.

H.R. 910: Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. FARR, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, and Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.

H.R. 1106: Mr. EMANUEL.

H.R. 1248: Mr. HALL.

H.R. 1370: Mr. GALLEGLY.

H.R. 1384: Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. STRICKLAND, and Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee.

H.R. 1545: Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. BOREN, Mr. FILNER, and Mr. RAHALL.
H.R. 1595: Mr. SERRANO.
H.R. 1648: Mrs. MALONEY.
H.R. 1704: Mr. BROWN of Ohio.
H.R. 1898: Mr. CAMPBELL of California.
H.R. 2088: Mr. JENKINS, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. BOYD, Mr. BERRY, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. HENSARLING, and Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee.
H.R. 2178: Mr. STARK.
H.R. 2456: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 2629: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, and Mr. BROWN of Ohio.
H.R. 2861: Mr. MCCOTTER and Mr. SAXTON.
H.R. 3137: Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin.
H.R. 3145: Mr. SHAYS.
H.R. 3147: Mr. PLATTS.
H.R. 3159: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 3248: Mr. KIRK and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H.R. 3361: Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 3427: Mr. FATTAH, Mr. PLATTS, and Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3478: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 3795: Mr. PAUL.
H.R. 3948: Mr. PLATTS.
H.R. 3986: Mrs. TAUSCHER.
H.R. 4005: Mr. CONYERS and Mr. MEEKS of New York.
H.R. 4025: Mr. PLATTS.
H.R. 4042: Mr. BONNER and Mr. LATHAM.
H.R. 4045: Mr. SHAW.
H.R. 4144: Mr. PAUL.
H.R. 4222: Mr. CARNAHAN.
H.R. 4403: Mr. LATHAM.
H.R. 4416: Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. BURTON of Indiana.
H.R. 4434: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 4620: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas and Mr. PAUL.
H.R. 4622: Mr. EHLERS.
H.R. 4710: Ms. HERSETH.
H.R. 4760: Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. BROWN of Ohio.
H.R. 4772: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.R. 4790: Mr. HASTINGS of Washington.
H.R. 4829: Ms. DELAURO.
H.R. 4834: Mr. FOSSELLA.
H.R. 4894: Mr. TIBERI and Mr. BEAUPREZ.
H.R. 4960: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H.R. 4970: Mr. HERGER.
H.R. 4992: Ms. HOOLEY.
H.R. 5013: Mr. CRAMER and Mr. STRICKLAND.
H.R. 5023: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. GUTIERREZ, and Mr. STARK.
H.R. 5024: Mr. FEENEY.
H.R. 5092: Mr. HENSARLING, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, Mr. HOLDEN, and Mr. CRAMER.
H.R. 5113: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 5139: Mr. UDALL of Colorado.
H.R. 5140: Mr. UDALL of Colorado.
H.R. 5148: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.
H.R. 5166: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 5177: Mr. FATTAH and Mr. BACHUS.
H.R. 5182: Mr. COOPER, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. EDWARDS, and Mr. PAUL.
H.R. 5185: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 5195: Mr. GERLACH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. GILCHREST, and Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida.
H.R. 5198: Mr. SOUDER, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, and Ms. HART.
H.R. 5201: Mr. BOREN, Mr. NUNES, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. BEAUPREZ, and Mr. BECERRA.
H.R. 5206: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 5223: Mr. SERRANO.
H.R. 5225: Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. TOWNS.
H.R. 5280: Mr. WYNN and Mr. JEFFERSON.
H.R. 5314: Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, and Mr. BEAUPREZ.
H.R. 5316: Mr. MURPHY, Mr. ORTIZ, and Mr. COBLE.
H.R. 5337: Mr. CAMPBELL of California, Mr. OWENS, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. TIBERI, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mr. WATT.
H.R. 5356: Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. HONDA, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. COSTA, and Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 5358: Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. HONDA, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. COSTA, and Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 5365: Mr. LEVIN, Mr. STUPAK, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 5388: Mr. BERMAN.
H.R. 5390: Mr. RAHALL.
H.R. 5391: Mr. NUNES.
H.R. 5442: Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 5450: Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 5452: Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida.
H.R. 5453: Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. DRAKE, and Mr. MORAN of Virginia.
H.R. 5455: Mr. CRAMER.
H.R. 5463: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H.R. 5496: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.
H.R. 5500: Mr. CHABOT.
H.R. 5519: Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. MCCOTTER, and Mr. MOORE of Kansas.
H.R. 5520: Mr. NUNES, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. POE, Mr. FORBES, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. HERGER, and Mr. SAXTON.
H.R. 5526: Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. MARCHANT, and Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin.
H.R. 5529: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 5536: Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire, Mrs. MALONEY, and Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 5558: Mr. OSBORNE.
H.J. Res. 88: Mr. HULSHOF, Mr. PUTNAM, and Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.
H. Con. Res. 57: Ms. WATSON.
H. Con. Res. 222: Mr. SIMMONS.
H. Con. Res. 390: Mr. WELLER and Mr. MCCOTTER.
H. Con. Res. 391: Mr. OWENS.
H. Con. Res. 415: Mr. MCNULTY and Mr. WAXMAN.
H. Con. Res. 419: Mr. KING of New York.
H. Res. 79: Mr. SALAZAR.
H. Res. 782: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H. Res. 804: Mrs. BLACKBURN and Mr. PETRI.
H. Res. 825: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H. Res. 838: Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. MURPHY, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
H. Res. 852: Mr. CASTLE.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS— ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

The following Members added their names to the following discharge petitions:

Petition 3 by Mr. EDWARDS on House Resolution 271: Allyson Y. Schwartz.

Petition 6 by Mr. ABERCROMBIE on House Resolution 543: Bill Pascrell, Jr., and Melvin L. Watt.

Petition 13 by Mr. COSTELLO on House Resolution 814: Patrick J. Kennedy and Lane Evans.

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable WAYNE ALLARD, a Senator from the State of Colorado.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Loving King of the universe, thank You that nothing can separate us from Your love. Remind us that we are surrounded by Your unconditional, positive regard, regardless of our faults and failures. Help us to see that our anxieties and fears, our doubts and disappointments cannot diminish Your affection for us.

Today, bless the Members of this legislative body. Give them wisdom to see what needs to be done and the courage to do it. Help them to persevere in doing Your will, knowing that a productive harvest is certain.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable WAYNE ALLARD 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 9, 2006.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable WAYNE ALLARD, a Senator from the State of Colorado, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. ALLARD thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak up to 10 minutes each.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today we will be in for a period of morning business. We do not expect a lengthy session over the course of this morning for today.

Last night, we reached an agreement to begin consideration of the Department of Defense authorization bill on Monday at 3 o'clock. Chairman WARNER and Senator LEVIN will be in the Senate inviting Members to deliver their opening remarks. We expect amendments to be offered later in the day on Monday. There will be no rollcall votes on Monday. I anticipate debating amendments and setting votes to occur on Tuesday morning. Therefore, we expect at least one vote to occur Tuesday prior to the policy meetings.

As a reminder to our colleagues, we will have the official photograph taken in the Senate Chamber at 2:15 on Tuesday. Senators should be seated at their desk promptly at 2:15 to avoid missing that photograph.

Following that, we have a debate period set aside prior to a cloture vote on a mine safety and health nomination reported out of the HELP committee back in March.

Early next week, we will be considering the supplemental appropriations conference report when it arrives from the House. We hope to dispose of that conference report in a reasonable amount of time in order to return to the Defense authorization bill.

Clearly, there is much to do next week. We will need everyone's assistance as we schedule these items.

We currently have a lot of things going on in addition to what is going on in the Senate Chamber. The supplemental conference bill, as most people have heard, is coming along and has come along very well. We will be doing that next week. There is a pensions bill in conference. There is real progress being made on that particular bill as well.

ALLIGATOR ALLEY CAR ACCIDENT

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I take a few moments to share an account of an event that occurred nearly 3½ years ago. The story I tell is a very tragic story. At the time, it received a lot of media coverage, but because of a recent fortuitous occurrence, it has again become relevant.

Each year around Christmas, some time before, usually afterwards, my family, Karyn and our three boys, and my extended family, have a tradition of going to Fort Lauderdale, FL, a tradition that began well over 40 years ago by my parents and my own brothers and sisters—I have two brothers and two sisters—and their children, and usually, almost always, several friends from a number of those individuals spend time together enjoying the

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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occasion, being together as a family, reliving old memories and, along the way, creating new ones.

On New Year's Day in 2003, I had taken my sons, Jonathan and Bryan, two of my three sons, on a trip to the Everglades. It was to spend the day in the Everglades, showing them the beauty of that wonderful area and the rich tradition that is reflected by the beauty there and by nature. We had a wonderful day.

On the way back—and this is west of Fort Lauderdale—on the way back in, we were heading down what is Interstate 75 west in that part of Florida. It runs directly east back to Fort Lauderdale. That whole track is known as Alligator Alley. It was an ordinary day. We had a wonderful day together as a family. It was a great start to a new year—again, it was New Year's Day—an opportunity to share with family the beauty of that environment, the gorgeous, wonderful, magnificent part of this country.

As we were talking about events of the day as we were driving, suddenly traffic came to a halt. Just ahead, I saw red lights flashing. We pulled onto the median. I came out of the car because something clearly had happened, and it had just happened several moments earlier.

Walking down the median, I approached a horrific scene. It was a little bit in the distance, 100 yards away. There was a crumpled red car on its side, an SUV. There were men, women, and children who clearly had been thrown, hurled from that vehicle, a distance of 25, 50, even 75 yards. I remember looking out—again, it was a beautiful day, a sunny day—and as with any event such as this that occurs so quickly, so unexpectedly, we saw the streaming smoke coming from an overturned vehicle with an open door. We saw a crushed car. We did not see another car near it. Clearly, the car had flipped. Then we saw these bodies that were hurled, thrown, from this vehicle a great distance in this beautiful green median. It was a surreal environment.

It was not immediately clear to me how many people had been injured, but the fact you could tell there were several people around the car, and there were at least four people in the median over this distance, I knew that what I was witnessing was clearly devastating. It was serious.

At that time, there were no other health personnel on the scene. As a doctor, and as one who has spent days and years in emergency rooms and in operating rooms, in terms of the immediate response, it comes pretty natural in terms of evaluation, triage, and resuscitation. The real challenge was being out there, and you saw over a distance of 75 yards four people who had such a traumatic accident. Two adults had climbed out of the vehicle itself. There were four individuals—four, what appeared to be lifeless, motionless bodies, women and children, two children and two adults—who lay in the median.

Lara Spalding, whom I did not know at the time—I will come back to Lara in just a little bit—then was a nursing student at Nashville—this is the irony of it—Nashville's Belmont University, and actually worked in the emergency room there with some of my colleagues back at Vanderbilt, where I worked for 10 years as a cardio surgeon, heart surgeon, trauma surgeon.

She later described the scene that day:

> It was awful. It looked like someone had dropped six people from a 5-story building.

At that point in time when I was there—and I didn't know Lara at the time—she was there either at the same time or a few seconds afterwards, there were no other doctors on the scene. Alligator Alley being so far out at that time—although it has changed, thank goodness—the emergency personnel had to come from within Fort Lauderdale to come out along one stretch of highway. It was probably 25, 30 miles, so health personnel were not yet on the scene.

When that sort of thing happens, you know your immediate responsibility needs to be to assess the situation, triage their care, and to initiate resuscitation appropriately, but the problem is people were scattered over a 75-yard distance.

I did what I could; that was, rapidly assess the ABCs in terms of resuscitation, in getting airways, and when the medical personnel started to arrive, both by helicopter, trauma teams, relief teams and ambulances started coming in, help them triage and direct them to the people who needed the care the most. And then for individuals conducting the appropriate resuscitation, of establishing an airway, making sure they were breathing and receiving CPR.

In that sort of event, it is important to get someone on the telephone to coordinate overall, so I spent a lot of time talking to 911 and the hospitals that coordinated the personnel, and as the paramedics arrived by helicopter, was able to say: You are on the ground now. Don't waste your time here; that is taken care of. And they were able to go to another patient.

I mentioned all that because I do think it is important for people to participate. Lara, at the time, was with one of the patients, cradling them, giving appropriate encouragement and instruction to personnel who were arriving who very much appreciate her heroism in stopping along the side of the road and assisting.

In addition to Ms. Spalding, there was an off-duty paramedic and five others who also stopped to help. Ms. Spalding, Lara Spalding—I will come back to her again shortly—at that time was a nursing student but before had been an Army medic who had worked at Vanderbilt University Trauma Center. She was of huge assistance in terms of the triage, assisting the paramedics.

I remember her going over to one boy who had a mangled leg. She cradled his head and tried to keep him comfortable. She later said:

> You're prepared for this when you're in a trauma center . . . but not when you're driving down the road.

I also want to comment on the men and women of the Broward County Sheriff's Office Division of Fire Rescue, particularly Incident Commander Chris Koski and his firefighters who also came on the scene and were so professional, so experienced. They deserve tremendous credit.

As far as the rescue operators, the first responders out there do not get enough credit. They are out there 24 hours a day responding to these incidents. They responded in such a quiet, humble, and heroic way. They all deserve our gratitude. They are heroes, not just for this particular day but for the work they do every day. That is what they do every single day and night.

I do remember the people whom we could not help: Felicienne Kali, a beautiful 11-year-old girl whom we were unable to resuscitate, died at the scene. Her 14-year-old brother, Felix Kali, unfortunately, died later that day. Shadia Rene, a 20-year-old half-sister of the two, we were able to resuscitate but died 3 days later at the hospital. The two parents lived. A family friend who was in the automobile also lived.

After the tragic events of that day, I went back to see them the next day at the hospital, to console and to comfort them as much as one can in that time of tragedy.

There is little anyone can say directly to a family or to people involved to address such grief, but I do pray for their family to this day.

I clearly wish there was more that could have been done in response, despite the heroic actions of so many of the paramedical personnel, first responders, and Lara Spalding. I keep mentioning Lara Spalding because it was 2 years ago that my staff ran into her and talked to her. She was at that time working as a nurse at the Johns Hopkins University Hospital. In May, she took a new job. Today, she works here in the Nation's Capitol. I didn't know this until just a few days ago. She works in the Office of the Attending Physician. I was unaware of that and then had the opportunity to learn about that last week. I am delighted that she is here in the Nation's Capitol. I know she will be of great service to the U.S. Congress and to our Nation. While I would have gladly recommended her based specifically on her actions that day, I clearly had no role in her actually being hired but do appreciate her service.

SUPPLEMENTAL SPENDING

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise to discuss the issue of spending in Washington, DC. None of us, as elected representatives, Democrat or Republican, in the House or the Senate, can go home without people saying: Washington seems to be spending too much.

I mention that only because we are going to be addressing the supplemental bill.

As many people saw on the news last night, agreement was reached on the limit and content of the supplemental spending bill which we have been working on for well over 2 months. What we will talk about next week but what was demonstrated and what was released by the conference last night is that we are on the right track today. The level and the substance of that bill does adhere to our calls for a conference report that limited its total amount to the President's request for true emergency spending—no fat, no excessive spending. Those criteria have been met. It focuses resources on important priorities, priorities such as funding border security, which we spent well over a month on this floor talking about, on conducting the war on terror, and aiding hurricane recovery—all while exercising tight fiscal restraint and responsibility.

Also of note, the bill contains a fiscally prudent spending level for this year's regular appropriations bills. This bill sets a discretionary spending level at the President's request of $873 billion—another very important point of maintaining fiscal discipline.

I applaud the leadership of Senator COCHRAN and Congressman LEWIS in the House to control Federal spending and to ensure effective and appropriate Government use of taxpayer dollars so that our deficit can continue to decline and our economy can continue to grow and prosper.

This adherence to keeping spending low, coupled with our Republican tax policy, has ushered in record economic growth: 5.3 million jobs have been created over the last 3 years; unemployment is down to 4.6, 4.7 percent, lower than the average of the 1990s, lower than the average of the 1970s—again, a huge success.

There is a lot more we have to do, but this supplemental bill is an important step, following through on Republican principles of fiscal restraint.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORNYN). The Senator from Montana is recognized.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise to comment on the events of the past week. We have received word that the leading terrorist in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who was the mastermind of countless brutal attacks and taking lives of members of the U.S. Armed Forces and thousands of innocent Iraqis, was killed. This has been a long time coming. I commend those who worked tirelessly over the past year to finally see the fruits of their labors. Their dedication has saved countless lives. But that does not mean the war on terror is over. We still have a lot of work to do. We know the terrorists never give up. The greatest weapon they have is, of course, fear.

Last weekend, we also heard of a terrorist plot uncovered in Canada. Fortunately, those behind that plot were arrested before they could carry out their plans to murder the Canadian Prime Minister.

We are getting better at our intelligence. We are stopping these attacks. Of course, this will continue to be our mission, and for the people who are in the business of short-circuiting these plots, their job may never end. Terrorists will stop at nothing to incite fear in the minds and hearts of Americans and free-loving people all over the world.

We will fight as long as it takes to defeat them. Part of that fight is ensuring our security at home. My State of Montana borders Canada. In our part of the country, I like to say there is a lot of dirt between light bulbs. That makes it difficult to effectively patrol the border between my State and our friends to the north. Next time, will terrorists enter somewhere along that 550-mile border that my State shares with Canada? What makes it even more difficult is we are used to going back and forth between my State and Canada. We have farmers who farm on both sides of the border. They own farms in Canada, and they also own farms in Montana. Of course, we like the freedom of that movement.

The arrests last weekend have proven that illegal activity happens on our northern border, just like the problems we have on our southern border. I have said many times during the discussion of the immigration bill that we must know who is coming in this country and what for, and we also cannot have any credibility with the American people until we secure the border.

The Senate recently passed a massive immigration bill. There were a number of border security measures in the legislation—recommendations for a security fence, using the National Guard as backup and technical support, and other features. There were also provisions to enhance the security of our northern border, although I think even those could be stronger.

Most notably, however, this legislation did something else with which the American people do not agree: this legislation gave a pathway to citizenship for millions of illegal aliens. For this reason, I simply could not support the bill. Not only is it bad policy, but it sends the message that entering this country illegally is somehow OK.

Folks in my State have said: No amnesty for illegal aliens. They have been saying that until they are blue in the face. They feel strongly about it, so strongly that I received bricks in the mail with big letters on them: Secure the border and build the wall. I am not a big fan of walls. They have never had a history of success. But nonetheless, it sends a strong message on the things we should be doing.

It is a plain fact that illegal activity happens every day on our borders. We are in a great project in the State of Montana called the Montana Meth Project. We are finding out that meth houses have been shut down. Law enforcement has done their job in our State. What we are finding now is meth coming in from outside our borders. Crystal meth is one of the worst fights we have in our State. Other criminal activities pose a threat to the safety of local communities and to our national security as a whole. I know folks in my State have seen this happen firsthand.

Up on the hi-line, border agents in Havre, MT, have arrested illegal immigrants from as many as 35 different countries. Many of these illegal immigrants are found hiding on trains as they pass through Havre and several other towns on the hi-line of Montana. In February, a fugitive thought to be armed and dangerous led the Montana Highway Patrol on two high-speed chases near Kalispell, MT, before being apprehended. He was trying to escape to Canada. Last October, Border Patrol agents spotted a man driving in a stolen pickup toward the Canadian border outside of Cut Bank, MT. After a standoff, the man was shot by officers acting in self-defense.

I know my colleagues from States that share international borders, northern and southern, have stories like this. They can go on forever. We have illegal aliens still flooding into this country through our southern border every day and, yes, some through the northern border. It is not too much to ask for our law enforcement agencies to find, detain, and deport those who have broken the law. It is overwhelming.

It is amazing to me that we can so diligently pursue terrorists as dangerous and as murderous as al-Zarqawi in Iraq and be successful, yet we do not meet with the same success here in this country. When it comes to our own borders, our own immigration policies, mistakes continue to be made both on the ground and here in this Congress.

More importantly, when we allow illegal aliens to stay, what kind of a message does that send to the rest of the world about our immigration policy? If you come here illegally, just wait it out. That is the message we are sending now. We will give you amnesty eventually. It seems that 20 years from now, it will be amnesty once again for even more of those who would enter this country illegally. The 1986 immigration reform act didn't work. Basically, the bill that recently passed the Senate—not with my support—almost mirrors the 1986 act. What good is history if we don't learn the lesson?

As the House and Senate come together to conference on this legislation, I advise taking into account what the American people are telling us. They are telling us what they want, and they are very clear with the message. Just as we continue our efforts in Iraq and our fight in this war on terrorism abroad, we must also ensure a secure border and sound immigration policy at home. There is no way we can

skirt the issue. It burns in the hearts of everybody in my State. They are very clear about the message. You do first things first and second things second.

The first thing we have to do to gain any credibility with the American people is to secure the border, knowing what the cost will be and knowing the job that is ahead of us.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

WAR ON TERROR

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I rise to discuss recent events that are positive steps in the war on terror for the United States and our allies abroad. The first is the announcement that the United States and foreign counterterrorism officials have worked together to make a series of arrests that appear to be linked to a web of Islamic extremists in Canada, the United States, and Europe. The recent death of Iraqi insurgent leader and al-Qaida member Abu Mus'ab al-Zarqawi is another. These are significant victories against those who wish our country harm.

Last week, Canadian officials arrested 17 people for allegedly plotting to carry out a campaign of bombings, kidnappings and other terrorist acts in Ottawa and Toronto. The arrests were made possible by the monitoring of Internet chat rooms and e-mail accounts tied to suspected Islamic extremists. The arrests came after three tons of ammonium nitrate—common garden fertilizer that is easily transformed into an explosive—was allegedly purchased from undercover officers. Two of 17 suspected terrorists were caught trying to smuggle guns and ammunition from the United States into Canada via the Peace Bridge last summer.

These individuals were allegedly using the Internet to communicate with terrorist facilitators abroad, such as a 22-year-old Web site operator with direct links to al-Qaida who was arrested by British police last October on charges of financing and supporting terrorist activities. Authorities believe the Web site operator was in contact with the individuals in the Canadian arrests, as well as two men in the U.S., sharing surveillance videos and other information for potential terrorist attacks. Included in the surveillance videos were many Washington, DC, landmarks.

Also, just last Tuesday British police arrested an American student in London as he prepared to board a flight to Pakistan. He was wanted in New York for allegedly providing military equipment to people who took it to members of Osama bin Laden's terrorist organization in Pakistan. Authorities have not ruled out a connection to the Canadian arrests.

Here in the U.S., the New York and Atlanta joint terrorism task forces recently arrested two men in connection with an alleged terrorist plot. The plot included discussions about blowing up oil refineries and disabling navigational aids on airplanes. The investigation began when California police arrested two men for a gas station robbery. A subsequent search of their home turned up documents listing the addresses of U.S. military recruiting stations, the Israeli Consulate, and synagogues in the Los Angeles area. The investigation eventually revealed the existence of a terrorist cell that had been spawned by a small radical group operating in Folsom Prison who considered themselves the ''al-Qaida of California.''

American counterterrorism officials are joining forces with their colleagues around the world to unravel intricate webs of terrorist organizations that would do us great harm if not for the efforts of these countterror experts. I commend them for their efforts to discover terrorist plots and bring them to a stop before they are carried out.

Much further from home, but still close to our hearts are the brave men and women of our Armed Forces deployed in the Middle East and Afghanistan.

I thank our servicemen and servicewomen in the U.S. Armed Forces for their on-going service to their country, their commitment to American ideals, and their determination to win the global war on terror. We need to continually express our gratitude to the families of the U.S. military personnel, especially those families who have lost loved ones during our most recent deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Most important, our Armed Forces continue to seek out terrorists to disrupt their plans both in the Middle East and abroad. They also continue to provide support and guidance to the Iraqi and Afghani people in their newborn democracies. With their steadfast courage, our citizens in uniform have taken the battle to the enemy and achieved success.

Their most recent victory was the elimination of insurgent leader and al-Qaida member Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. His death is an enormous blow to those who continue to terrorize the Iraqi people. Zarqawi, whom Osama Bin Laden has heaped praise upon, has lead a horrific campaign against our troops in Iraq and against the Iraqi people. I am thankful to say that this mass murderer will no longer be able to carry on attempts at undermining the Iraqi national government and the coalition.

Of note in his demise is the international cooperation that spearheaded the operation. After receiving tips and intelligence of his location from Jordanian sources, Coalition forces killed Zarqawi and many of his lieutenants yesterday in an airstrike. It was this exchange of intelligence information between the United States and Jordan that helped to permanently end Zarqawi's operations. I should also note that the Iraqi police were first on the scene after the air strike to help identify our success.

Also, perhaps lost among this news yesterday was another announcement made by Prime Minister Al-Maliki of Iraq that candidates have been named for important cabinet posts in the Iraqi government. After much negotiation, consensus picks were made to fill the defense and interior ministries—both key to a more secure and stable Iraq. Much of our success depends on the men and women forming the Iraqi government, and these are important steps to meeting the security challenges.

The recent announcements in Iraq and our international counterterrorism efforts, while significant, are only small victories in the overall global war on terror. There are more extremists who will line up to preach against democracy and freedom. There are still those that will attack the free people of this world and want to do us much harm.

After news of Zarqawi's death, the forces of al-Qaida in Iraq vowed publicly to continue their so-called ''holy war'' on innocent civilians. They have stated:

> The death of our leaders is life for us. It will only increase our persistence in continuing holy war so that the word of God will be supreme.

In fact, only two hours after the Zarqawi announcement a bomb blew up in Baghdad killing at least nineteen people. It is clear that our success in Iraq against this enemy depends greatly on our continual cooperation with the Iraqi government and the new ministers in charge of security there.

The global war on terror has been a great challenge for our Nation. Yet while the cost has been high, the cost of doing nothing would be even greater. And we cannot do this alone. Only with help of our neighbors, countrymen, and allies throughout the world can we assure that our democratic ideals defeat those of the terrorist extremists. I thank all of them for a job well done.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMAS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 20 minutes in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CORNYN. I thank the Chair.

FIGHTING TERRORISM

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, there are two things on my mind today that I wanted to share with our colleagues.

First of all, I wanted to come to the floor to take issue with something that I view as a disturbing trend that I have seen develop over the last few days

when it comes to our ongoing efforts to liberate the Iraqi people and to fight the global war on terror.

Yesterday, during a 9 a.m. press conference with MG Bill Caldwell, the military spokesman in Baghdad, regarding the mission that killed terrorist Abu Mus'ab al-Zarqawi, one reporter asked:

> Were you going for Zarqawi? We've heard that you have been going for some other people and then there was some luck involved.

To which Major General Caldwell replied:

> We knew exactly who was there. We knew it was Zarqawi. And that was the deliberate target that we went to get.

An AP story yesterday said:

> What may have changed the Americans' luck was U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad's efforts to mend relations with Iraq's minority Sunni Arabs, alienated by the U.S. invasion and the new Shiite-dominated government.

And a story yesterday in Time Magazine entitled ''How They Got Zarqawi; the Manhunt That Snared Him.''

In part I quote that story:

> The fact that intelligence agencies were able to close in on a man who had eluded capture for three years, during which his terror operations left thousands of Iraqis dead, suggests that some of those close enough to know Zarqawi's whereabouts and connections may have been ready to shop him to his enemies. Not necessarily, of course.

The story goes on to say:

> The intel services could have simply gotten a lucky break through the slow but steady gathering of information, or Zarqawi could have made a mistake. Either way, a key agent in the chaos gripping Iraq has now been taken out of the equation.

Also, as we know, recently there were arrests of 12 men and 5 youths in Canada last weekend, foiling a major terrorist plot to attack targets in southern Ontario. The assistant director of operations of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service said the men arrested are followers of a ''violent ideology inspired by al-Qaida.''

In reporting on this story, CBS News also had this to say with regard to recent terror arrests:

> Police in Toledo, Ohio busted another cell in February. This one consisted of three men training to attack U.S. forces overseas. Once again, luck played a role.

So, Mr. President, I got to thinking about this word, this four-letter word ''luck.'' It is certainly a loaded term, and in the context of yesterday's operation, I think it is a pretty dismissive term as well.

Instead of luck, I would suggest that the elimination of Abu Mus'ab al-Zarqawi was a combination of professionalism, patience, persistence, and precision munitions, not luck. Professionalism, patience, persistence, and precision munitions, not luck.

To me, attributing all of this somehow to luck devalues the preparation of our men and women in uniform as well as our intelligence services and our coalition forces. It doesn't give adequate credit to the heightened awareness that we have exercised since September 11, 2001, and it certainly doesn't do justice to patient, relentless execution of the war on terror by our fighting forces and allies. So I think it is time we get a little perspective.

Was it luck when officials were conducting an investigation that foiled a plot the impact of which had the potential to rival the bombing of the Oklahoma City Federal Building? Was it luck that motivated the Iraqis to tip U.S. forces to Zarqawi's whereabouts? Was it luck that trained our forces to execute that critical mission? And while we are on the subject, was it luck that our men and women in uniform executed the invasion and liberation of Iraq successfully and in a miraculously short period of time? Was it luck that Saddam Hussein was removed from his position as head of a terrible, tortuous regime and found cowering in a spider hole and brought to justice? Was it luck when CIA forces joined with Pakistani authorities to capture top al-Qaida operative Khalid Shaikh Mohammed?

I can't help but find it interesting that, as the old adage goes, the harder our military and intelligence forces work, the luckier they seem to get. Or it could be more apt to say it this way, in the words of the old adage, luck is when preparation meets opportunity.

All of these achievements were hard won, and all of the victories in this global war are bought with a dear price—and we should never forget that or try to dismiss that hard work and those efforts, the determination and sacrifice as merely luck.

It is not luck that is bringing the fight to the terrorists' doorstep. It is not luck that our country and our allies are hunting down those who would threaten our freedom and perhaps even our very way of life. September 11, 2001, was a dark day in our Nation's history. But let's not forget the meaning of our actions as we fight and win the war on terror is inextricably linked to the events on that day, the day the world mourned with us, the day our friends said, ''Today we are all Americans.''

Since that day we have worked to bring terrorists to justice, and we are succeeding. We are succeeding because of commitment, dedication, hard work, patience, and sacrifice. We are going to continue doing all that we can and all that we must to defend the cause of freedom.

I caution those who would dismiss these efforts in a world that in this context has little meaning. Let's recognize these accomplishments for what they are and be thankful for the protection provided by our men and women in uniform, our intelligence communities, our friends, and our allies.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I note that today the Department of Homeland Security is announcing the publication of a regulation that addresses a deficiency in the work verification process to make sure that only people who can legally work in the United States are capable of doing so. Of course, this is long overdue.

The Senate and the House have both passed immigration bills that would overhaul employment verification laws. Restricting the employment of undocumented workers as a means of reducing illegal immigration is not a new concept. For decades, policymakers have recognized that eliminating the magnet of illegal employment is the key, some might even say the linchpin, to controlling illegal immigration.

In 1981, the bipartisan Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy recommended legislation making it illegal to hire undocumented workers. In 1997, the bipartisan U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform stated that eliminating the employment magnet is the linchpin of a comprehensive strategy to deter unlawful immigration.

The U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform went on to conclude that ''the most promising option for verifying work authorization is a computerized registry based on the Social Security number.''

Despite 25 years of consensus, current employment verification laws are unworkable and unenforceable. An employer must review some combination of up to 29 different documents to determine whether a new worker is legal. Document fraud and identity theft have contributed to the problem, making it easier for unscrupulous employers to look the other way and hire unauthorized workers. The employer sanctions provisions that were passed in 1986, which were supposed to be the tradeoff for the amnesty provided to 3 million people—those employer sanctions have been completely ineffective. So while the amnesty was a success in the sense that 3 million people got a pass, the enforcement necessary to avoid another buildup of illegal aliens was never delivered.

As I said at the outset, the Department of Homeland Security is issuing the publication of a regulation today that addresses this deficiency. It is proposing a rule that will help responsible employers ensure that they are not employing individuals who cannot legally work in the United States. When hired, employees in the United States must present documents to their employers to show that they can work here legally. Many people use their Social Security card as one of those documents.

When unauthorized aliens try to defraud their employers by presenting fraudulent identification or Social Security cards, the employers will often receive a ''no match'' letter from the Social Security administration. This ''no match'' letter informs the employer that the name associated with the Social Security number does not match.

Until now, many employers have not known what steps to take upon receiving such a mismatch notice. Many mistakenly believe that they must immediately fire the employee. The absence of clear guidance has frustrated employers and, all too often, legal employees end up losing their jobs because of this confusion. The proposed rule outlines clear steps that employers can take in reaction to receiving ''no match'' letters.

The proposed rule contains a safe harbor for employers. If businesses follow these procedures in good faith, they can be assured they will not be subject to sanctions.

While the vast majority of employers seek to comply with the law, too many employers turn a blind eye to obvious violations of the law. In fact, a small percentage of employers are responsible for a large percentage of ''no match'' letters. The General Accounting Office reported that between 1985 and the year 2000, only 8,900 employers were responsible for 30 percent of ''no match'' reports.

Some of the other statistics in the General Accounting Office report are even more troubling. Several employers used one Social Security number for more than 100 different employees—the same Social Security number for more than 100 different employees. One employer used a single Social Security number for 2,580 different wage reports. Mr. President, 8.9 million wage reports had all zeros for the Social Security number. In other words, there was no attempt made whatsoever to come up with the correct and accurate number, so zeros were offered as a Social Security number in 8.9 million wage reports.

Mr. President, 43 different employers used the same Social Security number for more than one employee—for 16 years in a row.

The Department of Homeland Security recently conducted the largest worksite enforcement raid to date against a company known as IFCO Systems, arresting more than 1,000 illegal aliens and charging several managers with criminal violations.

Approximately 53.4 percent of the Social Security numbers for IFCO systems were invalid—half—and Social Security had notified the company more than 13 times regarding these discrepancies before it finally acted.

This regulation will therefore provide guidance to employers who seek to comply with the law and will allow the Government to prosecute those who turn a blind eye. But this action by the Department of Homeland Security is only a Band-Aid for the underlying problem. Employers do not have a reliable method to ascertain whether employees are eligible to work in the United States. A paper-based system such as we have now, where you can use up to 29 different documents, will always be vulnerable to fraud and abuse.

Electronic verification is the way. It has been tested for more than 10 years, and an independent review of the program, the so-called basic pilot program, found that 96 percent of participating employers believe the electronic verification system is an effective tool for employment verification. The Senate immigration bill improves upon the current paper-based system and requires an expansion of the electronic verification system. But the Department of Homeland Security Secretary Chertoff told me personally that he has problems with some of the provisions in the Senate bill and that, as drafted, he considers it unworkable.

In my capacity as chairman of the Immigration, Border Security and Citizenship Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I intend to hold a hearing in the coming weeks on this critical issue of employment verification to make sure we get it right.

Twenty years ago Congress sold Americans a bill of goods. They said if you will accept the amnesty, then we will have workable worksite verifications and sanctions against employers who cheat. Yet today, here we are wrestling with the problem, not of 3 million undocumented workers but 12 million. Obviously, the amnesty without worksite verification and employer sanctions is merely a magnet for future illegal immigration.

I believe Americans are a forgiving people. If someone makes a mistake and repents, asks forgiveness and says; I'll try better next time, they are pretty forgiving. But if we are viewed as merely repeating the same mistakes and attempting to trick the American people into accepting another amnesty without actually trying to solve the problem, the consequences for our society and for our national security and for our economy will be too great.

I will, therefore, continue to work with my colleagues diligently during the conference with the House to develop an employment verification system, along with a temporary worker program, that reduces employer burdens and protects workers' rights, but which will allow us finally, once and for all, to come to grips with our broken immigration system.

RECOGNITION FOR LINK PIAZZO

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to honor one of Nevada's true patriots, Lincoln Piazzo: a Reno native, veteran, businessman, and philanthropist.

Link Piazzo is the son of proud Italian immigrants who came to Reno in the early 1900s. Link was born in Reno on December 11, 1918. His father was committed to realizing the good life in America and passed this motivation on to his children. Link inherited his father's great commitment to honesty, vision, helping friends, and the belief that there is no country like the United States of America.

Link attended Mary S. Doten Elementary School, Northside Junior High School, and Reno High School. During World War II, he served as a pilot in the U.S. Army Air Corps and flew B–25 bombers on 67 combat missions. He is an honored war veteran and a recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross for significant war efforts and achievements.

Community involvement has always been a major part of Link Piazzo's life. He has spent a significant time giving to others and contributing to his community. He has donated his energy and resources to a number of civic and fraternal organizations and is a well-respected citizen of the community. Link volunteered his services as official scorer and timer for high school zone and State basketball tournaments for 33 years. He was a sports broadcaster for the University of Nevada games from 1945 to 1950 and was co-organizer of the first Reno Little League. He is cofounder of the Reno Junior Ski Program that still continues to benefit local junior skiers.

As a northern Nevada community leader, Link has been a member of many civic and social organizations. He has served on the Reno YMCA Board, the Reno Rodeo Association Executive Committee, Sierra Nevada Sportswriters and Broadcasters Association, National Sporting Goods Association, the Local United Way Chapter Board, the Board for Hidden Valley Properties, the Reno Rodeo Association Executive Committee, and the Reno Rotary Club. Link has been honored by the National Sporting Goods Association—National Sporting Goods Hall of Fame, and the Washoe County School District's Outstanding Graduate Award for Outstanding Community Service.

Link has also played a significant role in his community's development. In 1938, he cofounded the Sportsman Store with his brother. He was also codeveloper of the Hidden Valley Country Club and Golf Course properties. He has supported the Reno Rotary Club, construction projects for the Reno High School Alumni Center, the Nevada Humane Society's Regional Animal Shelter, and the Reno YMCA Youth Center.

Link's positive outlook on life serves as motivation for all who meet him. He weathered the Great Depression, fought in World War II, and helped to build and then nurture his community and country. Link is a very successful man when success means helping others and helping others achieve. He works hard and has persevered. Link Piazzo is a true American patriot and humanitarian.

DISCUSSING TAX CUTS

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, in the wake of yet another contentious debate over the size and scope of the Republican tax cuts, I believe that it is high time that this Chamber engages in a serious discussion about the fiscal condition of our Nation and that Senators make an objective assessment of what the economic policies of the last 5

years have wrought on our Nation's long-term economic security. It is critically important that we realize that every tax cut we debate or enact today, will have a cost for workers and future generations down the road. Despite the best wishes of some Senators, there is no such thing as a tax cut that pays for itself and the fiscal profligacy of the last few years will have a dramatic effect on the economic opportunities for the next generation of Americans. Indeed, what has made this Nation great is only the result of the commitment of each generation of Americans to leave a country for their children and grandchildren that was a little better than they found it. We need to ask whether our economic choices today will enable us to fulfill that commitment.

A recent article in U.S. News and World Report magazine has clearly laid out what is at stake with the fiscal decisions that we have made and will continue to make in the months and years to come. Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that this article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From U.S. News and World Report, May 1, 2006]

PLAYING FAIR ON TAXES

(By Mortimer B. Zuckerman)

Millions of Americans breathe relief at having filed their tax returns. Once again they were face to face with the complexities of compliance, which is why the average American family spends about 26 hours on the task. Every administration promises it will simplify the tax codes, but 60 percent of Americans still need professional help, at a cost of $150 billion a year. They are not dummies. They are busy, honest people who have to cope with grotesquely swollen federal tax regulations. The number of rules has risen by over 40 percent in the past four years, from 46,900 in 2000 to 66,498 last year. Is there anyone, really, who can figure out the complicated and tricky alternative minimum tax? Designed to stop rich people from claiming too many deductions, it now ensnares millions of middle-class families.

There is no point in expecting Congress to simplify the tax code. Why? Because congressmen need lobbyists to get elected, which means they need millions of dollars, and the lobbyists are intent on inventing new complexities to give tax breaks to well-connected companies and individuals or for fashionable public crusades.

Even more lamentably, Congress, over the past five years, has diminished the progressivity of our tax system, which has always required richer people to pay a higher rate than poorer ones. A progressive tax has long supported an expanding middle class and should provide the greatest rewards for the people who work hardest. But the Bush tax cuts have made it less so.

The 2001 income tax rate cuts and the 2003 capital-gains and dividends cuts have lowered the average tax rate for the richest one tenth of 1 percent of Americans by 3.8 percent but reduced taxes just .03 percent for the bottom 20 percent. Of the tax savings on investment, the lion's share—more than 70 percent—went to the top 2 percent. Of the 90 percent of taxpayers who make less than $100,000, only 14 percent benefited from the dividend-tax cut and only 5 percent from the capital-gains-tax cut. People who own stocks hold them in retirement accounts, which are ineligible for investment relief, and when withdrawn, the profits are reduced by the higher rate applied to wage earnings.

In this way, the tax burden on the richest has been reduced to where those who earn $10 million or more pay at a lesser rate than those who earn between $500,000 and $1 million. (And the top 400 pay at an even lower rate!) In part, that's why the share of income going to the top 1 percent of Americans has jumped from 9 percent to 14 percent of our national income, an increase of 50 percent. It is inequitable, reprehensible, absurd, and unfair. Is it any wonder that an NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll last year found that most Americans, 54 percent, believed the Bush tax cuts weren't worth it?

Class warfare? Yes, these cuts have helped stimulate the economy. But they have also turned the impressive fiscal surplus when President Clinton left office into a long-term budget deficit now trillions of dollars, of which about 60 percent can be attributed to the ''Bush effect.'' These deficits are mortgaging workers'' future pay gains to fund baby boomers' retirement payments.

And they're being financed with borrowed money, which will have to be repaid, with interest, by taxpayers of the future. All of this as we face an aging population that will drive up the cost of government retirement programs with serious consequences for our future living standards in the form of higher taxes or lower benefits. Social Security will provide less of a safety net; Medicare will not be able to guarantee healthcare to older Americans; and Medicaid will no longer be able to help the poor.

The tax cuts on investment income should not be extended after they expire in 2010. One argument in favor of keeping the cuts in place is that eliminating them would hurt economic growth. Yet, when President Clinton raised the marginal rate on high incomes, the opposite occurred: Unemployment dropped without causing inflation; productivity and growth accelerated to levels not seen since the 1960s, and the budget deficit was converted to an impressive surplus. Government borrowing stopped draining the capital markets, freeing up money for private investment.

Nor can it be said that taking these new tax cuts from the wealthy would amount to class warfare. It is hardly class warfare to suggest that some of the $750 billion a year that the top 10 percent of income earners are taking in now should go to sustain the fiscal health of the country and the expansion of our middle class and to maintain America as a true land of opportunity.

Remember that job security, private pensions, and employer-provided healthcare coverage are being cut back. Remember that there is significant erosion in public services such as schools, colleges, transportation, health, recreation, and job training. Understand why large numbers of people in our society are feeling increasingly vulnerable. It is time to redress the balance.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SPANGLER CANDY COMPANY

• Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, today I recognize an outstanding achievement resulting from a century of hard work and perseverance. This August, the Spangler Candy Company, a family-owned business based in Bryan, OH, will be celebrating its 100th birthday. This is quite a milestone—a testament to Spangler's commitment to its customers and community.

On August 20, 1906, Arthur Spangler purchased the Gold Leaf Baking Company in Defiance, OH, for $450 and moved the operations to Bryan. The Spangler Manufacturing Company was born, originally producing baking soda, baking powder, corn starch, laundry starch, spices, and flavorings. Arthur's brother, Ernest, joined the company 2 years later and suggested adding candy to the production line. This proved to be an excellent idea. In 1920, the name changed from the Spangler Manufacturing Company to the Spangler Candy Company. Since that time, the Spangler Candy Company has remained a family-owned and operated business and maintains the values that made it so successful—hard work and innovation.

In 2001, an outside warehouse fire at Oberhaus Enterprises in Archibold, OH, destroyed 110,000 cases of Spangler products at a value of $6.5 million. This disaster could very easily have destroyed the Spangler spirit, but instead, it only made the organization stronger. Today, the Spangler Candy Company employs about 400 people in the United States and is a global leader in confectionary production and sales. The company has helped many Ohioans build their dreams, while at the same time, the Spangler Corporation has achieved the American dream.

So today I salute the Spangler Corporation for a century of demanding work, inspiration, and commitment to the northwest Ohio area. I wish them all the best for the next 100 years.•

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. COBURN (for himself, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. VITTER):

S. 3488. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue code of 1986 to expand the permissible use of health savings accounts to include health insurance payments, to increase the dollar limitation for contributions to health

savings accounts, to allow the rollover of unused funds from health reimbursement arrangements to health savings accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. BURR):

S. 3489. A bill to provide loans and grants for fire sprinkler retrofitting in nursing facilities; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 635

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 635, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the benefits under the medicare program for beneficiaries with kidney disease, and for other purposes.

S. 2278

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2278, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of heart disease, stroke, and other cardiovascular diseases in women.

S. 2599

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2599, a bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to prohibit the confiscation of firearms during certain national emergencies.

S. 2635

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2635, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the transportation fringe benefit to bicycle commuters.

S. 2658

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2658, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance the national defense through empowerment of the Chief of the National Guard Bureau and the enhancement of the functions of the National Guard Bureau, and for other purposes.

S. 2831

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2831, a bill to guarantee the free flow of information to the public through a free and active press while protecting the right of the public to effective law enforcement and the fair administration of justice.

S. 3114

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3114, a bill to establish a bipartisan commission on insurance reform.

S. 3486

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3486, a bill to protect the privacy of veterans, spouses of veterans, and other persons affected by the security breach at the Department of Veterans Affairs on May 3, 2006, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 494

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 494, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the creation of refugee populations in the Middle East, North Africa, and the Persian Gulf region as a result of human rights violations.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. BURR):

S. 3489. A bill to provide loans and grants for fire sprinkler retrofitting in nursing facilities; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise to introduce bipartisan legislation with my colleague from North Carolina, Senator BURR, that seeks to protect nursing home residents, staff, and visitors from the dangers associated with fire.

In February, 2003, a multialarm fire at a nursing home in Hartford, CT, took the lives of 16 residents. It was the worst nursing home fire in Connecticut's history. The tragic loss of life was made worse by the fact that the nursing home lacked an automatic sprinkler system—a defect disturbingly present in many nursing homes across the country.

I believe many Americans—especially those with a loved one in a nursing home facility—would be shocked to learn that, according to the Government Accountability Office, GAO, between 20 and 30 percent of the country's 17,000 nursing homes lack an automatic sprinkler system. In its 2004 report, the GAO found that ''the substantial loss of life in the [Hartford fire] could have been reduced or eliminated by the presence of properly functioning automatic sprinkler systems.'' Furthermore, the report concluded that ''the Federal oversight of nursing home compliance with fire safety standards is inadequate.''

Responding to the fire in Hartford and a similar tragedy in Nashville, TN, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS, required that nursing homes without automatic sprinkler systems install battery-operated smoke detectors. While this new requirement was viewed as a positive step, it was largely criticized by fire and patient-safety advocates because smoke detectors are often not wired to a central alarm system or a fire department.

I believe it is safe to assume that nursing home directors do not choose freely to operate their facilities without automatic sprinkler systems. According to the GAO and American Health Care Association, most nursing homes simply cannot afford the cost incurred by installing an automatic sprinkler system. Furthermore, almost all of these facilities cannot afford the cost because of forces beyond their control. Today, nursing homes—including many in Connecticut—are financially strained by inadequate reimbursement rates from Medicare and Medicaid, rising insurance premiums, rising energy costs, and the general cost of care for some of our country's sickest patients.

That is why Senator BURR and I are introducing this legislation. The Nursing Home Fire Safety Act of 2006 contains two principal components.

First, the legislation includes a resolution expressing the sense of Congress that, within 5 years, every nursing home facility in the United States should be equipped with an automatic sprinkler system. The resolution also urges CMS to adopt the National Fire Protection Association's Life Safety Code, a nationally-renowned set of criteria addressing ''construction, protection, and occupancy features necessary to minimize danger to life from fire, including smoke, fumes, or panic.''

Second, the legislation provides low-interest loans and grants to nursing homes in proven need of financial assistance. The larger loan initiative assists nursing homes that cannot afford the upfront costs of installing automatic sprinkler systems but can afford to pay back a low-interest Government loan. The smaller grant initiative would assist qualified nursing homes that lack any ability to pay for the installation of an automatic sprinkler system. Together, these initiatives would provide critical resources to prevent tragedies like those seen in Hartford and Nashville from occurring again.

I thank my colleague from North Carolina, Senator BURR, for introducing this bipartisan measure with me. I also thank Congressmen JOHN LARSON from Connecticut and PETER KING from New York for spearheading companion legislation in the House. I look forward to working with all of my colleagues to protect nursing home residents, staff, and visitors from the dangers associated with fire.

I ask unanimous consent that the full text of the legislation be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3489

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 ''Nursing Home Fire Safety Act of 2006''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) An estimated 1,500,000 Americans reside in approximately 16,300 nursing facilities nationwide, an estimated 20 to 30 percent of which lack an automatic fire sprinkler system.

(2) In a July 2004 report, the Government Accountability Office found that ''the substantial loss of life in [recent nursing home] fires could have been reduced or eliminated by the presence of properly functioning automatic sprinkler systems'' and that ''Federal oversight of nursing home compliance with fire safety standards is inadequate''.

(3) Many nursing facilities lack the financial capital to install sprinklers on their own and must consider closure as an alternative to taking on large loans or other financing options in order to install sprinklers.

(4) Recognizing that automatic fire sprinkler systems greatly improve the chances of survival for older adults in the event of a fire, the National Fire Protection Association, with the support of the American Health Care Association, the fire safety community, and the nursing facility profession, recently issued the 2006 edition of the Life Safety Code which requires automatic sprinklers in all existing nursing facilities.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) within 5 years, every nursing facility in America should be equipped with automatic fire sprinklers in order to ensure patient, resident, and staff safety;

(2) the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) should quickly adopt the 2006 edition of the Life Safety Code, recently issued by the National Fire Protection Association with the support of the nursing home industry, which includes the requirement that all nursing facilities be fully sprinklered; and

(3) the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, in collaboration with Congress, should take into consideration the costs of retrofitting existing nursing home facilities and commit itself to providing facilities with the critical financial resources necessary to ensure the speedy and full installation of life saving sprinkler systems.

SEC. 3. DIRECT LOANS FOR FIRE SPRINKLERS RETROFITS.

(a) AUTHORITY.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall establish a program of direct loans to existing nursing facilities to finance retrofitting the facilities with an automatic fire sprinkler system. Such loans shall be made under terms and conditions specified by the Secretary.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2011.

SEC. 4. SPRINKLER RETROFIT ASSISTANCE GRANTS.

(a) AUTHORITY.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall establish a program to award grants to nursing facilities for the purposes of retrofitting them with an automatic fire sprinkler system. Such grants shall be awarded under terms and conditions specified by the Secretary.

(b) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall give a priority to applications that demonstrate a need or hardship. In determining hardship, the Secretary may take into account factors such as the number of residents who are entitled to or enrolled in the medicare program under title 18 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) or receiving assistance under the medicaid program under title 19 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.), the age and condition of the facility, and the need for nursing facility beds in the community involved.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2011.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO FAMILIES OF VICTIMS OF INDONESIAN EARTHQUAKE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 503, and the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 503) mourning the loss of life caused by the earthquake that occurred on May 27, 2006, in Indonesia, expressing condolences of the American people to the families of the victims, and urging assistance to those affected.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 503) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 503

Whereas, on May 27, 2006, a powerful earthquake measuring 6.2 on the Richter scale occurred in Indonesia, centered near the City of Yogyakarta;

Whereas the earthquake and continuing aftershocks have caused more than 5,000 deaths, resulted in serious injuries to additional tens of thousands of people, and left hundreds of thousands of people with damaged or destroyed homes;

Whereas thousands of people in the affected region are living in temporary shelter or lack basic services, such as clean water and sanitation, thereby increasing the risk of additional suffering and death; and

Whereas the United States and donors from at least 20 other countries have, to date, pledged several millions of dollars in emergency and long-term reconstruction assistance, and have begun to deliver humanitarian supplies to survivors of the earthquake: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) mourns the tragic loss of life and horrendous suffering caused by the earthquake that occurred on May 27, 2006, in Indonesia;

(2) expresses the deepest condolences of the people of the United States to the families, communities, and government of the thousands of individuals who lost their lives in the earthquake;

(3) expresses sympathy and compassion for the hundreds of thousands of people who have been left with destroyed or damaged homes or have been seriously affected by this earthquake;

(4) welcomes and commends the prompt international humanitarian response to the earthquake by the governments of many countries, the United Nations and other international organizations, and nongovernmental organizations;

(5) expresses gratitude and respect for the courageous and committed work of all individuals providing aid, relief, and assistance, including civilian and military personnel of the United States, who are working to save lives and provide relief in the devastated areas;

(6) urges the President and the Government of the United States to provide all appropriate assistance to the Government of Indonesia and people of the affected region; and

(7) recognizes the lead role of the Government of Indonesia in providing assistance and promoting recovery for the affected population.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2006

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 2 p.m. on Monday, June 12; I further ask that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each until 3 p.m., when the Senate will proceed to consideration of S. 2766, the Defense authorization bill, as under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, on Monday, the Senate will be considering the Defense authorization bill. Following opening remarks and recognition of Chairman WARNER and Senator LEVIN, amendments may be debated and offered. The first vote of next week will occur on Tuesday morning before the Senate recesses for the weekly policy luncheons. This vote could be on a Defense amendment or a nomination. We will alert Members when that vote is scheduled. The Senate will also have a cloture vote at 3:30 on Tuesday afternoon on the nomination of Richard Stickler to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health. The conference report to the emergency supplemental appropriations bill has been filed, and we expect to vote on that early in the week. Senators are reminded that the official photograph of the 109th Congress will occur at 2:15 on Tuesday. Senators should be seated at their desks no later than 2:15.

FAREWELL AND EXPRESSION OF THANKS TO SENATE PAGES

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, finally, let me say thank you to our spring semester pages. Today is their final day in the Senate. I join all of my colleagues

in praising them for their hard work and effort throughout this year.

I ask unanimous consent that a list of their names be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Bradford Black, Deloreon Burton, Jamie Catron, Logan Copley, Joseph Curtsinger, Mark Douglass, Sarah Drake, Megan Faulkner, Bobby Fraser, Amy Furcron, Eric Goldstein, Karen Goodheart, Ben Green, Sarah Graybill, Juliana Ho, Benjamin Hovies, Sara Jarman, Bolton Kirchner, Annie Middleton, Lea Moser, Hayley Panasiuk, Kim Pitney, Michael Schoenleber, Aysia Shumway, Cory Sprunger, Parker von Sternberg, Cheryl Walton, Justin Whaley.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2006, AT 2 P.M.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 11:42 a.m., adjourned until Monday, June 12, 2006, at 2 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate June 9, 2006:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

BRETT L. TOLMAN, OF UTAH, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF UTAH FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE PAUL MICHAEL WARNER, RESIGNED.

SHARON LYNN POTTER, OF WEST VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE THOMAS E. JOHNSTON, RESIGNED.

GEORGE E.B. HOLDING, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE FRANK DEARMON WHITNEY.

PHILLIP J. GREEN, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE RONALD J. TENPAS, RESIGNED.

TROY A. EID, OF COLORADO, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE JOHN W. SUTHERS, RESIGNED.

R. ALEXANDER ACOSTA, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE MARCOS D. JIMENEZ, RESIGNED.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5522) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Chairman, the purpose of United States foreign assistance is to strengthen the foundation for international stability by fostering civil society, supporting the development of free markets and institutions that foster self-determination, and helping the vulnerable by bringing healing, hope, and sustainable basic sustenance to those in need. As the leading provider of foreign assistance worldwide, the United States has made extraordinary strides toward alleviating suffering throughout the world. I would like to thank Chairman KOLBE for his hard work on this legislation to further this mission. He has shown great leadership and outstanding commitment to promoting our international initiatives.

I also wish to bring attention to the fact that this year's report on the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Bill confirms violations of the Tiahrt Amendment by an organization funded by the United States in Guatemala.

In passing the Tiahrt Amendment, which sets out clear criteria for voluntarism in family planning, the United States Congress worked to protect families throughout the world from the humiliation and indignity of coercion. I commend my colleague, Congressman TIAHRT, for his foresight in developing this amendment, which serves the important purpose of preventing the imposition of procedures under duress and without an explanation to participants of the potential risks involved.

Apparently the organization referenced in the report aggressively targeted women for sterilization, setting out numerical targets and offering financial incentives contrary to U.S. law. Although the system of financial incentives that occasioned the violations discovered in June 2005 has been terminated, we must work to ensure that this type of episode is not repeated and that investigations of such potential violations are vigorously thorough and unquestionably objective.

I believe that U.S. foreign assistance should not be used as a vehicle for imposing programs which potentially compromise the health of recipients, violate their consciences, or break laws of recipient nations which aim to affirm human dignity. On behalf of those we strive to assist, I urge my colleagues in Congress, the Administration, and the United States Agency for International Development, as well as the constituents we serve, to work earnestly to uphold this purpose.

And thank you again, Congressman KOLBE, for your leadership in international affairs, and for your selfless dedication to leveraging the gifts of our great country for the betterment of the international community.

COMMUNICATIONS OPPORTUNITY, PROMOTION, AND ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit these charts for the RECORD during the debate on the Point of Order that I raised against H. Res. 850 providing for the consideration of H.R. 5252, the Communications Opportunity, Promotion, and Enhancement Act of 2006. The charts are compiled by the Alliance for Community Media detailing how 49 local franchising authorities in 13 States will lose huge percentages of their annual PEG funding under the COPE Act.

ANNUAL PEG SUPPORT FUNDING FROM CABLE COMPANIES

Franchise area	Current PEG annual funding [1] (excluding state law-mandated franchise fee of $1.20/sub/year to State and LFA)*	PEG annual funding under HR 5252 and SB 2686 (1% of gross revenues)	Potential PEG annual funding loss under HR 5252 and SB 2686
Massachusetts:			
Barnstable, Yarmouth, Chatham, Dennis, Harwich	$1,714,482 ($1,663,982 [4.5% of gross revenues] plus allocation of $505,000 in initial grants).	$369,774	$1,344,708 (78%)
Cambridge	$1,215,148 ($965,148 in 2005, plus $150,000/yr. grant, plus allocation of $1,000,000 capital grant).	193,030	1,022,118 (84%)
Newton	$974,502 ($833,502 [4% of gross revenues], plus $80,000/year in other grants, plus allocation of $610,000 in initial grants).	208,375	766,127 (79%)
Worcester	$985,000 ($900,000 [3% of gross revenues] plus allocation of $850,000 in initial grants).	300,000	685,000 (70%)
Billerica	$594,721 ($539,721 [5% of gross revenues] plus $55,000/year in capital grants)	107,944	486,777 (82%)
New Bedford	$591,098 (3% of gross revenues)	197,033	394,065 (67%)
Malden	$457,500 ($400,000 in 2005 plus allocation of $575,000 initial capital grant)	96,970	360,530 (79%)
Plymouth-Kingston	$443,050 ($410,000 [3% of gross revenues] plus allocation of $330,500 in initial grants).	136,667	306,383 (69%)
Norwood	$335,000 ($305,000 [5% of gross revenues] plus allocation of $300,000 in initial grants).	61,000	274,000 (82%)
Fall River	$385,000 (2% of gross revenues)	192,500	192,500 (50%)
Holliston	$131,998 ($106,998 [5% of gross revenues] plus $25,000/year in other grants)	21,400	110,598 (84%)
Carver	$82,300 ($74,000 [3% of gross revenues] plus allocation of $83,000 in initial grants.	24,667	57,633 (70%)

Franchise area	Current PEG annual funding (excluding franchise fees)*	PEG annual funding under HR 5252 and SB 2686 (1% of gross revenues)	PEG annual funding loss under HR 5252 and SB 2686
Minnesota:			
St. Paul	$1,437,000 ($761,000 for operations, $676,000 for equipment)	361,000	1,076,000 (75%)
Arden Hills, Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, Little Canada, Mounds View, New Brighton, North Oaks, Roseville, Shoreview, St. Anthony.	$1,046,023 ($951,629 operating grant, $94,394 equipment grant)	218,022	828,001 (79%)
Birchwood, Dellwood, Grant, Lake Elmo, Mahtomedi, Maplewood, North Saint Paul, Oakdale, Vadnais Heights, White Bear Lake, White Bear Township, Willernie.	$811,000 ($771,000 for operations, $40,000 for equipment)	222,000	589,000 (73%)
Blaine, Centerville, Circle Pines, Ham Lake, Lexington, Lino Lakes, Spring Lake Park.	$591,190 (for operations and equipment)	139,188	452,002 (76%)
Eagan, Burnsville	$647,982 (for operations and equipment)	225,237	422,745 (65%)
Andover, Anoka, Champlin, Ramsey	$357,000 ($311,000 for operations, $46,000 for equipment)	125,506	231,494 (65%)
Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Crystal, Golden Valley, Maple Grove, New Hope, Osseo, Plymouth, Robbinsdale.	$716,266 (for operations and equipment)	500,000	216,266 (30%)
Inver Grove Heights, Lilydale, Mendota, Mendota Heights, South St. Paul, Sunfish Lake, West St. Paul.	$293,000 ($235,000 for operations, $58,000 for equipment)	135,000	158,000 (54%)
Cities of Stillwater, Oak Park Heights, Bayport, and the Townships of Baytown and Stillwater.	$109,000 (for operations and equipment)	38,300	70,700 (65%)
Maryland:			
Montgomery County	$3,703,519 ($2,013,993 for PEG operations plus $236,100 for PEG capital plus $1,453,426 for I–Net operations).	1,787,200	1,916,319 (52%)

Franchise area	Current PEG annual funding (excluding franchise fees)*	PEG annual funding under HR 5252 and SB 2686 (1% of gross revenues)	PEG annual funding loss under HR 5252 and SB 2686
Washington, DC:			
Washington, DC	$2,160,000	1,080,000	1,080,000 (50%)
Oregon:			
Portland	$3,000,000 (3% of gross revenues)	1,000,000	2,000,000 (67%)
Multnomah County	$561,000 (3% of gross revenues)	187,000	374,000 (67%)
Salem	$400,000 (1.5% of gross revenues)	265,000	135,000 (34%)
McMinnville	$73,297 ($1.00 per subscriber per month)	43,215	30,082 (41%)
Virginia:			
Fairfax County	$4,500,000 (3% of gross revenues)	1,500,000	3,000,000 (67%)
Arlington County	$1,439,000 ($855,000/year; plus $584,000 in 2005—1% of gross revenues)	591,500	847,500 (59%)
Arizona:			
Tucson	$1,500,000 ($1.35 per subscriber per month)	700,000	800,000 (53%)
Michigan:			
Bloomfield Township	$313,243 (3% of gross revenues plus $33,500 annual grant)	97,910	215,333 (69%)
California:			
Santa Maria & Lompoc	$464,000 ($395,000 in 2005; plus allocation of $69,000/year, from $828,000 initial grant).	142,200	321,800 (69%)
Glendale	$613,333 ($600,000 in 2005; plus allocation of $13,333/year, from $200,000 initial grant).	300,000	313,333 (51%)
Ventura	$350,292 ($263,625 in 2005; plus allocation of $86,667/year from $1,040,000 in Yrs. 1–3 grants).	146,050	204,242 (58%)
Gilroy, Hollister, San Juan Bautista	$259,471 ($189,471 in 2005; plus allocation of $70,000/year, from $700,000 initial grant).	63,157	196,314 (76%)
Monterey	$231,622 ($151,622 in 2005; plus allocation of $80,000/year, from $800,000 initial grant).	68,571	163,051 (70%)
Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Atherton	$304,295 (88 cents per subscriber per month)	163,902	140,393 (46%)
Humboldt County, Eureka, Arcata, Fortuna, Ferndale, Blue Lake, Rio Dell	$293,750 ($200,000/year; plus allocation of $93,750/year, from $750,000 in Yrs. 1–2 grants).	180,000	113,750 (39%)
Oceanside	$487,333 ($214,000 in 2005; plus allocation of $273,333/year from $4,100,000 in Yrs. 1–3 grants).	389,538	97,795 (20%)
Santa Rosa	$316,667 ($150,000/year; plus allocation of $166,667/year, from $2,500,000 in other grants during franchise term).	260,000	56,667 (18%)
Monrovia	$83,000 ($46,000 plus 1% of gross revenues)	37,000	46,000 (55%)
Lawndale	$60,000 (2% of gross revenues)	30,000	30,000 (50%)
Ohio:			
Cincinnati	$756,000 ($0.96 per subscriber per month)	497,956	258,044 (34%)
Forest Park, Greenhills, Springfield Township	$161,665 ($1.06 per subscriber per month)	118,682	42,983 (27%)
Wisconsin:			
West Allis	$200,000 (annual grant)	104,400	95,600 (48%)
River Falls	$44,500 ($1.32 per subscriber per month)	15,790	28,710 (65%)
Madison	$388,000 ($0.60 per subscriber per month)	360,000	28,000 (7%)
Illinois:			
Urbana	$162,536 (2% of gross revenues)	81,268	81,268 (50%)
Kansas:			
Salina	$135,000 (70 cents per subscriber per month)	95,549	39,451 (29%)

[1] Massachusetts State law currently provides that any funding above the state mandated fees be spent on communications operations including PEG, I-Net and others. This chart anticipates state law changing to allow franchise fees to be used for other purposes.

* In addition to the annual PEG support funding described in this chart, other PEG and in-kind services resources are often provided by cable companies that serve these communities, including connections for program origination from multiple locations, free cable modem service, promotional assistance (e.g., ad avails, program listings on TV Guide channel, annual bill-stuffers), Institutional Networks, etc.

RECOGNIZING AARON SCOTT McRUER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Aaron Scott McRuer, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Aaron has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Aaron has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Aaron Scott McRuer for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

THE ROLE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN GLOBAL ECONOMICS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the issue of third world debt relief for the RECORD. In the article, Can Developing Countries Be Financial Saviors of Rich Nations?, published in Volume XXIV No. 1230 (May 24–30, 2006) issue of The New York CaribNews, Mr. Tony Best cites Dr. Jeremy Siegel, a professor of the Wharton School of Business. Addressing the possibility that the baby boomers' selling their savings stock and bonds would lead to a weakening of the assets of the rich nations, Dr. Siegel claims that the best solution is to allow investors from developing countries to buy up these excess stocks to maintain the market prices. Mr. Best asserts that some of "the highest growth rates in dollar terms in market capitalization was in the emerging markets" of Macedonia, West Bank and Gaza, Fiji, Nigeria, Jamaica, Botswana, Trinidad and Tobago, India, Kenya, Bermuda and Tanzania. As Mr. Best claims, if the global market is integrated so that "the selling of assets from the old in the rich world to the young in the developing world is no more difficult than today's sales of assets by elderly folks," America's trade deficits in the developing world would not be a cause for concern. The increasing investments in American from the growing markets would be balanced by the existing trade deficits and debts owed by the developing countries to the U.S.

[From the New York CaribNews, May 24–30, 2006]

CAN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BE FINANCIAL SAVIORS OF RICH NATIONS?

(By Tony Best)

It may not be a case of reverse Robin Hood, meaning stealing from the poor and giving it to the rich. But investors and stock markets in relatively poor nations of the Caribbean and Africa may in the long run be the next financial saviors of future prosperity in the world's wealthiest nations. Add Asia, Latin America and the Middle East to that list and the prospects would become clear, very clear.

So, while people in G–8 nations and their affluent neighbors may not steal from such developing and relatively poor nations as Jamaica, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Uzbekistan, Nigeria, Botswana, Pakistan, Swaziland, Bermuda, Jordan and at least 40 other emerging markets, some economists in the U.S., Britain and elsewhere in the developed world are offering a bit of advice: keep your eyes on these economies because they are poised to help make up the shortfall of buyers of assets in the rich world.

One such economist is Dr. Jeremy Siegel, a professor at the prestigious Wharton School of Business in the U.S. He believes that with many baby boomers in North America and Europe, persons born between 1946–64, getting ready or planning their retirement, they may sell off their stocks and bonds in large quantities to finance their retirement and that in turn can create a huge gap in the assets of rich nations.

''The sale of these assets will lead to a sharp fall in prices, because there are too few people in the smaller generations that followed the boomers to buy all of those assets at today's prices,'' stated The Economist as it explained Siegel's theory.

The upshot: unless the baby-boomers delay their retirement, they could ''see their standard of living in retirement halved, relative to their final year of work,'' the Economist added. Siegel warns a huge sell-off of stocks and bonds by the baby-boomers can trigger a 40–50 percent fall in stock prices with a smaller pool of investors coming along in the rich countries to take up the financial slack. That's where the developing countries may come in, goes the argument. Some figures tell an interesting story.

Although the top 10 stock markets in terms of capitalization are in the U.S., Japan, U.K., France, Germany, Canada, Spain, Switzerland, Hong Kong and China in that order, some of the highest growth rates in market capitalization in dollar terms between 1983–2003 were in emerging market. Macedonia, West Bank and Gaza, Fiji, Nigeria, Jamaica, Botswana, Trinidad and Tobago, India, Kenya, Bermuda and Tanzania are on that list. For instance, Fiji's growth was put at 760 percent; Jamaica's 297 percent; Trinidad and Tobago's 170 percent and Bermuda 92 percent.

When it came to the highest growth in value traded between 1998–2003, Zimbabwe, Jordan, Jamaica, Israel, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates, Barbados, Malaysia, South Africa, and Sri Lanka were listed among the 44 nations with the best performance. For instance while Zimbabwe had growth of 623 percent; Jamaica 507; percent Trinidad and Tobago 128 percent; Barbados 121 percent; and South Africa 76 percent; Germany's pace of expansion was 51 percent and Canada's 42 percent.

Of course, it would take decades before those countries have the financial power to fill the financial gap but then who would have predicted in 1980 that China, India and Dubai would have become such economic giants as to drive fear in the hearts of protectionist lawmakers on Capitol Hill in Washington who worry about their ability to buy U.S. companies. Dr. Siegel is writing a new book called, ''The Global Solution,'' and in it he is insisting that by the middle of the 21st century most multinational companies must find new investors outside of North America, Europe and Japan.

''The challenge is to integrate global markets so that selling assets from the old in the rich world to the young in developing countries is no harder, no more unusual, than today's sales of assets by elderly folks,'' stated The Economist. ''From this perspective, America's external deficits, particularly with some developing countries may be both long-lasting and nothing to worry about.'' It goes without saying that investors in developing countries shouldn't forget that protectionist tendencies in the rich nations are alive and well and can retard growth.

TRIBUTE TO MR. BEN F. PARMER

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Ben F. Parmer. Mr. Parmer was a dear man who I admired greatly, and I am proud to stand before you today to honor his memory and deeds. ''Uncle Ben,'' as he was fondly known, was a lifelong resident of Burlington, Colorado, and throughout his lifetime the people of Kit Carson County were truly blessed to have known him.

Ben married his lovely wife Mildred in 1937. Both he and Mildred had a strong faith and deep love for each other. Through hard times and raising children they never lost sight of their faith. Ben and Mildred had three beautiful children: Paul who preceded Ben in death, and his beautiful daughters Tony and Judy. Their devoted children were always extremely proud of their parents. Ben and Mildred celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary just a few months before Mildred's passing.

During their marriage, Ben was a farmer, rancher, and a man of strong conviction. As a farmer Ben was successful, and as a rancher he was well known for the excellence of his white-faced Herefords. He also raised hogs and on occasion, sheep. Every success that Ben had from his family to his business dealings showed the conviction to do what was right and to do it right the first time.

Ben's philanthropic efforts did not go unnoticed by his community. The park in the city of Burlington hosts his name and the ''Golden Wheat Award'' that was given in recognition for his service and involvement with the Kit Carson County Memorial Hospital. It is said that Ben spent many hours comforting the patients and sharing the Word of the Lord. The Kit Carson Memorial Hospital was not the only place that Ben was able to minister; it is quite notable that the only State he did not minister in was the State of Vermont.

Ben was a man of courage and strength and admired by those around him. He was undaunted by doubt and his faith always prevailed. Ben F. Parmer was a loving husband, wonderful father, a man of incredible faith and integrity. He is deeply missed by his family and community. It was an honor to not only know him and attend his church and receive his teaching, but to have represented him in the U.S. Congress.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2007 (H.R. 5386)

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2007, H.R. 5386. As a vigorous supporter of our national parks and natural resources, I object to this bill's dangerous cuts and I regret the message of waning support for our natural treasures that it sends to the youngest generation of Americans.

H.R. 5386 provides $25.9 billion for federal agencies including the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This bill represents a $145 million cut from the funding level enacted for fiscal year 2006. It eliminates the successful and popular state matching grants, which are delivered through the Land and Water Conservation Fund. It cuts $200 million in federal assistance to the clean water activities of states—over the last 3 years, the Clean Water Fund has been cut by 50 percent, or over $660 million.

H.R. 5386 also cuts $100 million from the National Park Service's budget at a time when parks are struggling to cope with past reductions. The number of rangers in Yosemite National Park has fallen from 45 to 8 over the past 5 years. These dramatic reductions make it impossible for the remaining rangers to fulfill their vital and far reaching duties, which include educational programming, ensuring safety and security and management of historical, cultural and natural resources. Visitors to America's National Parks this summer are saddened to see that Congress has made America's cherished park ranger the most recent addition to the endangered species list. ABC news reports that the number of rangers has dwindled to a point where visitors are now seen photographing them.

In reality, these cuts represent a pattern of calculated disinvestment in the agencies and programs that exist to protect the health of our communities and safeguard our natural resources for future generations. Year after year of cuts to environmental and natural resource spending are seriously eroding the ability of these agencies to improve our air and water quality and to protect and restore our wildlife and natural spaces.

The Bush administration and the Republican leadership in Congress are choosing to mortgage America's natural resource legacy to pay for the spiraling costs of the Iraq war and the unconscionable tax cuts to the wealthiest in our society. These decisions do not reflect my priorities or the priorities of my constituents in Minnesota.

Ijoin the National Audubon Society, National Parks Conservation Association and many other conservation organizations in opposing H.R. 5386 as insufficient, unsustainable and unacceptable.

RECOGNIZING BOBBY MORROW

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Bobby Morrow, of South Texas, and to celebrate the 50th anniversary of his shattering Jesse Owens' 20-year-old record in the 200-meter dash to gain the title of world's fastest person in 1956. Mr. Morrow is a legendary athlete and hero to people all over South Texas and the country.

As a native of South Texas, Bobby Morrow began his long and distinguished track career at San Benito High School in San Benito, Texas. There Mr. Morrow won a state championship in the 100-meter dash. His high school success soon brought many offers from universities to run track in college. Bobby Morrow chose Abilene Christian College (now University) to pursue his dreams of racing.

Bobby Morrow honed his lightning starts and sharpened his skills to dominate the 100- and 200-meter dashes in the 1950s. In 1955, Mr. Morrow won the AAU national title in the 100-meter dash. The next year, in 1956, he successfully defended his 200-meter title and added an AAU championship in the 200-meter dash.

Bobby Morrow continued his excellence at the amateur level, capped off by qualifying for the 1956 Melbourne Olympics, joining an American team with an established pedigree. During those 1956 Olympic Games, Morrow achieved legendary status, becoming the first person since Jesse Owens to win gold in the 100- and 200-meter races. He then won a third gold medal while anchoring the United States' worldrecord-setting 400-meter relay team.

During the 1956 Olympic games, Morrow not only won gold medals, but he won them in record breaking fashion. Morrow gained the title of ''world's fastest person'' by breaking Jesse Owens 200-meter world-record time that had stood for 20 years.

Morrow's accomplishments were widely celebrated in South Texas and all across the United States. Mr. Morrow appeared on the cover of Life Magazine; and Sports Illustrated named him the "Sportsman of the Year." Morrow also received the Sullivan Award, given each year to honor the nation's top athlete.

Throughout the years, Bobby Morrow has continued to accumulate honors and accolades that celebrate his incredible athletic career. In 1975, Morrow was inducted to the USA Track & Field Hall of Fame. He was honored by his alma mater when Abilene Christian University placed him the school's Sports Hall of Fame in 1988. In 1989, Morrow was also elected into the Olympic Hall of Fame.

Bobby Morrow has been an inspiration to thousands of people in South Texas and across America. His accomplishments on the track have been celebrated and will be celebrated for many years to come. I ask the House of Representatives to join me today in celebrating Mr. Bobby Morrow on the 50th anniversary of his world-record-setting race.

RECOGNIZING BRETT JAMES MAIN FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brett James Main, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brett has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Brett has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brett James Main for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

MIGRATION, BENEFICIAL? YES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD an article by Mr. Warren Hoge, titled Nations Benefit From Migration, U.N. Study Says, published in the New York Times on June 7, 2006.

Mr. Hoge cites Mr. Kofi Annan in calling for broad international cooperation in order to ensure rapid growth in global migration. A recent United Nations study has shown that migrants provide strong socio-economic support for their country of origin as well as their new home nation. "The alarm over the growing number of migrants has cast the issue in a negative light." The aging populations in developing countries are offset by the influx of immigrants. Currently in developed countries there is an average of 142 entrants into the labor force for every 100 people about to retire but the report predicts that in 10 years the number of entrants will become as low as 87. This deficit can easily be filled by immigrants since on average the developing countries have 342 entrants for every 100 retirements.

Mr. Annan calls for "tightening law enforcement to curb smuggling and trafficking, easing visa and naturalization rules, and establishing reliable financial services" to better the conditions of the immigrant. The U.N. study clearly shows the advantages of immigration. In light of such evidence, how can the United States, the leading nation of the world, choose to impose harsh measures that curb immigration?

My colleagues, let us create an open immigration policy for our national borders and ease the integration of immigrants into the U.S. rather than build a wall to keep everyone out.

NATIONS BENEFIT FROM MIGRATION, U.N. STUDY SAYS

(By Warren Hoge)

UNITED NATIONS, June 6.—Secretary General Kofi Annan said Tuesday that the rapid growth in global migration should help, not harm, all countries but that broad international cooperation would be necessary to ensure it.

"We now understand better than ever before that migration is not a zero-sum game," Mr. Annan said. "In the best cases, it benefits the receiving country, the country of origin and migrants themselves."

He made his comments in a report he delivered to the General Assembly on migration and development, subjects that will be a focus of the annual gathering of heads of state at the United Nations in September.

The report noted that alarm over the growing numbers of migrants had cast the issue in a negative light but asserted that the emphasis was misplaced, citing the aging of populations in developed countries that it said could be offset only by migration.

"We think that societies don't ask themselves enough what they would do without migrants," said Hania Zlotnik, director of the United Nations Population Division.

Mr. Annan said he hoped the September meeting would take up measures to better conditions for migrants, including tightening law enforcement to curb smuggling and trafficking, easing visa and naturalization rules, and establishing reliable financial services to enable money to be sent home.

From 1990 to 2005, the numbers of migrants in the world rose to 191 million from 155 million, the report said. It estimated that migrants sent $232 billion home in 2005. Of that, $167 billion went to developing countries, Mr. Annan said.

The report said that migration sometimes reduced the wages of low-skilled workers in advanced economies, but that it more often freed citizens to perform high-paying jobs.

Listing demographic statistics that will make a continued rise in migration inevitable, the report said that in developed countries there is an average of 142 young entrants to the labor force for every 100 people about to retire, but that in 10 years, the ratio will be 87 young entrants for every 100 who leave the labor force.

This trend, it argued, creates a deficit that only migrants can close. At the same time, developing countries will have 342 candidates for every 100 jobs that open up.

TRIBUTE TO MASTER SERGEANT HENRY JOSEPH CORNELLISSON

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the patriotism and self sacrifice of Master Sergeant Henry Joseph Cornellisson of Greeley, Colorado because of his service to our country during World War II.

Mr. Cornellisson was born on February 27, 1920 and was raised in central Kansas. A year after he graduated from high school, in May 1938, he joined the U.S. Army Air Corps and was sent to the Philippines several months later. By July of 1941, he had been promoted to Sergeant. On May 10, 1945, he was captured by the Japanese on the Philippine island of Mindanao and spent the next 1,218 days as a prisoner of war in Japan.

He was finally liberated from prison on September 6, 1945, exactly six years to the day from when he joined the Army Air Corps. After returning home to the United States, he decided to reenlist in the Air Force after only a few months. After getting married to Ruth Jordan, he served in the Air Force for three years in Brazil and was eventually promoted to Master Sergeant. After 21 years of service in the Air Force, Mr. Cornellisson retired in 1960 and went into the inactive Air Force Reserves. By this time he and his wife had three sons.

From 1961 through 1967, he worked overhauling missiles and missile guidance systems for the Army. After that Mr. Cornellisson worked for the Air Force as an electrician until he retired in 1978. His wife Ruth, of 48 years, passed away in 1995 and he married Genie Payne a few years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent Mr. Cornellisson and the other men and women who have given so much for our freedom. Like so many other members of the "Greatest Generation," Mr. Cornellisson set aside his ambitions in service to our Nation. I urge my colleagues to join me in expressing my heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation for the patriotic service of Mr. Henry Joseph Cornellisson.

RECOGNIZING SHRINERS HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Shriners Hospital for Children in Chicago on the occasion of its 80th Anniversary. Shriners Hospitals provide excellent specialized care in pediatric orthopedics without cost to the patient, parent, or any third party and without regard to race, color, creed, sex or sect.

Shriners in Chicago is an outstanding resource for our community. To commemorate its 80th anniversary, Shriners held a large celebration at the hospital. Hundreds of former patients returned to celebrate the important role Shriners played in their lives. Without the hospital's generosity, many children would have struggled to receive treatment.

Shriners hospitals also conduct research and provide for the education of physicians and other health care professionals. The hospitals treat children with congenital orthopedic deformities, problems resulting from orthopedic injuries, and diseases of the musculoskeletal system. They are also a large provider of rehabilitation therapy and plastic surgery.

The first Shriners Hospital was opened in Shreveport, Louisiana in 1922 by the Shriners of North America, a group affiliated with freemasonry. This international fraternity has approximately 400,000 men belonging to 191 Shrine centers throughout North America. Since 1922, the number of hospitals has grown to 22 including hospitals in Canada and Mexico. Their selfless dedication to children's health has made them the leading researchers in burn treatment.

The hospitals are fully funded by gifts, bequests, income from an endowment fund, hospital fund-raising events, and the annual assessment paid by every Shriner. The Shriners are proud to call the system of hospitals "The World's Greatest Philanthropy."

Since its foundation in 1926, the Chicago branch has treated over 57,000 patients. Originally founded to treat polio victims, many hospital stays lasted over a year. Today, the average stay is four days. The hospital specializes in treating children with spinal cord injuries. Chicago greatly appreciates Shriners service and generosity.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Shriners Hospital for Children for its history of dedication and service to the children of Chicago. I congratulate the staff and supporters of this important institution on its 80th Anniversary, and wish them every future success in their continuing efforts to meet the needs of Chicago's children.

HONORING BRUCE LEIBY IN RETIREMENT

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bruce Leiby, who is retiring after twenty-nine years of service to Prince William County Public Schools.

Mr. Leiby, the principal of Prince William County's Bel Air Elementary School since 2003, received a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Gettysburg College, Pennsylvania, and a Master of Arts degree in Education from Temple University in Philadelphia. He began his career in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania before moving to Prince William County. In 1977, he began teaching at Stonewall Middle School in Manassas and continued teaching at Potomac High School in Dumfries. Throughout his career, he has been an assistant principal at Fred Lynn Middle School, Occoquan Elementary in Woodbridge, and Rockledge Elementary in Lake Ridge. In 1985, Leiby accepted his first position as principal of Occoquan Elementary School. In 1998, he became Bristow Elementary's first principal, guiding the school through its initial years and leading it to receive recognition as a fully-accredited institution. In 2000, due to Principal Leiby's leadership, Bristow Elementary School won its first School of Excellence Award. After a short stint as Prince William County's curriculum supervisor for social studies of all grades, Leiby returned to school to become Bel Air Elementary's principal in 2003.

While principal of Bel Air Elementary, SOL passing scores have risen substantially. Mr. Leiby has shown himself to be an innovative educator, who inspires students and teachers alike in a nurturing and supportive environment. His leadership style is highly admired throughout the county, whether as a principal or curriculum coordinator. He has been nominated three times for the Distinguished Teacher of the Year and Principal of the Year awards. He is truly an asset to the Prince William County Public School system and will be greatly missed.

Our students are our number one resource. Mr. Leiby has dedicated his life to ensuring that they are given the opportunity to achieve success. Over the past 29 years in Prince William County, he has made a lasting impact on thousands of students.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Bruce Leiby and congratulating him on his retirement after a distinguished career.

RECOGNIZING JAMES CAMERON JONES FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize James Cameron Jones, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

James has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years James has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending James Cameron Jones for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT LEONEL FERNÁNDEZ

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD, an announcement for the Pan American Development Foundation's Inter-American Leadership award awarded to President Leonel Fernández of the Dominican Republic on April 28, 2006. The award is bestowed on "an individual who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in strengthening democracy in the hemisphere and promoting economic and social development in the Americas." Undoubtedly President Fernández, known for his forward and original thinking, is such a person. At a time of economic turmoil, he has spearheaded numerous reforms and innovations in the economy of the Dominican Republic, promising to reduce inflation, to stabilize the exchange rate and to restore investor confidence. He has largely succeeded in increasing employment opportunities and has "demonstrated a clear vision for a vibrant future for the Dominican Republic." He has worked with the PADF in promoting cross-border programs with Haiti with the goal of economic development, as well as, mitigating the hostile attitudes of the two people who share the island of Hispaniola. I praise the accomplishments of President Fernández and congratulate him on receiving this award honoring his work. I hope that he will continue his effective leadership of his nation and I wish him every success.

PRESIDENT LEONEL FERNÁNDEZ RECEIVES PADF'S INTER-AMERICAN LEADERSHIP AWARD

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, Apr. 28.—The Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) presented Dr. Leonel Fernandez, President of the Dominican Republic, its 2006 Inter-American Leadership Award this evening in a ceremony at the Hotel Hilton Santo Domingo attended by business, diplomatic, and governmental leaders. The PADF Inter-American Leadership Award is bestowed upon an individual who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in strengthening democracy in the hemisphere and promoting economic and social development in the Americas. Corporate support for the ceremony and dinner was provided by PADF's longtime corporate partners Stanford Financial Group, Citigroup, and Caterpillar, Inc.

PADF's President of the Board of Trustees, Ruth Espey-Romero, stated, "President Fernández's dynamic leadership and vision for his countrymen has strengthened Dominican society. He is committed to advancing his country's economic condition. The President has a clear vision for a vibrant future for the Dominican Republic and how the border can serve as an engine of growth for the entire region. His record has demonstrated his commitment to PADF's vision of 'Creating a Hemisphere of Opportunity for All.'"

PADF also presented awards to several key corporate partners whose support has enabled PADF to accomplish its work throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Representatives of Stanford Financial Group, Altria Group (including Philip Morris International and Grupo León Jimenes), and the American Chamber of Commerce in Haiti each received recognition for their support of projects throughout the Caribbean and Latin America.

The Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) is an international nonprofit organization established in 1962 through a unique partnership between the Organization of American States and private enterprise to promote, facilitate, and implement social and economic development in Latin America and the Caribbean through innovative partnerships and integrated involvement of the private and public sectors. PADF currently has offices in Bolivia, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, and Haiti, and has operated in every country throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

In the Dominican Republic, PADF is working with over 80 local organizations to strengthen to the border region and encourage private sector participation in development. Funding for the programs comes from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), with additional support from other public and corporate donors.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM GAYNOR

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to William (Bill) Gaynor whose deep patriotism and compassionate heart has brought strength and comfort to numerous military families in Logan County, Colorado.

Bill is a proud Marine who proudly served from 1958–1962. As a Vietnam vet, he went on to serve in the American Legion. Bill was Post Commander for two consecutive terms, Vice-Commander for the State of Colorado, and Vice Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the National American Legion for three consecutive terms.

Bill was involved in Marine recruiting for 28 years. When a young Marine that Bill helped to recruit became seriously wounded in Iraq in 2004, Bill found a new purpose for his knowledge and background. As he helped this local family react to the crisis caused by an improvised explosive device (IED) in Iraq, Bill discovered that most local military families had limited knowledge of military procedures and processes. Bill, his wife Denise, and friend LuAnn Travis reacted to this need and formed the Military Family Support Group. This group has been able to locate and reach out to all of the families in the county with children or family members serving in the military. This group has met once or twice a month for almost 2 years, giving families the chance to share news, information, and concerns with each other about their loved ones.

Bill is always willing to make himself available on a moment's notice to any family—in times of celebration as well as times of crisis. Members of the military from Logan County have received hundreds of cards from local citizens, boxes of goodies and supplies, as well as cards made by school students for Thanksgiving, Christmas and other holidays through the efforts of the Military Family Support Group.

Marines such as Bill are trained to think independently and act aggressively with speed and initiative. Bill demonstrates this by his constant willingness to react swiftly to the needs of the local families. They turn to him because they know his heart is with his family, the American people, and the young men who serve to protect them. Bill never passes up an opportunity to honor or speak on behalf of veterans or members of the military. The United States Marines are the world's finest warriors and they are devoted to each other and the cause of freedom. Bill is in his heart and soul a United States Marine and lives the motto—'Semper Fidelis'—always faithful.

Mr. Speaker, our precious veterans are heroes who have left their homes to defend our Nation, and then returned to be valued members of their communities, showing their children and grandchildren how to live meaningful lives of service. I want to take this brief moment to honor Bill Gaynor for the sacrifices that he made and his continued commitment to all of those who serve our great Nation in the profession of arms. May God bless his family, may God bless our precious veterans, and may God bless America.

FOREST EMERGENCY RECOVERY AND RESEARCH ACT (H.R. 4200)

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act (H.R. 4200). This legislation rolls back responsible forest management practices and threatens to undermine vital environmental protections.

Proponents of H.R. 4200 claim that the bill would ensure prompt implementation of recovery measures in Federal forests following weather events such as wildfires and hurricanes by expediting the evaluation of forest conditions and accelerating the recovery of downed and damaged timber. But in reality, the legislation aggressively auctions off public resources to private interests in the name of responsible stewardship. It goes too far in promoting the economic value of harvesting timber over the ecological benefits of preserving trees.

Proponents of H.R. 4200 use the words "recovery" and "restoration" to excuse logging practices that will slow the recovery of forests, streams and wildlife. Forest scientists from 169 universities across the country oppose this bill, arguing that no reliable evidence exists to support the assertion that fire-adapted forests might be improved by logging after a fire. These experts point to a series of studies that concluded just the opposite—that post-disturbance logging impedes the process of regeneration by compacting soils, spreading invasive species, causing erosion and degrading water quality.

Most outrageously, H.R. 4200 would degrade forest ecosystems by exempting "salvage logging" activities from the environmental protections guaranteed in the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act. Through exemptions and waivers, H.R. 4200 offers a blank check to pollute waters and harm endangered wildlife.

H.R. 4200 is both unwise and unnecessary. The success of the timber salvage effort following Hurricane Katrina demonstrates that existing Federal laws do not prevent land managers from implementing timber recovery. Using their existing authority, the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management quickly and effectively completed one of the largest timber salvage projects ever, recovering 676 million board feet of timber from the national forests in Mississippi impacted by the hurricane.

When properly managed, timber harvesting is a necessary and appropriate use of our Federal forests. But careful environmental stewardship of our forest resources is needed today to ensure that genuinely healthy forests—with all the benefits they offer—will be available to future generations. H.R. 4200 falls dangerously short of this standard.

NIDHARSHAN ANANDASIVAM, 2006 NATIONAL SPELLING BEE, 8TH PLACE WINNER

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nidharshan Anandasivam, the young Brownsville scholar who came painstakingly close to victory in the 2006 Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee, placing eighth to beat his personal best during the four years he competed in the national spelling bee contest.

As a student from Saint Joseph Academy in Brownsville, Texas, Nidharshan loves learning the origins of words and the way words change through different languages. This hobby helped him qualify through nine intense rounds, correctly spelling difficult words such as "physis," "festucine," and "wehrmacht."

All South Texans are proud of this native son. It is one thing to be a great speller; it is another thing to have the ability to compete on live national TV—at such a young age.

Nidharshan's success comes from his diligent studying, completing internet spelling courses and spelling study guides daily. In the weeks leading up to the competition, he studied over three hours each day. To be a young teen and have an exceptionally committed resolve for his academic pursuits demonstrate Nidharshan's maturity and hardworking nature.

This year's spelling bee featured 275 spellers, which is the most participants in the history of the spelling bee. To place eighth out of 275 participants is an incredible experience that Nidharshan can cherish for the rest of his life.

I congratulate Nidharshan Anandasivam on his achievement of placing eighth in the Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee. I ask the House of Representatives to join me today in commending this outstanding scholar for his unwavering determination and dedication. Mr. Speaker, this young teen has inspired us and made us exceptionally proud.

RECOGNIZING NOAH BRANDT EBER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Noah Brandt Eber, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Noah has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Noah has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Noah Brandt Eber for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

COLOMBIANS REDISCOVER THEIR AFRICAN ROOTS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in praise of an article written by Howard Dodson in Africana Heritage, a periodical from the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, in New York City. I praise the piece because it touches on a very little known subject, that being the lives of Afro-Colombians in the Americas, a people with a rich and radiant culture who are so often ignored by mainstream Colombia.

Their presence in the region dates back to the age of European exploration of the Americas and, in particular, the transatlantic slave trade. Dodson pointed out in his article that, ''the Afro-Colombian population had become so marginalized that for the overwhelming majority of Colombians as well as the world's people they were invisible.'' With over a quarter of the population being of African descent, there is no way this society should have been treated the way they were for so many years.

He also describes how the system might now be changing: ''presence of Afro-Colombians as part of the Colombian nation may be at an all time high.'' The Afro-Colombian people understand their history, their identity and national heritage and the need to keep it alive for the generations to come. For such a rich and vibrant culture to dissolve with time would be a detriment to an entire race of people.

What makes these people so unique is the one thing that may have kept them in isolation for so many years, their African ancestry. For years, the nation has been in denial about its connection to the people of Africa. However, the connection is so strong that, ''what makes Colombia's culture distinctly Colombian is likely the African presence in it,'' as noted by Dodson. The people of African descent in the Americas have carried with them over the Atlantic aged traditions and concepts unknown to the western hemisphere prior to their arrival.

The plight of Afro-Descendent populations in Latin America and the Caribbean is one that I take special interest in, for their struggles have long gone on ignored for so many years. That was why I sponsored the bipartisan historic resolution H. Con. Res. 175 recognizing, for the first time ever, the struggles of African-descendent populations in Latin America and the Caribbean. This in turn urged the United States and the international community to support social development and economic programs targeting these groups.

Usually denied the most basic necessities, African-Descendent populations, particularly in Latin America, are among the poorest, least educated, and most marginalized groups in the region. In terms of the Afro-Colombian population, they have the shortest life expectancies and the lowest literacy rates of any group in Colombia. Displacement, guerilla and military violence, and fragile economics make the struggle of these groups even more difficult.

I enter into the RECORD the article by Howard Dodson for his continuing effort to give a face to the often ignored Afro-Descendent population in Latin America. Dodson took it upon himself to research and get a first hand account about the situation below our borders. I believe that this is an ideal opportunity for African Americans to reach out to their brothers and sisters in Haiti, Cuba, Brazil, Colombia and the rest of the hemisphere, for they are experiencing the same second-class treatment African Americans received in this country forty years ago. We need to come together to safeguard access to healthcare, education and basic human rights.

[From the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, 2006]

COLOMBIANS REDISCOVER THEIR AFRICAN ROOTS

(By Howard Dodson)

I returned to Colombia after a 40-year hiatus this past November. What was new there that I did not see during my visits from decades ago was the emergence of the consciousness of the Afro-Colombian population within the nation and an Afro-Colombian consciousness among Afro descendants. Forty years ago, indeed 10 years ago, the Afro-Colombian population had become so marginalized that for the overwhelming majority of Colombians as well as the world's people they were invisible. This is no longer the case. Consciousness of the presence of Afro-Colombians as a part of the Colombian nation may be at an all time high. And Afro-Colombians' consciousness of themselves as a critical but neglected segment of the Colombian national identity, heritage, and future is also at an all time high.

When I visited Colombia in the 1960s, I was a Peace Corps volunteer in Ecuador. All of my travels in Latin America during my two-and-a-half-year tour of duty were partially a mission of discovery. As an African American living and traveling in South America for the first time, I was especially interested in meeting and learning more about people of African descent who lived in Latin America. In Colombia, I traveled to the Caribbean and Pacific Coasts and visited Cartagena, Barranquilla, Santa Marta, Cali, Medellín, Manizales, etc. I also spent some time in Bogotá where I met a lot of Afro-Colombians, but at the time even they were reluctant to discuss their Africanness.

While my most recent visit was limited to Bogotá and Quibdó in the Chocó region, the context in which it occurred announced for me the existence of a new era in Afro-Colombian history and culture. The Universidad Technologicá del Chocó, the country's major black university, has launched an initiative to establish a National Center for Documenting Afro-Colombian Cultural Expressions. I was invited, in my capacity as Director of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, to participate in a two-day planning symposium to continue to develop the concept and program for this new national initiative. I have devoted over 20 of the last 40 years of my life developing the Schomburg Center into the world's leading research library devoted exclusively to documenting the global black experience. Organizers of the planning symposium thought the Center's and my experiences might be helpful in developing the Center in Quibdo. Over the last decade, we've placed a special emphasis on the Afro Latino or Afro descendant populations in South and Central America.

One recent collaborative effort took place in Colombia. The staff of the National Archives of Colombia in Bogotá unearthed a plethora of historic documents on slavery and black people in Colombia during the colonial period. With funding from the Schomburg Center and York University in Toronto, Canada the Archives staff was able to digitize these records. A grant from UNESCO made it possible to develop these digitized resources into a robust website and now these historic documents on AfroColombians' colonial past are accessible to the world on the Internet. This project was an important beginning, but documenting the centrality of the African presence in the development of Colombia's national history and culture will require much more research and documentation. This is what the Universidad Technologica del Choco proposes to spearhead through its National Center for Documenting Afro-Colombian Cultural Expressions.

Why is such an effort warranted at this time? First of all, recent scholarship on the African presence in the Americas has unearthed a startling demographic fact that is forcing scholars to rethink their understanding of the African presence in the Americas as well as the historical and cultural development of the Americas themselves. Between 1492 and 1776, or roughly the first 300 years of what is commonly referred to as the European colonization of the Americas, 6.5 million people survived the crossing of the Atlantic and settled in the Americas-North, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. Of those original 6.5 million settler pioneers, only 1 million were Europeans.

The other 5.5 million were African. This simple demographic fact challenges all of our conventional notions about who were the principle history-and-culture-makers in the Americas during the colonial period.

Cartagena, Colombia was the principle entrepot for the Africans who would eventually populate the Pacific Coast of South America and Colombia (or New Grenada as it was called). Two hundred plus years later, Colombia's Caribbean and Pacific Coast provinces still have the overwhelming majority of the nation's African descended population. Their marginalized and seemingly invisible state notwithstanding, they still constitute over 25 percent of the nation's 40 million people.

Of equal importance, over the last decade and a half, thanks to the Constitution of 1991 and Law 70 of 1993, the nation has committed itself to ending black marginalization, integrating the African descended population into the national body politic. While fulfilling those commitments has been fraught with difficulty, the Afro-Colombian population has developed a new sense of entitlement and consciousness of its rights and is actively seeking to have the nation correct the consequences of centuries of neglect, discrimination, and invisibility.

While the nation has been in a state of denial about the African roots of its past, the African presence in the national culture has been undeniable. Indeed, in the realm of culture—be it art, music, religion, dance, language, cuisine, etc.—what makes Colombia's culture distinctly Colombian is likely the African presence in it. Recent scholarship has begun this process of documentation, but more, much more needs to be done if the total integration of the society is to be realized.

Finally, Afro-Colombians themselves have been in denial about their African heritages. As a consequence, they frequently know little or nothing about it. Their historical and cultural heritage are not included in the textbooks or taught in the schools. Stereotypical representations of African descended Colombians have all too frequently dominated the public media. And Afro-Colombians' unique cultural heritages have all too frequently been mocked or denigrated.

The National Center proposes to foster the development of new scholarship that will reveal the true nature of the Afro-Colombian historical and cultural legacy. The project is

off to an excellent start. During the two-day planning symposium, representatives of the National Library, The Colombian Institute of Anthropology and History, the National Archives and the Ministry of Culture were in attendance as were some of the country's leading scholars in the field of Afro-Colombian Studies. All have gone on record in support of this effort. Eduardo Garcia Vega, Director of the Universidad Technologicá del Chocó, has made a major commitment to the effort. There is already an academic program in Afro-Colombian Studies and plans are underway to offer a Masters Degree in the field. A full floor of the new technology building that is currently under construction has been designated to house the Center. It is scheduled for completion and occupancy in June 2006. Members of the faculty and staff of the University are already working with the Rector to make the Center a reality. Finally, Georgetown University's (Washington, D.C.) Colombia Program and the U.S. Embassy in Bogotá have thrown their full support behind this effort.

Among the unique features of the Center is that it will house a 21st century archive. The Center will conduct oral histories and document through film, audio, and audiovisual media contemporary Afro-Colombian cultural expressions. And it will collect and preserve some printed records. But the central archive of the Center will be a virtual one. Using the 21st century Internet technology, the Center will assemble a comprehensive virtual archive of print, audio, and audiovisual resources documenting Afro-Colombian history and culture. Developing a virtual resource will allow libraries, museums and archives that currently house Afro-Colombian materials to participate in the development of this national program without having to give up their original materials. Once online, the materials will be accessible throughout the country as well as throughout the world. Researchers and scholars will be able to conduct their research without having to leave their homes or their institutions. This national digital archive on Afro-Colombian cultural expressions will be the centerpiece of the Center's larger program of research, education, and celebration.

I cannot begin to underscore the importance of this initiative. While we at the Schomburg Center attempt to document the global black experience, we are clear that no single institution can carry out such an ambitious agenda. Every country in the world that has large African descended populations needs a Center that is focused on preserving the records of their past. We have done an extraordinary job of documenting the African-American experience in the United States and our collections contain representative documentation of black people around the world. A national documentation center such as the one contemplated in Colombia will go a long way toward preserving the Afro-Colombian heritage for the Colombian people as well as filling this important gap in the documentation of the global black experience.

TRIBUTE TO LEILANI SPERBER

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the memory of Leilani Sperber whose sunny disposition and compassionate heart touched many lives in northeast Colorado. Leilani was born in Holyoke, CO and spent most of her life in Phillips County. She and her husband Gary taught school for a few years before settling in Holyoke where Leilani was a full-time mother and homemaker. Together they raised a daughter, Shawn and two sons, Eric and Mark.

Leilani always had time to nurture friendships and gently encourage those she encountered each day. Her generosity and deep faith led to her involvement in numerous church activities including serving on the Missions Committee, teaching Sunday School, sponsoring the youth group, helping with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes High School Huddle group, and participating in two mission trips to Mexico.

Leilani always followed wherever her strong convictions led her, but she did it with a kind heart and was always respectful of the needs and concerns of people around her. She worked on numerous community projects. She was actively involved in the Friends of the Library and served as president. She worked to get the Heginbotham Library in Holyoke in the register of historical places. She was also part of the effort to raise funds and help restore the Peerless Center in Holyoke. She was a huge supporter of local sports, especially when her husband was coaching or her children were participating. Leilani also was actively involved in the Republican Party and served as precinct chairman and delegate to the State Conventions.

When her children were out of the home, Leilani's eagerness to learn and grow led her to return to school and earn her Master's degree in agency counseling. She worked for Centennial Mental Health as a counselor before taking a position with the Haxtun Hospital as a Social Service director. While in this position, Leilani organized a cancer survivors support group.

Leilani's life was a lesson in how to enjoy life, honor God, care for others, face difficulties with courage, and make a positive impact on the world. I am proud to honor Leilani who is the embodiment of all the values that have molded America into the great Nation it is today. "Strength and honor are her clothing; she shall rejoice in time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness. She watches over the way of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: Many daughters have done well, but you exceed them all. Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised" (Proverbs 31:25–30) Leilani was a precious, beautiful woman.

HONORING MICHAEL SCOTT

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished tenure of Michael Scott, president of the Chicago Board of Education. Michael recently announced that he will retire from the board on July 21, 2006. Chicago's public school students and parents will miss the dedication and professionalism he has brought to the public schools and his service to the city.

Michael was raised on the west side of Chicago, attended St. Philip's High School and later earned a B.A. in urban planning from Fordham University. He first became involved in local government after spending many years as a developer. His early dedication to the betterment of Chicago's communities drew attention from the late Mayor Harold Washington. Michael went on to serve in the administrations of Mayor Washington and Mayor Richard Daley.

In June 2001, Michael Scott was appointed to the Chicago Board of Education, and elected president of the board that same month. For the past 5 years, Michael has dedicated his energy and talents to this challenging and time consuming position, working on a voluntary basis. Under his direction, the Chicago Public Schools have thrived. One of Michael's key initiatives, in partnership with Mayor Daley, was Renaissance 2010, a program that closed underperforming schools and reached out to private donors to build new ones. Together they built the first new Chicago public school in 29 years.

Michael has combined strong managerial skills with an ability to bring students, parents, and teachers together to solve problems and create opportunities. He has worked very hard for the students of Chicago and cares about them deeply. His engaging personality has also helped him build strong relationships with parents and teachers.

Michael's success can be seen in the students' improved math and reading test scores. The schools have also worked hard to reduce truancy. Michael's creativity and innovation have also resulted in new programs such as ballroom dancing and other opportunities for student creativity.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a true public servant on the successful completion of his tenure. On behalf of all of Chicago's families, I thank Michael Scott for his dedication and wish him the best of luck in the future.

HONORING ELIZABETH LODAL IN RETIREMENT

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Elizabeth Lodal, who is retiring after 40 years of service to Fairfax County Public Schools.

Mrs. Lodal, the principal of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, studied math and physics at Rice University. She began her career as an english and history teacher; later, she was the principal of Joyce Kilmer Middle School and Langston Hughes Middle School. After her tenure in the middle school system, she served as the principal of McLean High School for 10 years. She will be retiring this August, which comes 6 years after she came out of retirement to lead Thomas Jefferson High School at the behest of Daniel Domenech, the former supervisor of Fairfax County Public Schools.

Mrs. Lodal has received numerous accolades, which are all testaments to her dedication to this community. In 1998, she received the Distinguished Alumni Award from her alma

mater, Rice University. In addition, she has received the McLean Chamber of Commerce President's Award as the Outstanding Chamber Member and she was awarded the Rabbi Richard Sternberger Social Justice Award for combating racism, bigotry and prejudice in Northern Virginia.

Mrs. Lodal is dedicated to all aspects of the county. She serves on the Board of Trustees of the Washington Opera and she is active in the American Boychoir School and Vinson Hall, a Navy, Marine, and Coast Guard retirement community. She lobbied for the renovation of McLean High School in the 1980s. She maintains a strong sense of duty to all students, as she will continue to fight for women's involvement in the math and sciences during her retirement.

Our students are our number one resource. Mrs. Lodal has dedicated her life to ensuring that they are given the opportunity to achieve success. Over the past 40 years in Fairfax County, she has made a lasting impact on thousands of students. She will continue her remarkable career by representing Virginia as a delegate to the Education Commission of the States.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Elizabeth Lodal and congratulating her retirement after a distinguished career.

RECOGNIZING BLAINE EVAN STECK FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Blaine Evan Steck, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Blaine has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Blaine has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Blaine Evan Steck for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DISCOVERY OF AIDS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the issue of HIV/AIDS which remains a matter of global concern, even twenty-five years after the first case was diagnosed. June 5, 2006, as the world recognized the anniversary of AIDS, I am reminded that our duty as a world power is to ensure that this epidemic does not continue to devastate lives.

Present day AIDS education is lacking the appropriate resources to spread the message that this disease is preventable. Without these resources and advocates to stand for the cause, HIV/AIDS will continue to infect millions of people worldwide. It is critical that this country and its leaders begin to increase awareness nationwide so that our constituents will understand the causes as well as effects of AIDS while we continue to be outspoken in the fight to find a cure.

Furthermore, AIDS continues to ravage our communities due to the fact that there is not enough federal or state money placed into health initiatives to treat current patients or to find a cure. With the desperately needed funding for medical programs and treatment centers, many new cases can be prevented and persons who have the virus will receive affordable quality medication.

We all have a calling to service our communities by making policies that increase awareness and target funding towards HIV/AIDS. I will maintain my stance that HIV/AIDS affects us all regardless of class, race or sex. Therefore, we must present a united front in the effort to prevent this disease from spreading and remain committed to increasing appropriations for HIV/AIDS, education and treatment.

[From the Washington Post, June 2, 2006]

ANOTHER $10 BILLION

The Generals in the global battle against HIV-AIDS are meeting at the United Nations this week, five years after another U.N. summit promised an intensified push against the crisis. The target of mobilizing $7 billion to $10 billion per year has been met: Last year low- and middle-income countries spent $2.5 billion of their own money and an additional $5.8 billion from donors on AIDS treatment and prevention and the care of orphans. But that money has bought less than expected. Rather than hitting the ''three by five'' target of getting medicines to 3 million people by 2005, the world has put only about 1.4 million people on treatment—a big improvement on the 240,000 who were receiving drugs in 2001 but still well less than half of the number who need medicines immediately. Equally, better-financed prevention efforts have succeeded in driving down infection rates among young adults, notably in Kenya, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Haiti. But last year there were 4.1 million new infections worldwide. The plague is still advancing.

The summiteers in New York therefore confront a daunting problem. The latest U.N. estimate, which may prove as optimistic as the last one, is that fighting the disease will soon require $20 billion to $23 billion a year, more than twice the current spending. What's more, this is not a temporary commitment: Once people go on antiretroviral treatment, they need medicines for years; caring for orphans is also a long-term proposition. Assuming that some of the extra resources will be provided by middle-income countries, the rich world may need to reach into its taxpayers' pockets for an extra $10 billion a year. Official development assistance, which has already jumped by more than two-thirds in real terms between 2000 and 2005, would have to grow by a tenth or so.

Moreover, the effect of that money will be limited unless the world expands its commitment to other development efforts. Donor-financed AIDS programs can suck nurses and doctors out of the rest of the health system, so an increase in AIDS spending requires a parallel increase in general health investment. AIDS flourishes in poor societies because illiteracy and penury make people vulnerable; success against the virus depends partly on broader progress. As President Paul Kagame of Rwanda told The Post on Wednesday, there's no use in giving someone antiretroviral drugs if he has no food.

The imperative to raise extra money for AIDS and other development objectives raises an institutional issue. To carry out its commitments of five years ago, the world created the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which has raised and spent an impressive $5 billion; the question is whether this venture should be the vehicle for the next step-up in AIDS funding. The fund's critics, notably the Bush administration, rightly say that it has suffered from poor management, that it has occasionally given money on the basis of poor grant proposals and that it has indulged grantees whose performance should have led to a suspension of disbursements. But rather than snipe at the fund, the critics should work to improve it. The fund's structure provides a way of sharing the financial burden globally. The quality of its grants has recently gone up. And centralizing AIDS finance simplifies the administrative burden on stressed officials from poor countries. The fund's entrepreneurial leader, Richard Feachem, has announced that he will leave when his term expires this year. The priority should be to find a replacement who is pushy enough to raise extra money and sawy enough to solidify the institution's management.

AMERICAN-MADE ENERGY AND GOOD JOBS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to strongly oppose H.R. 5429, the so-called American-Made Energy and Good Jobs Act, which attempts to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to industrial development.

In March we were reminded of the potential environmental consequences of drilling in the refuge when an Alaskan pipeline leaked 200,000 gallons of crude oil onto the surrounding slope. This is the largest spill ever in the North Slope and a timely caution against opening the Arctic Refuge to drilling.

Because I have visited the Arctic Refuge and seen its unique wilderness first hand, such news strengthens my resolve to protect the refuge and press for real solutions to our country's energy challenges.

This bill would do nothing more than continue our pattern of unchecked consumption. It is another attempt to sell Americans the false promise of easy answers on energy policy.

Our energy situation will not change until Congress gets serious about tackling America's oil dependence. With the booming economies of China and India squeezing global oil supply, and political instability among key oil producing countries like Iran, Nigeria and Iraq, we should expect rising oil prices for some time to come.

This proposal to open ANWR is a short-sighted answer to a long-term problem. I urge my colleagues to vote against the rule and the underlying bill.

THE APPRECIATION OF JOSE CORONADO

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in recognizing Mr. Jose Coronado, Director of the South Texas Veterans Health Care System to show our appreciation for his life long career in public service, culminating in ensuring the best possible health care to the veterans of South Texas.

Mr. Coronado, a U.S. Army veteran who served as Battalion Operations Sergeant in the 11th Armored Calvary Division, was awarded both the Military Order of the Purple Heart and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Outstanding Service Award.

After his service in the Army, Jose received his B.S. in Chemistry and Zoology from Texas A&I-Kingsville, and went on to earn an M.S. in Education Administration there before receiving a M.H.A. in Hospital Administration from Baylor University.

Jose Coronado then began his career in Veterans Administration to improve the care given to the thousands of Americans who risked their lives for this country. In 1962, he started with the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Houston, continuing his work in Kerrville, Texas.

In 1973, Mr. Coronado became Assistant Director of the Audie L. Murphy Memorial Veterans Hospital in San Antonio, Texas; two years later, he was appointed Hospital Director. There, he served America's veterans for 20 years, ensuring the efforts and sacrifices of America's warriors would not be forgotten. He contributed to saving the lives of countless veterans through improved services.

When the Kerrville and Audie L. Murphy Veterans Hospitals merged in 1995, Jose Coronado directed the new South Texas Veterans Health Care System. He has overseen an extensive network of health care delivers and operated an intricate health care system with many varying divisions of expertise.

As Director, Jose Coronado was recognized many times for the outstanding service he provided to America's veterans. He was awarded the Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Executives by both Ronald Reagan and George Bush. In 1999, President Bill Clinton presented Mr. Coronado with the Presidential Rank Award for Distinguished Executives.

While Jose received countless awards over the years, his distinguished character and his quiet ability to find solutions for our veterans were central to his dedicated service to the South Texas Veterans Health Care System.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me today in celebrating Mr. Jose Coronado's commitment to those veterans who dedicated their lives for American freedom. His tireless efforts have provided the medical assistance that South Texas veterans earned from uniformed service to our country.

RECOGNIZING JOHN ANTHONY CLIZER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize John Anthony Clizer, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

John has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years John has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending John Anthony Clizer for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PULITZER PRIZE WINNER NICHOLAS KRISTOF: INTRODUCING AMERICANS TO AFRICA—ONE ASPIRING JOURNALIST AT A TIME

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to enter into the RECORD a column by Nicholas Kristof: "The Drumroll, Please" in the May 23, 2006 edition of The New York Times and his column of March 26, 2006 entitled "A Woman Without Importance."

Mr. Kristof uses his New York Times column to bring to our attention important, little known and neglected human rights causes. In the past 12 months many of these causes have come from Mr. Kristofs observations during his many trips to countries in Africa. As a persistent, compassionate journalist advocating for women's rights in Africa, Mr. Kristof has no peer. To me, he is a quiet but powerful voice forcing our recognition that women and girls are without basic human rights in many countries in Africa and other countries as well such as Vietnam, Thailand, and Pakistan.

In a column of March 26, 2006, Mr. Kristoff wrote about Aisha Parveen who at the age of 14 was living in northwest Pakistan when she was hit over the head while walking to school. She awoke to find herself imprisoned in a brothel where she was tortured and imprisoned for 6 years. When she escaped she married a man who helped her. The brothel owner sued the couple claiming he had married the 14-year-old Aisha Parveen. She was accused of adultery and was ordered to go back to the brothel owner.

Girls in Africa are often sold as sex slaves or servants. In some countries girls are inherited or used to payoff debts. Marriages are arranged for them when they are as young as 12 years. They have babies before their bodies are able to deliver a child vaginally. With no medical help most labor for days to deliver a dead baby and are left with terrible birth injuries. If the mother is incontinent because of an injury called a fistula she is shunned by her family and her husband forced to live away from the village.

Mr. Kristof won the Pulitzer Prize for risking his life returning to the Darfur region of southern Sudan again and again to tell the stories of the people suffering from the remaining victims of a concerted effort by the Arab government in Khartoum to eliminate every last one of them. Kristof has chronicled genocide in Darfur as it has continued unabated for three years and goes on now in spite of a newly signed peace accord brokered in part by the United States.

Kristof has told the personal stories of people who have suffered from the rampages of the Janjaweed, the proxy murderers of the Government of Sudan in Khartoum. He has personalized the murders, the maiming, the rapes, the killing of children, by telling the heart breaking stories of people who have lost their homes, their children and parents, husbands and wives, their livestock, their lands and their freedom.

Perhaps because so little print had been spent on Darfur, Mr. Kristoff, decided people were not familiar enough with Africa to become sympathetic to the plight of people who are targets of a ruthless, cruel genocide.

Maybe Mr. Kristof had the idea that more students should make travel to other countries part of their college education and more universities should offer such trips. As he announced in his video a "win a trip" contest in March he felt he got a great education from his trips when he was a student that he was sponsoring a "win a trip" competition because he had learned so much from his trips to other countries while he was a student that he felt more students needed to experience life in other countries. Kristof's idea of visiting other countries is visiting places where the people of the country live, not visiting tourist places like Paris and London.

In Mr. Kristof's video announcing the "win a trip" contest, the camera views him from above as he appears to be standing on a wide sand beach. Mr. Kristof begins by talking about spring breaks and how many American college students spend their spring breaks and summers reveling beaches. But as the camera closes in, it become clear Mr. Kristof is not on a beach and not near an American city or village recognizable to most Americans until the camera broadens its view to take in a skinny donkey with a rider and a few people wearing the long draped clothes and hoods common to desert peoples who are always needing protection from a brutal, relentless sun.

For years Mr. Kristof has used his column in the Times to chronicle the continuing slow genocide in Darfur with the individual stories of people who have been maimed, raped and had children killed in front of them and to stop the genocide in Darfur. He has told the stories of the individuals who have lost everything they had; families, homes, livestock and parents. He has traveled to places in Africa where women are the least of the least and has chronicled stories of women who are shunned by their families if they are raped or worse go to jail even though they are the victims of crime.

The fact that 3,800 aspiring journalists from universities around the country applied to accompany Mr. Kristof on an admittedly "rough" reporting trip to "a neglected area in Africa"

speaks volumes about the esteem in which these students hold Mr. Kristof. The number of applicants wanting to go to Africa gives me enormous hope for Africa and our country. There is no better way for Americans to know Africa than to go there. And for those who will not be able to go themselves they will benefit from the journalists like Casey Parks the winner of the first "win a trip" contest who is accompanying Mr. Kristof this summer to Equatorial Guinea, Cameroon and the Central African Republic.

My wish for Ms. Parks is that she has a long career as a journalist who will write so intimately and well of her journey, that the people of Africa will be seen as individual human beings to her readers. My hope for Mr. Kristof is that is he is able to take a different aspiring journalist every year and convince Universities and colleges around the country of the value of establishing programs for students to live in countries they will not visit as tourists to see how the people of these countries live their lives.

[From the New York Times, May 23, 2006]

THE DRUMROLL, PLEASE

(By Nicholas D. Kristof)

In March I opened a "win a trip" contest, offering to take a university student with me on a rough reporting trip to a neglected area in Africa.

Some 3,800 applications poured in, accompanied by boxes of supplementary materials, ranging from senior theses to nude photos. After weeks of sifting through the applications, I finally have a winner.

She is Casey Parks of Jackson, Miss.—an aspiring journalist who has never traveled abroad. We'll get her a passport and a bunch of vaccinations—ah, the glamour of overseas travel—and start planning our trip.

Casey, who turned 23 on Friday, attended Millsaps College in Jackson and is now a graduate student in journalism at the University of Missouri. She has won a string of awards for her essays and other writing.

In her essay, Casey wrote about growing up poor: "I saw my mother skip meals. I saw my father pawn everything he loved. I saw our cars repossessed. I never saw France or London." (The essays by Casey and a dozen finalists are posted at nytimes.com/winatrip.)

"I so desperately want to leave this country and know more," she wrote. Now she'll have the chance.

We'll most likely start in Equatorial Guinea, bounce over to Cameroon and travel through a jungle with Pygmy villages to end up in the Central African Republic—one of the most neglected countries in the world. We'll visit schools, clinics and aid programs, probably traveling in September for 10 days. Casey will write a blog about it for nytimes.com and will also do a video blog for MTV–U.

But the point of this contest wasn't to give one lucky student the chance to get malaria and hookworms. It's to try to stir up a broader interest in the developing world among young people.

One of our country's basic strategic weaknesses is that Americans don't understand the rest of the world. We got in trouble in Vietnam and again in Iraq partly because we couldn't put ourselves in other people's shoes and appreciate their nationalism.

According to Foreign Policy magazine, 92 percent of U.S. college students don't take a foreign language class. Goucher College in Baltimore bills itself as the first American college to require all students to study abroad, and the rest should follow that example.

So for all the rest of you who applied for my contest, see if you can't work out your own trips. Or take a year off before heading to college or into ajob. You'll have to pay for your travel, but you can often find "hotels" for $5 a night per person in countries like India, Pakistan, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Morocco, Bolivia and Peru—and in rural areas, people may invite you to stay free in their huts. To get around, you can jump on local buses.

Is it safe? Not entirely, for the developing world has more than its share of pickpockets, drunken soldiers, scorpions, thugs, diseases, parasites and other risks.

Twenty-two years ago, as a backpacking student, I traveled with a vivacious young American woman who, like me, was living in Cairo. She got off my train in northern Sudan; that evening, the truck she had hitched a ride in hit another truck. Maybe if there had been an ambulance or a doctor nearby, she could have been saved. Instead, she bled to death.

So, yes, be aware of the risks, travel with a buddy or two, and carry an international cellphone. But remember that young Aussies, Kiwis and Europeans take such a year of travel all the time—women included—and usually come through not only intact, but also with a much richer understanding of how most of humanity lives.

There are also terrific service options. Mukhtar Mai, the Pakistani anti-rape activist I've often written about, told me she would welcome American volunteers to teach English in the schools she has started. You would have to commit to staying six weeks or more, but would get free housing in her village. You can apply by contacting *www.4anaa.org*.

Then there's New Light, a terrific anti-trafficking organization in Calcutta. Urmi Basu, who runs it, said she would welcome American volunteers to teach English classes to the children of prostitutes. You would have to stay at least six weeks and budget $15 a day for food and lodging; for more information go to *www.uddami.org/newlight*.

In the 21st century, you can't call yourself educated if you don't understand how the other half lives—and you don't get that understanding in a classroom. So do something about your educational shortcomings: fly to Bangkok.

[From the New York Times, Mar. 26, 2006]

A WOMAN WITHOUT IMPORTANCE

(By Nicholas D. Kristof)

KHANPUR, PAKISTAN.—Aisha Parveen doesn't matter. She's simply one more impoverished girl from the countryside, and if her brothel's owner goes ahead and kills her, almost no one will care.

Ms. Parveen, an outspoken 20-year-old woman with flashing eyes, is steeling herself for a state administered horror. Just two months after she escaped from the brothel in which she was tortured and imprisoned for six years, the courts are poised to hand her back to the brothel owner.

Sex trafficking, nurtured by globalization and increased mobility, is becoming worse. The U.N. estimates that one million children are held in conditions of slavery in Asia alone. Yet it never gets much attention, because the victims tend to be the least powerful people in these societies: poor and uneducated rural girls.

Ms. Parveen was a 14-year-old Pashtun living in the northwest of Pakistan when she was hit on the head while walking to school. She says she awoke to find herself imprisoned in a brothel hundreds of miles away, in this remote southeastern Pakistani town of Khanpur.

A person of unbelievable strength, Ms. Parveen fought back and refused to sleep with customers. So, she says, the brothel owner—Mian Sher, the violent sadist who had kidnapped her—beat and sexually tortured her, and regularly drugged her so that she would fall unconscious and customers could do with her as they liked.

This went on for six years, during which she says she was beaten every day. The girls in the brothel were forced to sleep naked at night, so that they would be too embarrassed to try to escape. Ms. Parveen says she believes that two of them, Malo Jan and Suwa Tai, were killed after they repeatedly refused to sleep with customers. In any case condoms were never available, so all the girls may eventually die of AIDS.

I wanted to look into the eyes of a man who could do these things. So I barged into Mian Sher's brothel, identified myself and interviewed him.

He warily offered me tea, pleasantries and flashes of violent temper. He denied kidnapping Ms. Parveen, saying that he had married her six years earlier. He also denied that he pimped the girls—a claim undermined by a customer who was walking out of his brothel as I arrived. Others working in the area said that Mian Sher unquestionably ran a brothel, and that Ms. Parveen had been imprisoned in it.

In January, Ms. Parveen got a break. A metalworker, Mohamed Akram, had been doing work in the brothel, and he pitied her. "She laid her scarf down on my feet and begged me, in the name of the Holy Koran, to rescue her," he remembers, and soon he felt not only pity but also love.

So on Jan. 5, Ms. Parveen stealthily arose in the middle of the night, crept past Mian Sher and padlocked the door with him inside. Then she ran to a car that Mr. Akram had sent. The next day, they were married.

Then the judicial nightmare began. Mian Sher brought charges against the couple, claiming that Ms. Parveen is his wife and must return to him.

"The police have taken money from him," Ms. Parveen said. "They say, 'You're married to him, so you should go back to him.' Well, I would rather die than go back to the brothel."

The police are now prosecuting Ms. Parveen for adultery. She is free on bail, but thugs have attacked her home and tried to kidnap her.

Mian Sher told me his plan: if Ms. Parveen is jailed for adultery, then as her supposed husband he will bail her out and take her away. Ms. Parveen says she believes he will then rape and torture her, and finally kill her.

So the judicial system, while ignoring the sex trafficking of children, may now, in the name of morality, hand a young woman over to a brothel owner to do with her as he wants.

The new abolitionism, against sex trafficking, is being pushed in America by an unlikely coalition of religious conservatives and liberal feminists; leaders include the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, Ecpat, Equality Now and International Justice Mission. But progress is slow because the victims tend to be voiceless young people like Ms. Parveen.

Whether Ms. Parveen is returned to her brothel owner and killed may be, in terms of global issues, a small matter. But after spending a couple of days with this smart and lovely young woman, after seeing her in moments of giddy laughter and terrified weeping, I can't help thinking that slavery should be just as outrageous in the 21st century as it was in the 19th.

A court hearing to decide Ms. Parveen's fate is scheduled for tomorrow here in Khanpur. I'll let you know what happens.

REFINERY PERMIT PROCESS SCHEDULE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Refinery Permit Process Schedule Act—H.R. 5254. This bill wrongly attempts to streamline environmental regulations in an effort to spur construction of new refining facilities, while doing nothing to move the country toward energy independence.

The Refinery Permit Process Schedule Act—H.R. 5254—mandates additional Federal oversight and requires State and local governments to comply with a new Federal schedule for approving permits to site, construct or expand a refinery. This bill fails to address legitimate concerns over the slow pace of expansion and increasing geographic concentration of America's oil refining facilities.

Supporters of H.R. 5254 blame state and local environmental regulations for obstructing the construction of new refining facilities. But private oil refining companies are choosing not to construct new facilities based on their own economic projections rather than local environmental hurdles. The Wall Street Journal recently reported that Exxon is not building new refineries because it expects growth in U.S. demand for gasoline will be too insufficient to justify the capital investment. The chief executive officer for Shell Oil testified before Congress in 2005 that he knows of no environmental regulations that have prevented his company from expanding refinery capacity or siting a new refinery. Clearly, undermining State and local laws will do nothing to change the market-forces that are the true basis of companies' decisions regarding refinery construction.

In addition, H.R. 5254 does nothing to promote home-grown biofuels, a critical element of America's energy independence strategy. In the last 30 years, 97 new bio-refineries have been built in the U.S. and more are needed. But this bill will not expand America's biofuel industry for the same reason it fails to expand oil refining capacity—State and local regulations are not the barrier to growth. Biofuel industry experts have testified that State and local regulations have not prevented the siting or permitting of new bio-refineries.

It is time for leadership, vision and commitment from Washington to make the smart investments that will protect our Nation's economic security and our planet's future. In Congress, we should start by rescinding the billion of dollars in subsidies for oil and gas companies to expand drilling. We must invest in research and extend incentives for alternative energy sources such as wind, biomass and biofuels that keep energy costs down, create jobs and make us more competitive in the global economy. A clean energy future that addresses oil dependence and environmental concerns such as climate change is achievable.

But we should not expect our energy situation to change until the Bush administration and the Republican leaders in Congress get serious about tackling our oil dependence.

H.R. 5254 is a thinly veiled second attempt by the Republican majority to pass the controversial Gasoline for America's Security Act—H.R. 3893—which the House narrowly passed in 2005 and the Senate ignored. As with that bill, H.R. 5254 has had no hearings, no markups, no opportunity for Congress to make necessary inquiries. Real solutions to America's energy challenges will result from a transparent legislative process, bipartisan cooperation and visionary ideas. The Republican majority has once again offered energy legislation that falls far short of a real solution.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF JOEL M. CARP

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Joel M. Carp upon the occasion of his retirement after 28 years of service with the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago. Throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Carp has supported continued social work, social planning and advocacy in the City of Chicago, the State of Illinois, and the country as a whole.

For over 30 years, Mr. Carp has dedicated his professional and personal life as an advocate for numerous social policy efforts serving on a number of government task forces and advisory boards, including the City of Chicago Mayor's Task Force on Hunger, the Cook County Task Force on Welfare Reform, and the Governor's Task Force on Services for the Homeless to name just a few. Additionally, Mr. Carp has served as a member of numerous local, state, and national professional and community service organizations as an advocate for the welfare of the Jewish community.

As an effective leader and tireless advocate, Mr. Carp has received several awards in recognition of his work, including the Melvin A. Block Award for Professional Distinction from the Associated YM–YWHAs of Greater New York, the City of Chicago's Commission on Human Relations Award, and a special award from the YMCA of the USA for helping to restore Agency for International Development funding for human services in Lebanon.

Upon his retirement as the Senior Vice President for Community Services and Government Relations of the Jewish Federation/Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago, Mr. Carp leaves behind a long legacy of social advocacy within the Jewish community. Mr. Carp is an inspiration to all for his dedication and leadership in shaping and improving social policy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Joel M. Carp in recognition of his distinguished and tireless work and service to his community.

RECOGNIZING TAYLOR MICHAEL WALLACE FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Taylor Michael Wallace, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Taylor has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Taylor has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Taylor Michael Wallace for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

FORMER PENTAGON LAWYER ALBERTO J. MORA: AN EXEMPLAR OF AMERICAN VALUES WITH A WARNING: DO NOT LET FEAR OVERCOME THE DISCIPLINE OF LAW AND AMERICAN VALUES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce into the RECORD an opinion piece by former Navy lawyer Alberto J. Mora entitled "An Affront to American Values" which appeared in the Washington Post on May 27, 2006, as well as an Op-Ed of February 20, 2006 in The New York Times entitled "Senior Lawyer at Pentagon Broke Ranks on Detainees."

The Times pointed out in its Op-Ed that Alberto Mora in his position as one of the Pentagon's top civilian lawyers "repeatedly challenged the Bush administration's policy on the coercive interrogation of terror suspects, arguing that such practices violated the law, verged on torture, and could ultimately expose senior officials to prosecution . . ." The information came from a then newly disclosed document, a memorandum Mr. Mora wrote in July 2004 and made public in an article in The New Yorker magazine on February 19, 2006.

I have repeatedly spoken out against the "torture policies" directly traced to Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld, Vice President CHENEY (who remains a champion of torture) and President Bush who two weeks after the Congress passed a law banning all torture of any person in the custody of the U.S. issued a signing letter stating he was not bound by that law when in his judgment he needs to use torture in his war on terror.

I am immensely gratified to know Mr. Mora challenged the opinions of Secretary Rumsfeld, who is not a lawyer and appears to have a low regard for the law, regarding the legal parameters of the treatment of detainees. But I am most proud and grateful for two excellent questions Mr. Mora asked his clients at the Pentagon which The Times reported: "Defense Department officials found striking and out of character for a loyal Republican, a supporter of President Bush, Secretary Rumsfeld and the fight against terrorism."

He asked the questions every one in the Pentagon and the Military of good character should have asked regardless of his or her

party affiliation or loyalty to the President. According to the memo printed in The New Yorker Mr. Mora asked the Pentagon's chief lawyer, William J. Haynes II:

''Even if one wanted to authorize the U.S. Military to conduct coercive interrogations, as was the case in Guantanamo, how could one do so without profoundly altering its core values and character?''

According to the Times article after trying to rally other senior officials to his position, Mr. Mora met again with Mr. Hayes on January 10, 2003. His question to Mr. Hayes that day is another every person of good moral character should be asking:

''Had we jettisoned our human rights policies?''

I will here answer both of Mr. Mora's questions: NO. The U.S. Military can not adopt coercive tactics as were used at Guantánamo without profoundly altering its core values and character. Look at what occurred at Haditha, Iraq.

YES. As to prisoners in our custody with President Bush, Vice President Cheney and Secretary Rumsfeld in full charge of the Iraq war, the Military has abandoned its 200 year history and jettisoned its human rights policies.

Mr. Mora retired on December 31, 2005. I am pleased he is still speaking out for American values and still asking very good questions. In his opinion piece in The Washington Post he asks the American people to consider some very good questions about the continued detention and treatment of ''unlawful combatants'' at Abu Ghraib and the treatment of detainees at Guantánamo.

In naming his piece ''An Affront to American Values'' I knew immediately Mr. Mora has not changed his mind about the way the President Bush and Secretary Rumsfeld are directing the military to treat prisoners in military custody no matter how they are named; unlawful combatants, detainees or high-value targets. Perhaps he is now making his arguments to the American people because his opinions were heard but clearly disregarded by the Pentagon's Chief Lawyer. And Mr. Mora believes he was right. I believe he was right. I believe Bush-Cheney-Rumsfeld, Attorneys (the President can do anything he wants) John Wu, David Addington Cheney's Attorney, and now Chief of Staff, and Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez were very wrong on the treatment and labeling of prisoners and remain wrong. I agree with Representative JOHN MURTHA; we lost the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people at Abu Ghraib.

We also lost American support of the war in part because of what Americans did at Abu Ghraib. We lost more Americans because of treatment of detainees at Guantánamo. We will lose still more with incidents like the massacre of innocent men, women. Have we had turned our marines into murderers who shot two-year old babies? They are in a war based on lies, run by a Secretary of Defense who has no idea of how to get them out, who doesn't give them what they need to protect themselves, enough help to hold territory they fight for and stays in the hanger where he plane lands when he visits the troops.

In the Post opinion piece Mr. Mora reminds us of how we treated Japanese Americans during World War II and just how we came to treat these innocent people as if they were criminals and spies because of their ancestry. He reminds us how we did this crime in violation of the United States Constitution and how the U.S. Supreme Court abdicated its judicial responsibility in the famous Korematsu decision, in which it endorsed the patently unconstitutional detention of American citizens.

Americans unconstitutionally detained Japanese Americans because Mr. Mora writes; ''in our quest for security'' when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, ''in what will always be regarded as an act of national shame, military authorities rounded up 120,000 American citizens and incarcerated them on the presumption of disloyalty. . . .''

Korematsu reminds us that when threats and fear converge, our laws and principles can become fragile. They are fragile today.

Mr. Mora writes that in the summer of 2002, U.S. authorities held in detention at Guantanamo and elsewhere people President Bush, Vice President CHENEY Secretary Rumsfeld and perhaps others believed had information needed to prevent further terrorist attacks. These same people believed the detainees could be called ''unlawful combatants'' and ''interrogation methods'' constituting cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment could be applied at Abu Ghraib, Guantánamo and other locations. We know the treatment may have reached the level of torture in some instances.

The American public knows torture occurred as do the members of the Congress who supported JOHN MCCAIN's anti torture amendment which became law and is now the Detainee Treatment Act of 2005. The American people have read the testimony and perhaps heard the testimony of some of the innocent people who suffered U.S. ''rendition'' to another country like Syria and have returned after being tortured and attempted to sue the U.S. government for their treatment. There is not an iota of fact showing that torture yields good evidence. Senator JOHN MCCAIN who was tortured for more than five years testified to that. Experts in torture all agree people who are tortured will say anything to make the pain stop.

I am ashamed for my country because The Detainee Treatment Act had to be introduced and voted on because this proud country has always had a policy of acknowledging the basic human rights of prisoners of war. The United States does not execute prisoners of war and does not torture, humiliate, starve, degrade or otherwise treat prisoners of war in a way that is inhuman.

Our military has always been bound by the Uniform Military Code, the Geneva Conventions and the Laws of War. In addition, as Mr. Mora writes:

''It is astonishing to me, still, that I should be here today addressing the issue of American cruelty—or that anyone would ever have to. Our forefather, who permanently defined our civic values, drafted our Constitution inspired by the belief that law could not create but only recognize certain inalienable rights granted by God—to every person, not just citizens, not just here but everywhere. Those rights are a shield that protects core human dignity. Because this is so, the Eighth Amendment prohibits cruel punishment. The constitutional jurisprudence of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments outlaws cruel treatment that shocks the conscience. The Geneva Conventions forbid the application of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment of all captives, as do all of the major or human rights treaties adopted and ratified by our country during the last century.''

I find it shocking as well. What I also find shocking and disheartening is an answer Secretary Rumsfeld gave the other day when asked if the prohibition against torture had been put into the field manual and into practice; his answer was ''not yet.'' The reason that it was not yet in the field manual for the military in Iraq and Afghanistan? The Pentagon was still arguing about certain terms like ''unlawful combatant.'' The Secretary of Defense doesn't get it. The anti-torture law applies to any person in the custody of Americans wherever they are. The fact that Rumsfeld is holding up the implementation of the anti-torture act and the implementation of human rights military policy of the past 200 years, the conduct we agreed to when we signed treaties and the treatment of prisoners we agreed to when we signed and then ratified the Geneva Conventions, leaves our men and women fighting Mr. Bush's Iraq war in great danger of being charged with criminal offenses. In fact, it is happening now.

The American people must fight back. They must let this Administration know how much they object to what is happening to our proud military's moral character. American's must know this President relies on a Secretary of Defense that has no regard for Generals that have served in combat and understands the Uniform Code of Military Justice and the rules governing how our military treats prisoners of war. Our men and women in combat are at grave risk when such crucial decisions are made by men who have never served in the military and will not take the advice of those who have.

Mr. Mora asks: '' In this war, we have come to a crossroads—much as we did in the events that led to Korematsu: Will we continue to regard the protection and promotion of human dignity as the essence of our national character and purpose or will we bargain away human and national dignity in return for an additional possible measure of physical security?''

Mr. Mora tells us as he attempted to tell his boss at the Pentagon why it matters for us to care about the human rights of prisoners and our national dignity. He writes:

''We should care because the issues raised by a policy of cruelty are too fundamental to be left unaddressed, unanswered or ambiguous. We should care because a tolerance of cruelty will corrode our values and our rights and degrade the world in which we live. It will corrupt our heritage, cheapen the valor of the soldiers upon whose past and present sacrifices our freedoms depend, and debase the legacy we will leave to our sons and daughters. We should care because it is intolerable to us that anyone should believe for a second that our nation is tolerant of cruelty. And we should care because each of us knows that this issue has not gone away.''

AN AFFRONT TO AMERICAN VALUES

(By Alberto J. Mora)

In response to the 3,000 murders on Sept. 11, 2001, our nation went to war. In Afghanistan, our targets were the al-Qaeda perpetrators and the Taliban regime that aided and abetted them. In Iraq, the target was an unstable tyrant who had a history of using chemical weapons and who could be trusted to cheat on and retreat from his international commitments. I supported both engagements as Navy general counsel. I support them still as a private citizen. I regard each as a prudent and even necessary use of force. The terrorist threat, and the threat

posed by weapons of mass destruction in reckless hands, can never be underestimated.

And yet, there have been times in our nation's history when, in our quest for security, our fear momentarily overcomes our judgment and our power slips the discipline of the law and our national values.

One such moment occurred in 1942, after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. In what will always be regarded as an act of national shame, military authorities rounded up 120,000 American citizens of Japanese ancestry and incarcerated them on the presumption of disloyalty. These citizens were stripped of their rights and held in detention camps for the duration of the war. Many lost businesses and property. When we recall this event—and it is relevant to our current situation—we also recall with shame the Supreme Court's abdication of its judicial responsibilities in the notorious Korematsu decision, in which it endorsed the legality of the patently unconstitutional detention.

Korematsu reminds us that when threats and fear converge, our laws and principles can become fragile. They are fragile today. In the summer of 2002, at Guantánamo and elsewhere, U.S. authorities held in detention individuals thought to have information on other impending attacks against the United States. Unless this information was obtained, it was believed, more Americans—perhaps many more—would die. In this context, our government issued legal and policy documents providing, in effect, that for some detainees labeled as ''unlawful combatants,'' interrogation methods constituting cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment could be applied under the president's constitutional commander in chief authorities. Although there is debate as to the details of how, when and why, we know such cruel treatment was applied at Abu Ghraib, Guantánamo and other locations. We know the treatment may have reached the level of torture in some instances. And there are still questions as to whether these policies were related, if at all, to the deaths of several dozen detainees in custody.

It is astonishing to me, still, that I should be here today addressing the issue of American cruelty—or that anyone would ever have to. Our forefathers, who permanently defined our civic values, drafted our Constitution inspired by the belief that law could not create but only recognize certain inalienable rights granted by God—to every person, not just citizens, and not just here but everywhere. Those rights form a shield that protects core human dignity. Because this is so, the Eighth Amendment prohibits cruel punishment. The constitutional jurisprudence of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments outlaws cruel treatment that shocks the conscience. The Geneva Conventions forbid the application of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment to all captives, as do all of the major human rights treaties adopted and ratified by our country during the last century.

Despite this, there was abuse. Not all were mistreated, but some were. For those mistreated, history will ultimately judge what the precise quantum of abuse inflicted was—whether it was torture or some lesser cruelty—and whether it resulted from official commission or omission, or occurred despite every reasonable effort to prevent the abuse. Whatever the ultimate historical judgment, it is established fact that documents justifying and authorizing the abusive treatment of detainees during interrogation were approved and distributed. These authorizations rested on three beliefs: that no law prohibited the application of cruelty; that no law should be adopted that would do so; and that our government could choose to apply the cruelty—or not—as a matter of policy depending on the dictates of perceived military necessity.

The fact that we adopted this policy demonstrates that this war has tested more than our nation's ability to defend itself. It has tested our response to our fears and the measure of our courage. It has tested our commitment to our most fundamental values and our constitutional principles.

In this war, we have come to a crossroads—much as we did in the events that led to Korematsu: Will we continue to regard the protection and promotion of human dignity as the essence of our national character and purpose, or will we bargain away human and national dignity in return for an additional possible measure of physical security?

Why should we still care about these issues? The Abu Ghraib abuses have been exposed; Justice Department memoranda justifying cruelty and even torture have been ridiculed and rescinded; the authorizations for the application of extreme interrogation techniques have been withdrawn; and, perhaps most critically, the Detainee Treatment Act of 2005, which prohibits cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, has been enacted, thanks to the courage and leadership of Sen. John McCain.

We should care because the issues raised by a policy of cruelty are too fundamental to be left unaddressed, unanswered or ambiguous. We should care because a tolerance of cruelty will corrode our values and our rights and degrade the world in which we live. It will corrupt our heritage, cheapen the valor of the soldiers upon whose past and present sacrifices our freedoms depend, and debase the legacy we will leave to our sons and daughters. We should care because it is intolerable to us that anyone should believe for a second that our nation is tolerant of cruelty. And we should care because each of us knows that this issue has not gone away.

The writer, who retired as Navy general counsel last year, wrote a memo to Pentagon officials two years before the Abu Ghraib scandal that warned against circumventing international agreements on torture and detainee treatment. This article is excerpted from remarks he made upon receiving a 2006 John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award.

SENIOR LAWYER AT PENTAGON BROKE RANKS ON DETAINEES

(By Tim Golden)

One of the Pentagon's top civilian lawyers repeatedly challenged the Bush administration's policy on the coercive interrogation of terror suspects, arguing that such practices violated the law, verged on torture and could ultimately expose senior officials to prosecution, a newly disclosed document shows.

The lawyer, Alberto J. Mora, a political appointee who retired Dec. 31 after more than four years as general counsel of the Navy, was one of many dissenters inside the Pentagon. Senior uniformed lawyers in all the military services also objected sharply to the interrogation policy, according to internal documents declassified last year.

But Mr. Mora's campaign against what he viewed as an official policy of cruel treatment, detailed in a memorandum he wrote in July 2004 and recounted in an article in the Feb. 27 issue of The New Yorker magazine, made public yesterday, underscored again how contrary views were often brushed aside in administration debates on the subject.

''Even if one wanted to authorize the U.S. military to conduct coercive interrogations, as was the case in Guantanamo, how could one do so without profoundly altering its core values and character?'' Mr. Mora asked the Pentagon's chief lawyer, William J. Haynes II, according to the memorandum.

A Pentagon spokeswoman, Lt. Col. Tracy O'Grady-Walsh, declined to comment late yesterday on specific assertions in Mr. Mora's memorandum. ''Detainee operations and interrogation policies have been scrutinized under a microscope, from all different angles,'' she said. ''It was found that it was not a Department of Defense policy to encourage or condone torture.''

In interviews, current and former Defense Department officials said that part of what was striking about Mr. Mora's forceful role in the internal debates was how out of character it seemed: a loyal Republican, he was known as a supporter of President Bush, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and the fight against terrorism.

''He's an extremely well-spoken, almost elegant guy,'' the former director of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, David L. Brandt, who first came to Mr. Mora with concerns about the interrogation methods, said in an interview last week. ''He's not a door-kicker.''

Mr. Mora is also known for generally avoiding public attention. Reached by telephone yesterday, he declined to comment further on his memorandum.

Mr. Mora prepared the 22-page memorandum for a Defense Department review of interrogation operations that was conducted by Vice Adm. Albert T. Church III, after the scandal involving treatment of prisoners at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

The document focused on Mr. Mora's, successful opposition to the coercive techniques that Mr. Rumsfeld approved for interrogators at Guantánamo Bay on Dec. 2, 2002, and Mr. Mora's subsequent, failed effort to influence the legal discussions that led to new methods approved by Mr. Rumsfeld the following April.

Mr. Mora took up the issue after Mr. Brandt came to him on Dec. 17, 2002, to relay the concerns of Navy criminal agents at Guantánamo that some detainees there were being subjected to ''physical abuse and degrading treatment'' by interrogators.

Acting with the support of Gordon R. England, who was then secretary of the Navy and is now Mr. Rumsfeld's deputy, Mr. Mora took his concerns to Mr. Haynes, the Defense Department's general counsel.

''In my view, some of the authorized interrogation techniques could rise to the level of torture, although the intent surely had not been to do so,'' Mr. Mora wrote.

After trying to rally other senior officials to his position, Mr. Mora met again with Mr. Haynes on Jan. 10, 2003. He argued his case even more forcefully, raising the possibility that senior officials could be prosecuted for authorizing abusive conduct, and asking: ''Had we jettisoned our human rights policies?''

Still, Mr. Mora wrote, it was only when he warned Mr. Haynes on Jan. 15 that he was planning to issue a formal memorandum on his opposition to the methods—delivering a draft to Mr. Haynes's office—that Mr. Rumsfeld suddenly retracted the techniques.

In a break from standard practice, former Pentagon lawyers said, the final draft of the report on interrogation techniques was not circulated to most of the lawyers, including Mr. Mora, who had contributed to it. Several of them said they learned that a final version had been issued only after the Abu Ghraib scandal broke.

BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the importance of the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant program.

The White House again proposed eliminating this critical asset in the war on drugs. That would be a tremendous mistake. Congress must protect this funding to address the clear and present danger of meth in our communities.

In my home state of Nebraska, 60 percent of prison inmates are serving time for meth-related crimes. State social services programs are overwhelmed by the rising number of children coming from meth homes. The number of babies born addicted to meth is an unspeakable tragedy.

Each day, our dedicated law enforcement officers put their lives on the line to rescue families and communities from the scourge of meth. Anything less than full funding of Byrne–JAG would break faith with those who risk their lives to keep meth off our streets and away from our children.

In Nebraska, Byrne task forces were responsible for 5,500 drug arrests last year. Nationwide, Byrne task forces seized 5,600 meth labs, 55,000 weapons, and massive quantities of narcotics, including 2.7 million grams of meth.

The results of Byrne task forces are real, they are quantifiable, they are defensible, and they demonstrate the power of using federal dollars to leverage state and local investment in public safety.

RECOGNIZING KORY BENJAMIN ROTH FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kory Benjamin Roth, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 314, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kory has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kory has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kory Benjamin Roth for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OLD SAYBROOK REPUBLICAN WOMEN'S CLUB

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Old Saybrook, Connecticut Republican Women's Club in celebration of their 50th anniversary this month. The Old Saybrook Republican Women's Club's primary function has always been to support local and State Republican candidates and they have the distinction of being the oldest continuous Republican Women's Club in Connecticut.

But while their energy and enthusiasm for Republican candidates is as welcome as it has been effective, there is far more to the group than a political agenda.

For example, in conjunction with the Town Committee, the Club participates in the Washington Intern Program by sponsoring high school students and the group also gives awards to high school honor students. Clearly, the members of the organization are dedicated to helping engage young people intellectually and in matters of civic activism. Surely, part of our job as public servants should be to encourage young people to become involved in the political process.

Mr. Speaker, our communities do not operate by means of government alone. The Old Saybrook Republican Women's Club exemplifies a group of "citizens in action". Our quality of life is greatly influenced by individuals who join hands to set and accomplish goals that make our communities better places in which to live, work and raise a family. For half a century the members of the Old Saybrook Republican Women's Club have dedicated themselves to both party and public service.

I congratulate them on their dedication and commitment to the Grand Old Party and to their community.

IN RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING EFFORTS ON MEDICARE PART D AWARDED TO ONONDAGA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGING & YOUTH, NEW YORK

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Certificate of Appreciation presented to the Syracuse partnership, headed by the Onondaga County Department of Aging, from the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services in acknowledgment of the key role they played in establishing and maintaining this highly effective coalition.

The Onondaga County Office for the Aging is the federally designated Area Agency on Aging for Syracuse and Onondaga County. The agency plans, develops and coordinates programs and services for approximately 83,000 county residents age 60 and older.

The Onondaga County Office for the Aging was one of the most active and successful in the region. Their strong commitment to Part D outreach and enrollment, their creativity, perseverance and hard work could serve as a model for the rest of the region. They emphasized targeted outreach and always stressed the positives of the Part D program. They recognized the importance of working with local, State and Federal agencies and elected officials and actively sought out those partnerships. The level of success that they achieved would not have been possible without their excellent planning and organization.

It is my honor to recognize and congratulate the Onondaga County Office of the Aging for their tireless work in assisting seniors through the Medicare Part D enrollment process. I wish them continued success on the care that they provide to seniors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LANCE CORPORAL ROBERT G. POSIVIO III

HON. GIL GUTKNECHT

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of LCpl Robert G. Posivio III, who died a hero in a roadside bomb attack on May 23, 2006, while protecting his country and fighting for freedom in the al Anbar province of Iraq. As a devoted son, brother, and Marine, Lance Corporal Posivio will be missed by many.

Lance Corporal Posivio was born on October 4, 1983, in Mankato, MN, to Robert M. Posivio, Jr. and Patricia A. Posivio. He enlisted in the United States Marines while attending Martin County West Senior High School in Sherburn, MN, where he graduated in 2002.

Lance Corporal Posivio was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, based at Camp Pendleton, CA. He is preceded in death by his grandmother, Ardis Posivio; his uncle, Don Wood; his brother, Daniel L. Posivio; and other relatives.

Lance Corporal Posivio was on his third tour of duty in Iraq and was scheduled to be honorably discharged on July 28. He returned to combat on April 30 after suffering injuries in a mortar attack on April 13 in which two members of his unit were killed. Lance Corporal Posivio told his family that if he died, he wanted the following quote placed on his tombstone: "Freedom comes at a price that the free will never know." We owe Lance Corporal Posivio and all the brave men and women serving in our Armed Forces a great debt of gratitude. We ask them to defend our Nation; we need to let them know they are not forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my condolences to Lance Corporal Posivio's parents, Robert, Jr. and Patti; his sister, Sarah Peltier, and her husband, Colin; his grandparents, Robert F. Posivio and Eugene and Evelyn McDonald; and the many other friends and family who loved him and miss him. In this time of sorrow, may our thoughts and prayers comfort them, and may his memory bring them peace.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I was detained the evening of June 6, 2006 and wish to clarify any confusion as to how I intended to vote, most notably on rollcall 225, the motion to table the appeal of the ruling of the Chair. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: Rollcall 223, King Amendment to H.R. 5441—''aye''; rollcall 224, Kingston Amendment to H.R. 5441—''aye''; rollcall 225, motion to table the appeal of the ruling of the chair—''aye''; rollcall 226, on passage of H.R. 5441—''aye.''

COMMUNICATIONS OPPORTUNITY, PROMOTION, AND ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. RICK BOUCHER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5252) to promote the deployment of broadband networks and services:

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the bill and I urge its approval by the House. In my view, it will bring urgently needed competition to cable television and benefit consumers nationwide with more varied program offerings and the better pricing that competition inevitably brings.

The bill also opens the door for local governments to offer commercial telecommunications services, filling the gap where broadband is either not available or is available but is priced beyond the reach of residential subscribers and the small business community. Section 401 of the measure prohibits states from barring local governments from providing telecommunications, information or cable services. This provision applies to all current and future state measures that may have this effect. Section 401 also prohibits local governments from discriminating in favor of municipal providers over commercial providers of such services. This prohibition does not apply to local governments to the extent that they are providing services to themselves or to other government entities. Finally, nothing in this section exempts a public provider from any law or regulation that applies to private sector providers of a telecommunications service, information service or cable service.

The manager's amendment contains provisions I recommended that will assure fair treatment for electric utilities and telephone companies in pole attachment pricing, and I want to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON), who chairs the full committee, for his assistance with that provision. And the bill will assure that consumers who desire to purchase a freestanding broadband service can do so without having to buy telephone or cable service from the broadband provider. That provision was added in an amendment I offered during the markup of the bill in subcommittee.

I also urge support for the net neutrality amendment that the gentleman from Massachusetts Mr. MARKEY will be offering. I am pleased to be a co-sponsor of that amendment. It is essential to preserve the Internet as a platform for innovation. Broadband providers plan to create a two-lane Internet, a fast lane for their own content and for others who can pay for fast-lane access, and a slow lane for everyone else. That plan fundamentally changes the character of the Internet and would eliminate the openness and the accessibility that have enabled the Internet to be a platform for innovation unequaled in American history.

I will have more to say about that when the Markey amendment is offered, but I want to take the opportunity during these remarks to say that the net neutrality amendment is fundamental, and I strongly urge its adoption when it is offered.

INTRODUCTION OF ''NO SPECIAL TAX SUBSIDIES FOR GAS GUZZLERS ACT''

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am joined by Reps. ANNA ESHOO, RAUL GRIJALVA, BARBARA LEE, PETE STARK, JIM OBERSTAR, BERNIE SANDERS, SAM FARR, LOIS CAPPS, JIM MCGOVERN, BETTY MCCOLLUM, BILL DELAHUNT, JAY INSLEE, JOHN OLVER and JIM MORAN in introducing a bill entitled, ''No Special Tax Subsidies for Gas Guzzlers Act.'' With our budget deficit running at near record levels the federal tax incentives, it seems odd that we would find it fiscally responsible to provide incentives to purchase automobiles which are especially inefficient. In fact, this runs directly contrary to other public policy initiatives, such as the fuel economy standards and the gas guzzler tax, which were adopted to try to keep the fleet of cars on the road from using more gasoline than is necessary. Now that we have troops in the Middle East, these odd, counterproductive incentives can also be viewed as directly undermining our need to break the national addiction to imported oil.

This legislation corrects two incentives which are out-of-step with the times—the SUV Tax Loophole and the Gas Guzzler Tax loophole.

Some estimate suggest that if we reform either of these perverse incentives so that SUVs receive the same tax treatment as they would if they were classified as passenger vehicles, the savings would be at least $1 billion over 10 years.

The federal tax code affects the purchase of heavy-duty SUVs through preferential tax treatment of depreciation for motor vehicles and passenger cars. Recently, the Congressional Research Service reviewed this situation and concluded that for a hypothetical purchase made in 2005, a businessman would realize a much higher after tax return on investment by purchasing an SUV instead of a similarly priced passenger car—$3,000 higher in the example given. ''In this treatment lies the most important tax subsidy for the purchase of these SUVs for business use.'' (''Tax Preferences for Sport Utility Vehicles,'' Guenther, Gary, Congressional Research Service, (RL32173), April 4, 2006, p. 5.) The report notes that ''there is no question that current depreciation rules favor the purchase of heavy-duty SUVs over lighter SUVs or passenger cars of comparable value. Supporting evidence can be found in the greater tax benefit to business taxpayers from buying an SUV exempt from the depreciation caps on luxury passenger cars than from buying a vehicle subject to those caps. This added benefit stems from the accelerated depreciation for heavy-duty SUVs available under IRC section 179.'' Ibid, p. 11.

The Report goes on to note that when Congress moved in 2004 to reduce the expensing allowance for SUVs from $100,000 to $25,000, it may have thought it was significantly reducing the tax tilt to SUVs, but in fact ''it did little to curtail the tax preference for buying these vehicles under current depreciation rules.'' Ibid, p. 13.

The legislation we are introducing today will eliminate the tax tilt so that a businessman is not led to buy the heavier vehicle by virtue of a perverse tax incentive. There may be other reasons to buy the larger vehicle, but a tax preference should not be one of them.

Cars which consume excessive quantities of gas are subject to a 'gas guzzler' tax which is intended to encourage automakers to produce and develop more fuel efficient vehicles. This tax has been highly effective. During the model year (MY) 2003, fewer than 100,000 (or 1.3%) of cars purchased were gas guzzlers. However, the tax is only subject to passenger vehicles, which means that SUV's escape the gas guzzler tax entirely!

This bill would incorporate SUV's into the gas guzzler tax schedule that applies to other passenger vehicles.

The gas guzzler tax originated with the Energy Tax Act of 1978 (P.L. 95–618), and the IRS issued the first regulations to implement it in 1980. It applies to domestic sales of automobiles by manufacturers and importers, who are required to pay the tax. IRC section 4064(b) defines an automobile as any ''four-wheeled vehicle propelled by fuel which is manufactured primarily for use on public streets, roads, and highways.'' Until the passage of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA–LU, P.L. 109–59) in August 2005, the definition of automobiles also stipulated that such vehicles have an unloaded gross vehicle weight of 6,000 pounds or less; the act repealed this weight limitation, subjecting all vehicles meeting the remaining criteria for an automobile to the tax, irrespective of their weight. Certain vehicles are exempt from the tax: namely, emergency vehicles such as ambulances and police cars, cars with a gas mileage rating of 22.5 miles per gallon (mpg) and over, and all ''light trucks'' including SUVs of all weights. Whether a gas guzzler tax is owed—and if so, the amount of the tax—depends on an automobile's combined city and highway fuel economy rating, which is defined as the average number of miles traveled by an automobile per gallon of gasoline as determined by the Environmental Protection Agency. The current tax ranges from $1,000 for cars with a fuel economy rating of at least 21.5 miles per gallon but less than 22.5 miles per gallon to $7,700 for cars with a rating of less than 12.5 miles per gallon. These amounts have been in effect since the

enactment of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 (P.L. 101–508). In FY2004, the tax raised $141 million in revenue, up from $71 million in FY2000.

Again, the Congressional Research Service analyzed the SUV exemption from the gas guzzler tax, noting that by exempting SUVs, demand for heavy-duty SUVs is likely to be greater than it would be if they were subject to the tax and buyers were forced to bear its burden. Since most heavy-duty SUVs get relatively low gas mileage, retail prices could be as much as $4,500 to $7,700 higher for many models if current law were changed to subject them to the tax and importers, manufacturers, and dealers were to pass the full amount of the tax on to buyers.

In applying the gas guzzler tax to SUVs, the legislation makes certain exceptions for vehicles clearly intended for carrying heavy loads, pick up trucks with open beds, and so forth.

For years we have stood idly by while watching our energy dependence soar as consumers responded to these perverse loopholes and upside-down tax incentives. The health of our environment and the safety of those purchasing small vehicles is affected adversely by giving preferences to inefficient SUVs. While we complain that China is now affecting demand for world oil, we continue to tolerate a tax code which artificially skews in favor of the purchase of the least efficient vehicles.

We no longer have the luxury of ignoring this ridiculous situation. Please join us in supporting efforts to reform this self-inflicted source of wasted gasoline and oil.

BYRNE-JAG FUNDING

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Byrne-JAG funding for state and local anti-drug task forces. This program is critical to supporting the dedicated police officers combating the meth epidemic sweeping our nation.

Methamphetamine is an extremely dangerous drug. In San Joaquin County, California, part of my congressional district, meth has been the most deadly drug for four years running. Even worse, the impact of meth spreads far beyond just the self destructive behavior of the meth addict. In the Central Valley, meth has resulted in higher crime rates, child abuse and neglect, and toxic waste released into the environment.

The Byrne-JAG program should be an important part of any effective strategy to stop the devastating impact that methamphetamine use is having on our communities. Byrne funding supports anti-drug task forces that bring together federal, state, and local law enforcement and that have proven very effective in disrupting meth production and trafficking. In 2004 alone, Byrne-funded task forces seized 5,646 meth labs.

The Administration's meth strategy released last week sets a goal of reducing the number of domestic meth labs by 25% by 2008. Now is not the time to eliminate a program that provides our local and state law enforcement with the resources to achieve this goal.

I urge my colleagues in the Appropriations Committee to fully fund the Byrne-JAG program.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM E. REICHMUTH

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true public servant and transportation visionary. William E. Reichmuth is retiring from his three year tenure as the executive director of the Transportation Agency of Monterey County, known locally as TAMC. This position tops a thirty-eight year career of public service that began with the United States Navy's Civil Engineer Corps where he reached the rank of Captain and received the Navy Commendation Medal. Bill later held public works and engineering posts with both the U.S. Army and the City of Monterey. Throughout this career, Bill has been both a model to his profession and a leader in his community.

Bill has overseen numerous key public works projects and innovations. As the City of Monterey's public works director, Bill oversaw the redevelopment of the City's two commercial wharfs that are at the heart of its fishing and tourism industries. He also helped craft Monterey's contract to manage the Defense Language Institute's base operations, saving the Army millions of dollars and thereby helping to ward off efforts to close or relocate the Institute in the latest base closure round.

On the transportation front, Bill has been on innovation's cutting edge. He has shepherded the design of the Monterey County portions of a coastal trail project that will one day link Monterey and Santa Cruz in a continuous bike and pedestrian path. Though neither of us could be mistaken for Lance Armstrong, I share every bit of Bill's contagious enthusiasm for the bike trail's recreational and economic development potential. Bill also played a key role in facilitating TAMC's purchase of the Monterey Branch Line from Southern Pacific Railroad. This will give our region new transportation options. And while Bill has set the pace on alternative transportation, he has paid great attention to road and highway needs that are crucial to a rural community such as Monterey County. Under his leadership, TAMC has advanced projects to ease the highway congestion that affects the region's agricultural produce, many visitors, and residents alike. He has made a special focus of safety; for example, improving the entrance into Monterey's Ryan Ranch office park.

Bill has been an active member of his professional community, serving in a variety of leadership posts with the American Public Works Association and the California Society of Professional Engineers. He also serves as a lector at the Carmel Mission Basilica. Finally, no description of Bill's life and work is complete without reference to his other transportation passions, namely an addiction to cars. Bill loves sports cars; especially new sports cars. I am told that something as little as a needed oil change is enough to prompt Bill to trade up to the latest model of Porsche. Bill is an amateur racer and has served as the president of the Sports Car Racing Association of the Monterey Peninsula.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I speak for my colleagues when I applaud Bill Reichmuth's career of public service and wish him a happy and speedy retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO RABBI BRAD BLOOM

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to honor Rabbi Brad Bloom, the Senior Rabbi at B'nai Israel since 1995, who is leaving this week for a new pulpit after a distinguished professional career here in Sacramento. As his friends, family and coworkers all gather to celebrate his farewell, I ask all my colleagues to join in honoring his community leadership and many remarkable accomplishments.

After Rabbi Bloom completed his BA in History from the University of Wisconsin and his Master's in Social Work from the University of Maryland, he realized his calling in life: the rabbinate. He began his career by serving as the Associate Rabbi at Congregation Beth Am in Los Altos Hills.

Following his service with the Congregation, Rabbi Bloom was Associate Rabbi at the Sinai Temple of Champaign-Urbana in Illinois. In 1995 he became the Senior Rabbi at Congregation B'nai Israel, where he has served with distinction for the past 11 years.

Rabbi Bloom has been a strong leader for B'nai Israel. He guided a devastated congregation and the greater Sacramento community through one of its darkest hours in June of 1999, when arsonists attacked three of Sacramento's synagogues, including his own.

Rabbi Bloom's calm, uniting voice emerged from the dense fog of hate and fear in the weeks and months following the attacks. He revived the community's spirits and helped bring forward a united front against hate. In order to build a dialogue, he helped create the Children of Abraham group, which brings together clergy and congregants of Muslim, Jewish and Christian faiths. And under his leadership, the synagogue opened its door to gay and lesbian Jews to perform commitment ceremonies inside the sanctuary.

Through it all Rabbi Bloom has been dedicated to cultivating a strong and thriving Jewish community. With his gifts as a teacher, he has shown a commitment to life-long learning and instilling that value in others. He has led adult education groups, including Talmud classes, Kabbalah courses and a women's book group. These unique programs have helped educate and unite the Jewish community.

Since 1995, Rabbi Bloom has been a strong voice for B'nai Israel, and helped foster compassion and understanding throughout our community. On behalf of the people of Sacramento and the Fifth Congressional District of California, I ask all my colleagues to join me in thanking Rabbi Brad Bloom for his public service as we wish him success in his future endeavors.

REFINERY PERMIT PROCESS SCHEDULE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5254, the Refinery Permit Process Schedule Act. This bill would endanger the environment and the health of communities across America in order to provide another giveaway to the oil and gas industry which is reaping record profits.

The oil industry is responsible for limiting refinery capacity. During the 1990s, the American Petroleum Institute encouraged the oil industry to limit refining capacity in order to boost profits. The industry followed instructions, closing 176 refineries since 1980 and failing to fully utilize available capacity. According to the Washington Post, between September 2004 and 2005, refineries marked up their prices 255 percent while gasoline retailers only marked up their prices by 5 percent. The five largest oil companies, many of which own refineries, reported record profits of $110 billion in 2005. ExxonMobil reported the largest annual profit of an American company in history.

Environmental regulations are not standing in the way of new refineries being opened. The CEOs of Shell and ConocoPhillips have testified that no Federal or State regulations had prevented them from siting new refineries. Only one energy company, Arizona Clean Fuels, has filed a permit to open a new refinery in over 20 years. When Arizona Clear Fuels was granted that permit, the company never actually opened the refinery. Its inability to find investors, not environmental regulations, prevented the company from opening a refinery.

After Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, refinery outages caused a supply shock that was in part responsible for a rise in gasoline prices. The Democrats, under the leadership of Representatives DINGELL, STUPAK and BOUCHER, proposed the creation of a strategic refinery reserve which would ensure that the U.S. had an adequate supply of refined product in case of national emergency. Republicans have repeatedly rejected Democrats' efforts to create that reserve, which would put the interests of consumers before the profits of the oil industry. Republicans have also rejected an attempt by Ranking Member DINGELL and Energy and Commerce Democrats to make this legislation bipartisan.

This bill is another giveaway to the oil and gas industry that could impose refineries on communities throughout the country. It requires President Bush to designate three closed military bases as sites for new refineries, waiving local and State regulations and giving communities little input in the process. It allows Secretary Rumsfeld to sell or transfer the land to an oil company at no cost. Congress should know by now that billions of dollars in giveaway to the oil and gas industry has only led to record profits and record energy prices.

This bill again demonstrates the misplaced priorities of this Republican Congress. While my constituents are paying $2.96 for a gallon of regular gas in Chicago, we are considering legislation that would do nothing to bring down gasoline prices. Nothing in this legislation forces oil companies to utilize all of their available refining capacity, nor does it protect our supply in the case of a national emergency. This bill will lead to higher profits in the boardroom and more pain at the pump.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MRS. BEVERLY GARRETT

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Beverly Garrett, a remarkable and compassionate woman whose life has touched so many Kansas Citizens. Mrs. Garrett passed away on June 1, 2006. Her passing is a deep loss felt by her family, her community, and all who have been touched by her tireless dedication and service to helping others.

Beverly was employed by the federal government in the Social Security Administration for more than thirty years. Motivated by her dedication to her work environment and fellow employees, she became active in the American Federation of Government Employees, Local 1336, in the 1980s. Her leadership, character, and determination grew with each year, eventually garnering the position of president. In addition Beverly was a member of the local AFL–CIO's Labor Council, where she proved to be a mentor and trusted friend. Beverly's commitment went beyond the work place as she found great satisfaction serving on the board of the Heart of America United Way Campaign. For two years she provided leadership and direction as Co-chair and most recently as Board Secretary.

Though she achieved positions of great trust and honor, she maintained an admirable and inspiring humility. With a touch of kindness and a touch of toughness she always found a way to create a positive impact.

Beverly's trademark was her optimistic, jovial spirit that uplifted everyone she met. Her sense of humor and quiet grace brought people together even when they were in conflict. Beverly's attitude toward life was inspiring. Always smiling, she never hesitated to go out of her way to help someone in need. Because she was devoutly religious, she always found meaning and an opportunity to learn through each experience.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing our heartfelt sympathy to her sons, James and Jason, and her daughter, Kim; and all of her other relatives, loved ones, and friends. I urge my colleagues to please join me in conveying our gratitude to her family for sharing this great woman with us, and to accept our condolences for their tremendous loss. She was an inspiration to so many, and she will be missed.

STATEMENT HONORING LINWOOD FIELDS AND THE PAGE CLASS OF 2006

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Page Class of 2006 and in particular the page from the 30th District of Texas, Linwood Fields. You have served the United States House of Representatives with honor and dignity, and should be proud of your accomplishments.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity." It is my hope that during your time here you were able to expand your perspectives on the world, and will continue to utilize this knowledge in the years ahead.

I am particularly proud of Linwood Fields. He has honorably represented his family, my office, and the Dallas community. He successfully served this House through his outstanding work and extraordinary spirit. I know that this is merely the first step of a very bright future. I am confident that Linwood will go onto to become a fine and successful man, and I look forward to seeing his accomplishments in the years to come.

I commend Linwood and the Page Class of 2006 for their outstanding service. Myself and my colleagues are grateful for all you have done.

MINE IMPROVEMENT AND NEW EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today not in opposition to the content of the Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act, but to the process by which it is brought to the floor. By bringing this important legislation to the floor as a suspension bill, members of this body are denied the opportunity to offer necessary amendments to improve the safety of miners.

A clear message was apparent when the most recent edition of the comprehensive report on workplace safety, "Death on the Job," was released in April: American workers and their families need stronger enforcement of OSHA and MSHA for their health and safety. In the first increase in the number of workplace deaths since 1994, 5,703 U.S. workers were killed on the job in 2004. The vast majority of workplace deaths occur with little national recognition or public outcry. But early this year an explosion at the Sago mine in West Virginia focused the attention of the entire Nation on 13 families waiting to hear the fate of their loved ones. Our failure to protect miners from preventable tragedies was made evident 40 hours after the explosion, when the trapped miners were reached and only one survivor was found.

Despite numerous calls for action on mine safety legislation in the Committee on Education and the Workforce, this Congress chose to do nothing to improve the safety of miners until a second tragedy—this time at a mine in Kentucky—forced action in the Senate. Now this bill is brought to the floor of the House for a vote, without any chance for members to offer amendments and improve upon the Senate's initial step. The reason offered for this rush to passage is that action is needed immediately to ensure the safety of miners. Immediate action is needed. Immediate action was needed in January, following the tragedy at Sago. Action was needed over the past 5 years as the administration withdrew or delayed action on 18 different mine safety rules. We do need to act now. But in our haste to improve safety we should take the time to ensure we do things right.

It is clear this bill will in fact improve mine safety. The Senate bill will improve the tracking and communications devices used in mines, increase penalties for noncompliance and improve mine rescue team operations. It is a good step, but we can and should do more. We should use the lessons learned from Sago and take the steps to ensure other miners do not suffer the same fate.

My colleague, Congressman MILLER, has proposed three simple and necessary amendments to this bill that would do just that. These amendments would require random testing of self-rescue devices by MSHA to ensure these vital devices are functional when needed. They would require a minimum of 2 days worth of air for trapped miners. And they would shorten to 15 months the time period for mines to install technology to track and communicate with miners underground. These are simple changes, which miners and the mine industry in West Virginia have already agreed are necessary as a part of the West Virginia Mine Safety Technology Task Force. Miners at the Sago mine and other West Virginia mines will now be protected from the problems that led to the death of those 12 miners earlier this year, not because of the bill we are debating today, but by State law. Miners across the Nation deserve and require those same protections. Passage of this bill, without such amendments, gives false hope to the families of miners in other States that a Sago-like disaster will not befall their loved ones in the future.

The core mission of MSHA is to protect workers by enforcing safety standards. These workers are not the bosses who decide if and how a business will obey the law. Instead they face the consequences of those decisions. They need strong workplace safety laws and vigorous enforcement, and that is what this Congress should be focused on providing. We do a great disservice to workers by ignoring the resources that would offer them greater protections. I urge my colleagues to consider the additional improvements we can and should make for the safety of miners across the Nation. We must refocus our time and efforts toward protecting workers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 223, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 224, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 225, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 226, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

CONGRATULATIONS TROY McCURRY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Troy McCurry, a native of Augusta, GA, and a graduate of the University of Georgia. Throughout the past 3 years, Troy has helped me serve the Second Congressional District. From working with legislative aides on special projects to helping communicate with citizens throughout South Carolina, he has been an important part of our team. I have truly appreciated his service and his commitment.

A graduate of Catholic University Law School, Troy recently accepted a position with the Republican Governors Association. I am confident that he will bring the same level of professionalism and commitment to his new job. As Troy begins the next stage of his career, I would like to sincerely thank him for his efforts.

RETIREMENT OF TOM DELAY

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, today marks the final day in Congress for one of the greatest leaders the House of Representatives has ever seen. In his 22 years of public service to the residents of the 22nd District of Texas, TOM DELAY has always been a tireless and indispensable warrior for the Republican party and the causes of individual freedom, family values, and limited government.

Tom's years of service have been marked by devoted adherence to core conservative principles. His effectiveness can be measured in the countless advances made under his leadership strengthening our national security, restoring individual freedoms, and reigning in a runaway federal government. Tom never backed down from his beliefs and principles, and ultimately his tremendous success made him a target. There is no doubt that the Republican Party, the conservative movement, the state of Texas, and especially the Houston area have lost the services of a great friend and leader.

I will miss having TOM DELAY serving with me in the House, but I am grateful that he has chosen to remain active in the fight to restore the American Republic. I look forward to continuing to benefit from his invaluable counsel and wisdom.

On behalf of the Houston area and on behalf of my fellow Republican House members, congratulations to a fine leader, a great friend, and a devoted husband and father on a job well done.

FREEDOM FOR ARMANDO BETANCOURT REINA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Armando Betancourt Reina, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Betancourt Reina is an independent journalist and has been a chronicler of truth amid the lies and deceit of Castor's villainous regime. Mr. Betancourt Reina works and writes to inform the world about the nightmare that is the Castro regime. Unfortunately, writing and reporting the truth is not allowed under Castro's tyrannical dictatorship. All attempts to portray the absolute lack of freedom in totalitarian Cuba are viciously attacked and their authors are imprisoned and harassed.

According to Directorio and the Committee to Protect Journalists, Mr. Betancourt Reina was detained on May 23, 2006, in the city of Camagüey where the police were carrying out violent evictions. He was covering yet another atrocity committed by the regime against the Cuban people. In an attempt to suppress the truth about these violent evictions from the world, Castro's thugs arrested and imprisoned Mr. Betancourt Reina. Mr. Betancourt is locked in the totalitarian gulag, but he has not yet been charged with a "crime."

I remind my colleagues that, under Castro's totalitarian regime, any freedom of the press, any effort to display the atrocities of the regime under the spotlight of truth, is met with swift and violent repression.

Let me be very clear, Mr. Betancourt Reina is currently languishing in the depraved conditions of the totalitarian gulag for his truthful articles. The U.S. State Department describes the conditions in the gulag as, "harsh and life threatening." The State Department also reports that police and prison officials beat, neglect, isolate, and deny medical treatment to detainees and prisoners. It is a crime of the highest order that people are imprisoned in these nightmarish conditions simply for reporting the facts.

Mr. Betancourt Reina is a brilliant example of the heroism of the Cuban people. Despite incessant repression, harassment, incarceration and abuse, he remains committed to the conviction that freedom of the press and democracy are the inalienable right of the Cuban people. Let us never forget and always support those who are struggling to liberate people from the grip of tyranny.

Mr. Speaker, it is as inconceivable as it is unacceptable that, while the world stands by in silence and acquiescence, independent journalists who write the truth about totalitarian regimes are systematically tortured. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate and

unconditional release of Armando Betancourt Reina and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JAMES ''JIMMY'' AYCOCK

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. James ''Jimmy'' Aycock, a native of Fremont, North Carolina, for his dedicated service to his community.

A man of strong faith, Jimmy has been blessed by God with outstanding musical talent. For years, he has shared his talent with others in his community and helped young people develop their own musical talents.

Jimmy began his expansive musical career at the age of 14 and has been a presence on the Carolina scene for more than 50 years as an accomplished pianist, composer, and musical arranger.

In May of this year, the town board of Fremont, North Carolina honored Jimmy with a resolution of appreciation for his 40 years of dedicated service to the community. The resolution expressed gratitude for Jimmy's unselfish contributions of his time and energy.

As a teacher in the North Carolina public school system for more than three decades, Jimmy has made tireless contributions to the musical education of the state's young people. Appointed by Governors Jim Martin and Jim Hunt to serve on the North Carolina Arts Council, he has also volunteered his time and talent by playing at cancer benefits and performing for the Governor of North Carolina.

In an upcoming documentary intended for national broadcast, Jimmy will be the first artist honored in a program by November Entertainment entitled ''Carolina Icons.'' The program aims to exemplify the best of North Carolina's artistic culture. The documentary will feature interviews with Jimmy and those who know him, as well as video of his work in the classroom and in concert.

For Jimmy's long-time service to his community and generous contributions of his time and musical talent, recognition and praise are long overdue.

Jimmy Aycock is a man who has given so much of himself to God and to his fellow man, and I consider it an honor and a privilege to call him a friend.

HONORING THE SILVER CRESCENT FOUNDATION AND WINNERS OF THE 2006 SILVER CRESCENT AWARD

HON. BOB INGLIS

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Silver Crescent Foundation and the winners of the 2006 Silver Crescent Award.

The prestigious Silver Crescent Award for Manufacturing Excellence is a salute to manufacturers in the State of South Carolina. This award is intended to promote wealth, innovation, and job creation in the State, and to recognize companies in South Carolina who excel in manufacturing.

I am pleased to announce the winners of this year's Silver Crescent Award for Manufacturing Excellence. The three award winners are Jarden Plastic Solutions, Westminster's U.S. Engine Valve, and Bridgestone Firestone's Graniteville plant. Jarden Plastic Solutions is located in my district in Greer, and they are an industry innovator specializing in high-volume precision injection molding. The company designs, engineers, and manufactures everything from recreational equipment to advanced healthcare tools. Bridgestone Firestone is one of the world's top tire producing plants. They are no strangers to success. In 2003, Bridgestone Firestone's Graniteville plant was also named one of the top 10 plants in North America by Industry Week. Finally, Westminster's U.S. Engine Valve is a first class provider of automotive engine components. This is the second time they have received the Silver Crescent Award. These three manufacturers know the keys to success, and I am proud that they call South Carolina home.

To build the next generation of manufacturers and engineers, the Silver Crescent Foundation organizes Camp Success. The goal of Camp Success is to get middle school and high school kids excited about engineering, math, and science. The camp uses state of the art technology to give kids the firm foundation they will need to become highly skilled professionals. By investing time, effort, and money in our kids, Camp Success ensures that South Carolina and our Nation will have the tools necessary to compete in tomorrow's global economy.

I am extremely proud of the Silver Crescent Foundation's efforts in the State of South Carolina. Under the leadership of President Tony Smith along with excellent award sponsors like the South Carolina Research Authority and the Advanced Technology Institute, the Silver Crescent Foundation is leading the way toward a bright future for South Carolina's manufacturers and a new generation of engineers and manufacturers.

Mr. Speaker, please join me as I commend this year's winners, the Silver Crescent Foundation, and everyone involved in the success of South Carolina manufacturing.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I was inadvertently detained and missed the rollcall vote No. 237. Had I been present I would have voted ''no.''

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE OFFICIAL NAMING OF THE JOHN H. BRADLEY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OUTPATIENT CLINIC

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to submit this statement in commemoration of the official renaming of the Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Appleton after an extraordinary man, John H. Bradley.

For many years, the Appleton Veterans Clinic has helped administer life-saving medical services to Wisconsin's retired servicemen and women. Now it will bear the name of a man who administered life-saving medical care to his comrades on the battlefield—Pharmacist Mate Second Class John ''Jack'' Bradley. Not only was Jack one of the six men who participated in raising the American flag at Iwo Jima, he also received our country's second highest award for heroism during combat, the Navy Cross, for his extraordinary efforts in aiding a wounded Marine under intense enemy fire. Jack suffered severe shrapnel wounds a few days after his heroic act, and returned home to Antigo, Wisconsin with his wife Betty after his recovery. He avoided any recognition of his participation in the flag raising, and never told his family he had been awarded the Navy Cross.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank Betty Bradley and the entire Bradley family for their support throughout the naming process. It is an honor to take part in the dedication of the John H. Bradley Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic; a fitting tribute to such an extraordinary man. On behalf of Wisconsin's 8th district and the United States Congress, we thank Jack Bradley, and hope the veteran's clinic in his name stands as a lasting tribute to his dedicated service and cherished memory.

COMMUNICATIONS OPPORTUNITY, PROMOTION, AND ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5252) to promote the deployment of broadband networks and services:

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Chairman, the House passed the Communications Opportunity, Promotion, and Enhancement (COPE) Act. I voted with 105 of my Democratic colleagues in favor of the COPE Act, which will spur much-needed competition in the market for pay-television and high-speed internet services. While communities have expressed concern about the local impact of this bill—and I pledge to work with cities in my district to address those concerns—I believe the act is a crucial step toward providing more affordable broadband services to more consumers.

The COPE Act not only encourages innovation and the wider deployment of broadband networks, it will help drive down the price that consumers pay for broadband services. It requires that service providers pay 5 percent of local revenues to local governments—more than many cities currently receive—and that providers pay an additional 1 percent to support public, governmental, and educational programming. It also contains provisions to ensure that service providers do not discriminate against low-income consumers. These are important improvements over existing law.

The COPE Act is far from perfect. It inappropriately allows the Federal Communications Commission to resolve local ''rights-of-way'' disputes. These are concerns best handled by local governments. When a broken water main interrupts local TV service, it doesn't make much sense for customers to call an 800 number at the FCC. Still, two amendments added to the bill go a long way toward restoring local control. The first institutes a 90-day period during which local authorities and service providers must meet to resolve right-of-way and fee disputes. Only after the 90-day period can either party bring the dispute to the FCC. This amendment empowers local authorities by forcing providers to work with local officials to resolve most right-of-way and fee disputes. The second gives cities the authority to resolve consumer complaints about cable service, including complaints that a cable provider has failed to provide consumers with fair and open access to the Internet. This amendment would give local officials the legal authority to protect consumers and prevent unfair and discriminatory business practices, which could lead to fines for providers up to $750,000 a day.

Equally troubling is the lack of strong ''net neutrality'' language, which would ensure that everyday web surfers have access to the same Internet used by big media companies. Both sides of this dispute want a vibrant Internet that allows fast and fair access to all users. The question is how to get there. Opponents of ''net neutrality'' believe that market forces alone will do the job. I am not so sanguine. I voted for an amendment that would have prohibited service providers from selectively blocking or slowing access to certain Internet content, or from charging certain users extra to send information over the Internet. Though it is not absolutely clear this language is needed now, my vote sends the message that the Internet must remain fair and open to all. I believe we will have more opportunities to address this issue during the conference on the COPE Act.

I will work to ensure that the telecommunications legislation Congress sends to the President strikes the right balance and is reflective of the needs of consumers and our communities. This bill makes important progress, but we can make it even better.

HONORING COLONEL RUSSELL D. GOLD

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay public tribute to Colonel Russell D. Gold, an exemplary soldier and citizen from my congressional district. Colonel Gold recently announced his retirement as Chief of Staff at the U.S. Army Armor Center, Fort Knox, Kentucky.

A native of West Palm Beach, Florida, Colonel Gold was first commissioned through ROTC as a Distinguished Military Student from The Citadel, beginning his military career as a Tank Platoon Leader, then Executive Officer with the 82d Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. After completion of the Armor Officer Advance Course, he commanded Company B, 2d Battalion, 72d Armor, 2d Infantry Division, at Camp Casey, Korea. Upon completion of command, he served as a Small Group Instructor in the Armor Officer Advance Course, then, Executive Officer of the U.S. Army Armor School at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

From 1993 through 1995, Colonel Gold was assigned to the First Armored Division in Germany, where he served as the Battalion S–3 and Battalion Executive Officer with the 2d Battalion, 67th Armor, then as the Brigade S–3 for the First Brigade, 1st Armor Division. From 1995–1997, Colonel Gold was assigned to the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington, DC, where he served in the J–8 as Chief, War-Game Exercise Branch. Colonel Gold then commanded the 1st Battalion, 67th Armor, 4th Infantry Division, at Fort Hood, Texas. Following battalion command, Colonel Gold served as the III Corps Secretary of the General Staff, then after graduating from the Army War College, became the Director of Combat Developments at Fort Knox.

Colonel Gold commanded the 3d Brigade Combat Team (Iraq), 1st Armored Division, of Fort Riley, Kansas, from June 2002 to June 2004 before being assigned as Chief of Staff of the Armor Center on July 30, 2004.

Colonel Gold's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit award, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Valorous Unit Award, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Army Superior Unit Award, National Defense Service Medal, Combat Action Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge. Colonel Gold will also be awarded the Distinguished Service Medal during his retirement ceremony.

It is my great privilege to recognize Colonel Gold today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for his lifelong example of leadership and service. His unique achievements and dedication to the men and women of the U.S. Army make him an outstanding American worthy of our collective honor and respect.

TRIBUTE TO WANDA GARNER CASH

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great friend and a great journalist. After more than thirty years working in journalism, Wanda Garner Cash, will be leaving her post as Publisher and Editor of the Baytown Sun this June as she becomes a senior lecturer and fellow at the University of Texas School of Journalism. She will be serving as the first fellow to the S. Griffin Singer Professorship, a fellowship created to honor a former University of Texas professor.

Since receiving her bachelor's degree in journalism in 1971 from the University of Texas, she has served in a variety of capacities for a variety of organizations. Mrs. Cash worked as the assistant managing editor of The Galveston County Daily News, editor of the Kerrville Daily News, executive editor of the Brazosport Facts, and most recently as publisher and editor of the Baytown Sun.

Her success in the realm of journalism spans further than prestigious job titles. In addition to being an accomplished print journalist, Mrs. Cash has served as a member of the Legislative Advisory Committee where she has been a staunch advocate of open government and has testified before the Texas Legislature on numerous occasions. She has also been a mentor for young journalists and is recognized for always taking time to help young journalists develop their own talents. This quality will serve her students well as she enters the college arena this June.

The city of Baytown will miss Mrs. Cash and her dedication to the Baytown community. She has served as the vice-chair and chair of the Baytown West Chambers County Economic Development Foundation, chaired a variety of fundraising events such as the annual Baytown Area United Way fund-raising campaign.

Her dedication to the community and her commitment to journalistic integrity will be missed in the city of Baytown, but I wish her well as she begins her tenure at the University of Texas. A loss for the City of Baytown is a gain for the students, the University of Texas and the journalism profession.

IN SUPPORT OF A CONFLICT RESPONSE FUND AND A COMPREHENSIVE USG APPROACH TO ADDRESSING THE THREAT OF FAILED STATES

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, in my opinion, the most significant threat to our national security in the 21st Century is from failed countries. Nearly 2 billion people live in countries that are in danger of collapse. According to the 2002 U.S. National Security Strategy, the United States is now threatened less by conquering states than we are by failing ones.

Stop and think about our recent defense and foreign policy obligations—Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia, and Kosovo—and our current engagement in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Sudan. These are all failed states and their instability imperils U.S. national security.

The U.S. defense and foreign policy apparatus formally acknowledged the threat of failed states when the National Security Council directed the State Department to establish a Coordinator for Stabilization and Reconstruction to incorporate ''lessons learned'' from previous stabilization operations so that future

U.S. engagements will save lives—both U.S. and indigenous and use U.S. resources judiciously so that failed states don't deteriorate.

In December 2005, the Defense Department issued a directive, 3000.05, that places Stability Operations on par with Combat Operations. These are significant first steps and I commend the Administration, however, much more needs to be done. The first improvement I would recommend is that the State Department not Defense Department be the lead agency for planning and implementing the overall strategy for rebuilding a failed state.

I commend my colleagues on the Subcommittee who have done the best they can with an allocation this year that is $2.4 billion lower than the President's request. Those budget constraints prohibited them from funding the Conflict Response Fund, which would allow State Department reconstruction officials to immediately draw down such resources as necessary to rapidly initiate programs like democratic and electoral reform economic and infrastructure development so that the indigenous population sees tangible improvements.

The second improvement I would recommend is stronger support from the State and Defense Departments for the Master's degree in Stabilization and Reconstruction, being offered by the Naval Postgraduate School in my district. This is the only school in the country where U.S. military and foreign officers are being educated with U.S. civilian agency personnel and the NGO community so they can better understand their respective roles in the classroom rather than the battlefield.

I am glad we are gaining a better understanding of the threat of failed states, so that we can confront the challenges of these threats to U.S. national security.

COMMUNICATIONS OPPORTUNITY, PROMOTION, AND ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

The House in committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5252) to promote the deployment of broadband networks and services:

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Markey amendment which would ensure that this bill contain the necessary provisions to ensure the neutrality of the Internet.

The Internet has revolutionized so many facets of our daily lives. Using the Internet, we can send and receive e-mail messages instantly, purchase merchandise, check our banking records, look at photos posted on a website created by a friend or family member, legally download a song or a movie, or check the latest headlines from a news source.

I agree with my colleagues that the underlying legislation does not provide sufficient safeguards to consumers to ensure that their access to websites and services on the Internet are not restricted. We must ensure that the Internet remain equally accessible to everyone. Net neutrality is supported by the Consumers Union, Amazon.com, Google, Yahoo, and the Service Employees International Union to name just a few.

There should not be a fast lane and a slow lane for using the Internet. I urge a yes vote on the Markey amendment.

COMMUNICATIONS OPPORTUNITY, PROMOTION, AND ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5252) to promote the deployment of broadband networks and services:

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 5252, the Communications Opportunity, Promotion, & Enhancement (COPE) Act of 2006.

The technology in wireless and traditional wire-line capabilities has far outpaced our current telecommunications laws, and the COPE Act serves to update these regulations. This bill provides for the streamlining of video franchising at the federal level, to speed up the process of granting new franchises into these markets, providing badly needed competition in the marketplace, and lowering prices for telecommunications in America.

This legislation updates the rules ensuring that satellite providers are treated equally to local cable franchises; and addresses new technologies that did not exist when the last telecommunications laws were written, such as ensuring that voice-over internet providers provide 911 emergency services to their customers. The COPE Act also contains build-out requirements for these new franchises, as well as protecting our rural infrastructure by ensuring that these providers contribute fairly to the Universal Service Fund.

In 2005, the Federal Communications Commission released four network neutrality principles: (1) consumers are entitled to access the lawful Internet content of their choice; (2) consumers are entitled to run applications and services of their choice; (3) consumers are entitled to connect their choices of safe legal devices; and (4) consumers are entitled to competition among networks, applications, services, and content providers. H.R. 5252 enacts these neutrality principles into law, sending a strong non-discrimination message to Internet providers. North Carolina's economy has prospered from open Internet access, and H.R. 5252 ensures that we continue to enjoy that opportunity.

Mr. Chairman, no legislation is perfect. I would like to have seen stronger language regarding build-out requirements than was included in the bill, and I supported amendments that gave local authorities even greater oversight than the original language provided.

However, this legislation represents a significant step forward in the information age. I urge support of H.R. 5252.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I was present and voting during the series of rolled votes that included rollcall No. 233, for passage of a bill introduced by my colleague Representative LATOURETTE. The bill, I believe reasonably addressed the impasse in labor contract negotiations between our Nation's air traffic controllers and the Federal Aviation Administration by creating procedural fairness and encouraging good faith bargaining for both parties. While I attempted to vote "yea" on the bill, the electronic voting system did not record the vote I intended to cast. I ask that the record reflect that had my vote been recorded, it would have been "yea" on rollcall No. 233.

RECOGNIZING QUAKERTOWN HOOK AND LADDER COMPANY, STATION 17 IN CELEBRATING THEIR 130TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the men and women of Quakertown Fire Company No. 1 which celebrates its one hundred and thirtieth anniversary this year.

Since its humble beginnings in 1876 as the Quakertown Hook and Ladder Company, station 17 has protected the residents of the Quakertown area with distinction and pride.

One hundred and thirty years ago, Quakertown Pennsylvania, which is located in the northern portion of my district, was a small and quiet farming community. And in its early years, I doubt the fire company needed to answer many calls. However, the Quakertown of today is a vibrant suburban area and station 17 has seen an increase of nearly 400 calls a year in the past 40 years. The need to expand and recruit on such a large scale would likely hinder the performance of the department, but the fire company has continued to grow and enlist generation after generation of fire fighters.

Firefighters have always been an integral part of American history. The safety of the citizens of Bucks County has been the top priority of the Quakertown Fire Company, and they have at all times served selflessly to that end.

Mr. Speaker, volunteerism is an American institution. Station 17 has always operated with volunteer firefighters, and I wish to congratulate and thank the current 50 volunteer members, who do an exceptional job. It is a special group of people that would voluntarily dedicate so much of their own time and effort towards the common good, and Quakertown is fortunate to have such a large and committed team of volunteers working for them.

How many people, Mr. Speaker, would jump out of bed in the middle of night at the sound of their alarm with no questions asked and go to a complete stranger's house only to battle a blazing inferno for hours upon hours, and

still go to work the next morning? Well I am proud to say that Quakertown has at least 50 of these extraordinary men and women, and we thank them all.

To these heroic men and women of station 17; thank you for your work, your time, your dedication, and your sacrifice.

S. 193, THE BROADCAST DECENCY ENFORCEMENT ACT: CONGRESSIONAL MALFUNCTION

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2006

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my opposition to the passage of S. 193, the Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act. I object to the passage of this bill because of my strong belief that in any legislative attempt to express disapproval of what some consider to be objectionable speech or acts, we must be careful not to infringe upon the Constitutionally-protected right to free speech. This legislation is an overreaction to the 2004 Janet Jackson ''wardrobe malfunction.''

I am a grandmother of four and I am concerned about what is making it onto the airwaves. I understand that many find the content and language used in some programs intolerable, especially for children. However, because I am also a strong proponent of the First Amendment and oppose inappropriate restrictions on free speech, I must weigh concerns about questionable content against the need to protect free speech.

I think we also need to be careful about passing a bill that gives ''Big Brother'' a heavy hammer to punish those who violate his notion of decency. I believe that increasing fines to $325,000 per incident would have a chilling effect on creativity, lead to second-guessing of material, pulling programs, and other forms of censorship. As I have said before, we run a great risk when our legislation threatens to undermine both our Constitution and our creativity.

If we are serious about improving broadcast content, which is what I think people really want to do, then we need to address the fact that large media conglomerates are allowed to gobble up independent stations that are much more sensitive to the communities they serve. Large media conglomerates are the main sources of indecent programming. Since 1999, 80 percent of the indecency findings have been against two media giants: Clear Channel and Viacom.

Not only do they lack knowledge of local community standards, but they also drown out the diversity of voices and viewpoints. Our constituents would be better served if we were voting to limit the over-concentration of media ownership, not to increase fines.

While I do not support S. 193, I am glad that my colleagues agree that the even more problematic H.R. 310 is not the route to take. Censoring artists with outrageous fines and threatening broadcasters' licenses should something ''indecent'' make it on the airwaves would have caused even more damage to our First Amendment than the bill before us today. Regardless, I think S. 193 opens the door to future attacks at one of our Nation's fundamental freedoms and I urge my colleagues to vote no.

RESOLUTION HONORING THE URSULINE SISTERS OF LAREDO, TEXAS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker,

Whereas, the Ursulines, an order founded in Italy by Saint Angela Merici in 1535, were the first religious women to corne to the New World. The sisters, who had been in New Orleans since 1727, were the first order to volunteer for service in the new State of Texas, establishing a long-held presence in the communities of Galveston, San Antonio, Dallas, Pecos, and Laredo.

Whereas, Mother Saint Joseph Aubert, one of the esteemed Ursuline sisters, at the request of Bishop Claude Dubuis, went to Laredo in the State of Texas with Sister Teresa Pereida to establish a convent and a school for the education of the young women in the City of Laredo in May 15th, 1868.

Whereas, the convent for the Ursuline Sisters was built on January 15th 1869, and the Sisters began to educate girls of every age and condition. This was the beginning of their contribution to the education of the youth of the City of Laredo, Texas, for over a hundred and thirty-eight years.

Whereas, the Ursuline Sisters established St. Peter's Memorial School in 1989, Ursuline Academy in 1940, and were a part of the faculty at Our Lady of Guadalupe Elementary School, and Blessed Sacrament School.

Whereas, the new era of Ursuline education was begun through Ursuline Academy, which became a well-recognized center of education, serving as a college preparatory high school. Many graduates of Ursuline Academy went onto higher education, obtaining advanced degrees due to their excellent education provided them by the Ursuline Sisters.

Whereas, loyal to their Ursuline calling and tradition, despite all the difficulties and challenges of their journey, the Ursulines remained committed to their ministerial call in the City of Laredo in providing education to the youth of the City of Laredo until their departure from the City of Laredo this spring.

Whereas, at the end of their service in the City of Laredo for a hundred and forty years, the Ursuline Sisters of Laredo will be forever remembered for their educational commitment to the youth of Laredo, and their religious service to the City of Laredo. In the Spirit of Saint Angela, their founder, they will continue to be women of peace and reconciliation in our world today, living and working for peace through justice in all their relationships toward all peoples and cultures, and towards the earth and all creation.

Be it hereby resolved, That Congressman Henry Cuellar commends the Ursuline Sisters for their religious service to the community of Laredo, and their remarkable history of providing quality education for the youth of Laredo, Texas.

TRIBUTE TO MR. AND MRS. EDGAR AND MAGALI FERNANDEZ: 36 YEARS ENSURING EXCELLENCE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. and Mrs. Edgar and Magali Fernandez. For nearly four decades, they have been pioneers and leaders in the field of early childhood care and education, which is of crucial importance to our society and to every parent of young children.

Their careers have culminated in the establishment of the South Florida Association for Child Care Management (SFACCM), a nonprofit professional organization which was established in 2000. On Saturday, June 10, 2006, SFACCM will hold its first summer institute, a one-day seminar for those seeking to become early childhood education professionals.

SFACCM, which is an affiliate of the Florida Association for Child Care Management, is a professional organization of education providers dedicated to ensuring quality in early learning through advocacy, education, and accreditation. Mr. and Mrs. Fernandez's leadership of SFACCM has served as an inspiration to countless other educators and has helped set high standards in early childhood care. Those helped by SFACCM's programs number in the thousands.

Mr. and Mrs. Fernandez have long realized the importance of early childhood education as key to success in adulthood; it creates a strong foundation for our society and helps families and businesses to thrive. Edgar and Magali Fernandez truly value the need for the quality care and learning that our children deserve.

I know that my colleagues join with me in expressing our sincere appreciation for the contributions of Mr. and Mrs. Fernandez to our community and to our state. Their endeavors to ensure the quality and affordability of early childhood care and education are having a huge, positive impact on the lives of countless children—our most important national resource. Congratulations to them both on 36 years of caring.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 9, 2006

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, June 6, 2006 I missed rollcall votes Nos. 223, 224, 225, and 226. Had I been present, I would have voted ''nay'' on the King (IA) amendment, the Kingston amendment, and the motion to table the appeal of the ruling of the chair. I would have voted ''aye'' on final passage of H.R. 5441, the FY07 Homeland Security appropriations bill.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

The House passed H.R. 5522—Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2007.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S5677–S5686

Measures Introduced: Two bills were introduced, as follows: S. 3488–3489. **Pages S5683–84**

Measures Passed:

Mourning the Loss of Life: Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 503, mourning the loss of life caused by the earthquake that occurred on May 27, 2006, in Indonesia, expressing the condolences of the American people to the families of the victims, and urging assistance to those affected, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S5685**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Brett L. Tolman, of Utah, to be United States Attorney for the District of Utah for the term of four years.

Sharon Lynn Potter, of West Virginia, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of West Virginia for the term of four years.

George E.B. Holding, of North Carolina, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina for the term of four years.

Phillip J. Green, of Illinois, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois for the term of four years.

Troy A. Eid, of Colorado, to be United States Attorney for the District of Colorado for the term of four years.

R. Alexander Acosta, of Florida, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida for the term of four years. **Page S5686**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page S5684**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S5684–85**

Additional Statements: **Page S5683**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and adjourned at 11:42 a.m., until 2 p.m., on Monday, June 12, 2006. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S5685.)

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 8 public bills, H.R. 5573–5575, 5577–5581; and 3 resolutions, H. Res. 858–860, were introduced. **Page H3723**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H3723–24**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 5576, 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, 2007, (H. Rept. 109–495);

H. Res. 857, waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 4939) making emergency supplemental appropriations for

the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 109–496); and

H.R. 1595, to implement the recommendations of the Guam War Claims Review Commission, with an amendment (H. Rept. 109–437, Pt. 2). **Page H3723**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Rehberg to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H3645**

Member Resignation: Read a letter from Representative DeLay, wherein he resigned as Representative of the 22nd Congressional District of Texas, effective at close of business on June 9, 2006. **Page H3645**

Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2007: The House passed H.R. 5522, making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, by a yea-and-nay vote of 373 yeas to 34 nays, Roll No. 250. Consideration of the measure began on yesterday, Thursday, June 8th. **Pages H3647–H3704**

Agreed to:

Hooley amendment directs attention to the need for increased funding for counter methamphetamine activity in Mexico; **Pages H3652–53**

McHenry amendment (No. 14 printed in the Congressional Record of June 8th) states that none of the funds available may be used in the assistance to foreign countries that refuse to extradite to the United States any individual accused in the United States of killing a law enforcement officer; **Page H3676**

Deal amendment (No. 13 printed in the Congressional Record of June 8th) restricts assistance to countries that fail to meet extradition obligations; **Page H3677**

Terry amendment (No. 12 printed in the Congressional Record of June 7th) ensures that no foreign assistance dollars will be used to support the importation of goods and services that are counterfeited; **Pages H3678–79**

Brown-Waite amendment (No. 3 printed in the Congressional Record of June 7th) eliminates the funding to the Mexican government under the International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement section; **Pages H3683–84**

Brown of Ohio amendment that increases funding for global tuberculosis programs. The offset is a decrease in funding for the Asian Development Fund; and **Page H3690**

Weiner amendment prohibits funds in the bill from being used for financial assistance to Saudi Arabia (by a recorded vote of 312 ayes to 97 noes), Roll No. 244. **Pages H3684–86, H3699–H3700**

Rejected:

McGovern amendment (No. 7 printed in the Congressional Record of June 7th) that sought to increase by $30 million funding for the U.S. Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund (ERMA). The offset reduces the Andean Counterdrug Initiative/ACI by $30 million by reducing the military-related eradication funds for Colombia (by a recorded vote of 174 ayes to 229 noes, Roll No. 242); **Pages H3653–62, H3698–99**

McGovern amendment (No. 8 printed in the Congressional Record of June 7th) that sought to prohibit funds made available in this Act to be used for programs at the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation located at Fort Benning, GA; (by a recorded vote of 188 ayes to 218 noes, Roll No. 243); **Pages H3679–83, H3699**

King of Iowa amendment (No. 5 printed in the Congressional Record of June 7th) that sought to prohibit funds made available in this Act under the heading ''Economic Support Fund'' to be used to provide assistance to Mexico (by a recorded vote of 93 ayes to 311 noes, Roll No. 245); **Pages H3687–88, H3700–01**

Kucinich amendment that sought to prohibit any funds for the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) to be used to implement the Northern Zone Investment Plan in El Salvador with respect to the Northern Transnational Highway. Funding for the highway would constitute the majority of El Salvador's MCC funding (by a recorded vote of 118 ayes to 288 noes, Roll No. 246); **Pages H3688–89, H3701**

Sanders amendment that sought to prohibit the Export-Import Bank from making any loans or loan guarantees for oil and gas projects (by a recorded vote of 178 ayes to 228 noes, Roll No. 247); **Pages H3693–95, H3801–02**

Hefley amendment that sought to reduce the funds in the bill by 1 percent (by a recorded vote of 107 ayes to 300 noes, Roll No. 248); and **Pages H3695–96, H3702–03**

Blumenauer amendment (No. 1 printed in the Congressional Record of June 7th) which sought to increase funding for the Development Assistance account by $250 million (by offset) to provide clean water and anti-poverty assistance (by a recorded vote of 182 ayes to 224 noes, Roll No. 249). The amendment was offered on yesterday, Thursday, June 8th. **Page H3703**

Withdrawn:

Brown-Waite amendment (No. 2 printed in the Congressional Record of June 7th) was offered and subsequently withdrawn that sought to eliminate funding in the bill for the International Fund for Ireland; **Pages H3648–50**

Musgrave amendment (No. 9 printed in the Congressional Record of June 7th) which was offered and subsequently withdrawn that sought to prohibit any funds made available in this Act to be used to provide assistance to any country identified by the Department of Agriculture as a country that prohibits the importation of United States beef from animals less than 30 months of age; **Pages H3689–90**

Jackson-Lee of Texas amendment (No. 18 printed in the Congressional Record of June 8th) which was offered and subsequently withdrawn that sought to impose funding limitation on IMET funds for the Government of Chad; **Pages H3691–92**

Poe amendment (No. 10 printed in the Congressional Record of June 7th) which was offered and subsequently withdrawn that sought to reduce funds in this Act by $597 million; and **Pages H3692–93**

Poe amendment (No. 11 printed in the Congressional Record of June 7th) which was offered and subsequently withdrawn that sought to prohibit funds made available in this Act to be used to provide assistance to any country the government of which does not accept the transfer from the United States of citizens or nationals of such country who have been issued a final removal order by U.S. Immigration and Customs enforcement. **Page H3693**

Point of Order sustained against:

The proviso, beginning on page 60, line 4, and extending through the inclusion of chapter 5, against the content of the measure; **Page H3665**

The proviso, (Sec. 526)(a), beginning on page 74, line 6, and ending on page 74, line 11, against the content of the measure; **Page H3667**

The proviso, beginning on page 86, line 10, beginning with ''as'' through region on line 11, against the content of the measure; **Page H3669**

The proviso, beginning on page 91, line 14 ending on line 17, against the content of the measure; **Page H3669**

The proviso, (Sec. 565)(a)(3), against the content of the measure; **Page H3673**

The proviso, (Sec. 570), beginning on page 127, line 5, and ending on page 127, line 24, against the content of the measure; and **Page H3674**

The proviso, (Sec. 579), beginning on page 135, line 17, and ending on page 136, line 5, against the content of the measure. **Page H3675**

Agreed that the Clerk be authorized to make technical and conforming changes to reflect the actions of the House. **Page H3704**

H. Res. 851, the rule providing for consideration of the bill was agreed to by voice vote, after agreeing to order the previous question without objection. The resolution was agreed to on yesterday, Thursday, June 8th.

Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, June 12; for Morning Hour debate; and further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 13, 2006, for Morning Hour debate. **Page H3705**

Calendar Wednesday: Agreed to dispense with the Calendar Wednesday business of Wednesday, June 14th. **Page H3705**

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote and eight recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H3698–99, H3699, H3699–H3700, H3700–01, H3701, H3701–02, H3702–03, H3703, and H3704. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

Committee Meetings

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY—CYBER SECURITY CHALLENGES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled ''Cyber Security Challenges at the Department of Energy.'' Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Energy: Gregory Friedman, Inspector General; Glenn S. Podonsky, Director, Office of Security and Safety Performance Assessment; Tom Pyke, Chief Information Officer; Linton F. Brooks, Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration; and David K. Garman, Under Secretary, Energy, Science, and Environment.

CONFERENCE REPORT—EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR DEFENSE, THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR, AND HURRICANE RECOVERY, 2006

Committee on Rules: Granted, by voice vote, a rule waiving all points of order against the conference report to accompany H.R. 4939, making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and against its consideration. The rule provides that the conference report shall be considered as read. Testimony was heard from Chairman Lewis.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of June 12 through June 17, 2006

Senate Chamber

On *Monday,* at 3 p.m., Senate will begin consideration of S. 2766, National Defense Authorization Bill.

On *Tuesday,* Senate will continue consideration of S. 2766, National Defense Authorization Bill; at 2:15 p.m., the official photograph of the Senate will be taken; following which, Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Richard Stickler, of West Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health, with a vote on the motion to invoke cloture to occur thereon at 3:30 p.m.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any other cleared legislative and executive business, including the conference report to accompany H.R. 4939, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations, if available.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: June 13, to hold an oversight hearing to examine Department of Agriculture farm loan programs, 10 a.m., SR–328A.

Committee on Armed Services: June 13, Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support, to hold hearings to examine business systems modernization and financial management in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007, 2:30 p.m., SR–222.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: June 14, business meeting to mark up S. 418, to protect members of the Armed Forces from unscrupulous practices regarding sales of insurance, financial, and investment products; to be followed by a hearing to examine Financial Accountability Standards Board's proposed standard on ''Employers' Accounting for Defined Benefit Pension and Other Postretirement Plans'', 10 a.m., SD–538.

June 14, Subcommittee on Housing and Transportation, to hold hearings to examine extension of HUD's mark-to-market program, 2:30 p.m., SD–538.

June 15, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight Report of the Special Examination of Fannie Mae, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: June 13, to resume hearings to examine S. 2686, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 and for other purposes, 10 a.m., SH–216.

June 14, Subcommittee on Technology, Innovation, and Competitiveness, to hold hearings to examine alternative energy technologies, 10 a.m., SD–562.

June 14, Subcommittee on National Ocean Policy Study, to hold hearings to examine state of the oceans in 2006, 2:30 p.m., SD–562.

June 15, Subcommittee on Fisheries and Coast Guard, to hold hearings to examine the Coast Guard budget, 10:30 a.m., SD–562.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: June 12, to hold hearings to examine the implementation of Sections 641 through 645 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the Next Generation Nuclear Plant Project within the Department of Energy, 2:30 p.m., SD–366.

June 15, Subcommittee on National Parks, to hold hearings to examine the National Park Service's Revised Draft Management Policies, including potential impact of the policies on park operations, park resources, wilderness areas, recreation, and interaction with gateway communities, 2:30 p.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: June 14, to hold an oversight hearing to examine whether potential liability deters abandoned hard rock mine clean up, 9:30 a.m., SD–628.

June 15, Subcommittee on Superfund and Waste Management, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the superfund program, 9:30 a.m., SD–628.

Committee on Finance: June 13, to hold hearings to examine corporate tax issues, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: June 12, to hold hearings to examine Treaty Between the United States of America and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay Concerning the Encouragement and Reciprocal Protection of Investment (Treaty Doc. 109–09), 3 p.m., SD–419.

June 13, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the changing face of terror relating to counterterrorism, 9:30 a.m., SD–419.

June 15, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Robert O. Blake, Jr., of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of Maldives, 10 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: June 13, Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security, to hold hearings to examine autopilot budgeting, including the PART (Program Assessment Rating Tool) and consider how systematic performance reporting of government agencies helps taxpayers get better services as well as whether Congress can better utilize the report cards to inform their annual budgeting, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.

June 14, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 2145, to enhance security and protect against terrorist attacks at chemical facilities, S. 1554, to establish an intergovernmental grant program to identify and develop homeland security information, equipment, capabilities, technologies, and services to further the homeland security of the United States and to address the homeland security needs of Federal, State, and local governments, S. 1149, to amend the Federal Employees' Compensation Act to cover services provided to injured Federal workers by physician assistants and nurse practitioners, S. 1741, to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize the President to carry out a program for the protection of the health and safety of residents, workers, volunteers, and others in a disaster area, S. 2068, to preserve existing judgeships on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, S. 2146,

to extend relocation expenses test programs for Federal employees, S. 2296, to establish a fact-finding Commission to extend the study of a prior Commission to investigate and determine facts and circumstances surrounding the relocation, internment, and deportation to Axis countries of Latin Americans of Japanese descent from December 1941 through February 1948, and the impact of those actions by the United States, and to recommend appropriate remedies, H.R. 3508, to authorize improvements in the operation of the government of the District of Columbia, S. 2228 and H.R. 4456, bills to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2404 Race Street, Jonesboro, Arkansas, as the ''Hattie W. Caraway Post Office.'', S. 2376 and H.R. 3934, bills to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 80 Killian Road in Massapequa, New York, as the ''Gerard A. Fiorenza Post Office Building'', S. 2722, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 170 East Main Street in Patchogue, New York, as the ''Lieutenant Michael P. Murphy Post Office Building'', H.R. 4108, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3000 Homewood Avenue in Baltimore, Maryland, as the ''State Senator Verda Welcome and Dr. Henry Welcome Post Office Building'', H.R. 3440, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Avenida RL Rodriguez in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, as the ''Dr. Jose Celso Barbosa Post Office Building'', H.R. 4786, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 535 Wood Street in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, as the ''H. Gordon Payrow Post Office Building'', H.R. 4805, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 105 North Quincy Street in Clinton, Illinois, as the ''Gene Vance Post Office Building'', H.R. 4561, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8624 Ferguson Road in Dallas, Texas, as the ''Francisco 'Pancho' Medrano Post Office Building'', H.R. 4688, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 Boyden Street in Badin, North Carolina, as the ''Mayor John Thompson 'Tom' Garrison Memorial Post Office'', H.R. 4995, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7 Columbus Avenue in Tuckahoe, New York, as the ''Ronald Bucca Post Office'', H.R. 3549, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 210 West 3rd Avenue in Warren, Pennsylvania, as the ''William F. Clinger, Jr. Post Office Building'', and H.R. 2977, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 306 2nd Avenue in Brockway, Montana, as the ''Paul Kasten Post Office Building'', 10 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: June 14, to hold hearings to examine S. 374, to provide compensation to the Lower Brule and Crow Creek Sioux Tribes of South Dakota for damage to tribal land caused by Pick-Sloan projects along the Missouri River, and S. 1535, to amend the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Equitable Compensation Act to provide compensation to members of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe for damage resulting from the Oahe Dam and Reservoir Project, 9:30 a.m., SR–485.

Committee on the Judiciary: June 13, to hold hearings to examine continuing need for section 203's provisions for limited English proficient voters, 9:30 a.m., SD–226.

June 13, Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts, to hold hearings to examine the proposed Multidistrict Litigation Restoration Act, 3 p.m., SD–226.

June 14, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine ensuring competition and innovation relating to reconsidering communication laws, 9:30 a.m., SD–226.

June 15, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine pending judicial nominations, 2 p.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: June 13, closed business meeting to consider pending calendar business, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

June 14, Full Committee, closed business meeting to consider pending calendar business, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

June 15, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing regarding intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House Committees

Committee on Agriculture, June 15, Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management, hearing to review Efforts to Eliminate Waste, Fraud and Abuse in the Crop Insurance Program, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, June 13, to consider the following appropriations for Fiscal Year 2007: Defense; and the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

June 15, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, hearing on Effects of Illegal Immigration on Public and Tribal Lands. 9 a.m., B–308 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, June 13, hearing on issues related to H.R. 5200, National Defense Enhancement and National Guard Empowerment Act of 2006, 1 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, June 14, to mark up H.R. 4890, Legislative Line Item Veto Act of 2006, 10:30 a.m., 210 Cannon.

June 15, hearing on Congressional Oversight—Advancing Efficiency in Government, 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, June 13, hearing entitled ''No Child Left Behind: Disaggregating Student Achievement by Subgroups to Ensure All Students Are Learning,'' 10:30 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

June 14, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, hearing entitled ''Addressing Concerns About the U.S. Department of Labor's Use of Non-Consensus Standards in Workplace Health and Safety,'' 10:30 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, June 13 and 14, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearings entitled ''Human Tissue Samples: NIH Research Policies and Practices,'' 2 p.m., 2123 Rayburn on June 13 and 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn on June 14.

June 14, Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection, hearing on Violent and Explicit Video Games: Informing Parents and Protecting Children, 2 p.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, June 13, Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit, hearing entitled ''Home Mortgage Disclosure Act: Newly Collected Data and What It Means,'' 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

June 14, full Committee, to mark up the following measures: H.R. 5337, Reform of National Security Reviews of Foreign Direct Investments Act; H.R. 5068, Export-Import Bank Reauthorization Act of 2006; H.R. 2990, Credit Rating Agency Duopoly Relief Act of 2005; H.R. 5024, Promoting Transparency in Financial Reporting Act of 2006; the Financial Netting Improvements

Act of 2006; H.R. 5039, Saving America's Rural Housing Act of 2006; H.R. 4804, FHA Manufactured Housing Loan Modernization Act of 2006; H.R. 5527, Mark-to-Market Extension Act of 2006; H.R. 5393, Natural Disaster Housing Reform Act of 2006; and H.R. 5443, Section 8 Voucher Reform Act, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Government Reform, June 13, Subcommittee on Federal Workforce and Agency Organization, hearing entitled ''Healthier Feds and Families: Introducing Information Technology into the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, a Legislative Hearing on H.R. 4859, (Federal Family Health Information Technology Act of 2006), Part II,'' 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

June 13, Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats and International Relations, hearing entitled ''Private Security Firms: Standards, Cooperation and Coordination on the Battlefield,'' 2 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

June 15, full Committee, hearing entitled ''Regional Insecurity: DHS Grants to the National Capital Area,'' 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

June 16, hearing entitled ''Disabled Services in the District of Columbia: Who Is Protecting the Rights of D.C.'s Most Vulnerable Residents?'' 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

June 16, Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources, hearing entitled ''Evaluating the Synthetic Drug Control Strategy,'' 9 a.m., 2247 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, June 14, to mark up the following bills: H.R. 3197, Secure Handling of Ammonium Nitrate Act of 2005; H.R. 4941, Homeland Security Science and Technology Enhancement Act of 2006; and H.R. 4942, Promoting Antiterrorism Capabilities Through International Cooperation Act, 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

June 14, Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing, and Terrorism Risk Assessment, hearing entitled ''Transportation Security Administration's Office of Intelligence: Progress and Challenges,'' 2 p.m., 311 Cannon.

June 14, Subcommittee on Investigations, hearing entitled ''Waste, Fraud and Abuse in the Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina,'' 11 a.m., 311 Cannon.

June 15, Subcommittee on Management, Integration, and Oversight, hearing entitled ''An Examination of the Department of Homeland Security's Procurement Process Regarding Shirlington Limousine and Transportation, Inc.,'' 11:30 a.m., 311 Cannon.

June 16, Subcommittee on Economic Security, Infrastructure Protection and Cybersecurity, hearing on the Screening Applied Fairly and Equitably to Truckers Act of 2006, 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on International Relations, June 14, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations, hearing on Modern-Day Slavery: Spotlight on the 2006 Trafficking in Persons Report, Forced Labor, and Sex Trafficking at the World Cup, 11 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, June 13, Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law, hearing on Oversight of State Taxation of Interstate Telecommunications Services, 3 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

June 13, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, hearing on the Criminal Restitution Improvement Act of 2006, 9:30 a.m, 2141 Rayburn.

June 15, Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property, oversight hearing on Patent Trolls: Fact or Fiction? 9 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Resources, June 14, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing on H.R. 4761, Domestic Energy Production through Offshore Exploration and Equitable Treatment of State Holdings Act of 2006, 11 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

June 15, Subcommittee on Fisheries and Oceans, hearing on the following bills: H.R. 4957, Tylersville Fish Hatchery Conveyance Act; H.R. 5061, Paint Bank and Wytheville National Fish Hatcheries Conveyance Act; and H.R. 5381, National Fish Hatchery System Volunteer Act, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Rules, June 12, a resolution Declaring that the United States will complete the mission in Iraq and prevail in the Global War on Terror, the struggle to protect freedom from the terrorist adversary; and the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies, 5:30 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Science, June 13, Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, hearing on The NASA Workforce: Does NASA Have the Right Strategy and Policies to Retain and Build the Workforce It Will Need?'' 10:30 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, June 13, Subcommittee on Railroads, hearing on Current Issues in Rail Transportation of Hazardous Materials, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

June 14, Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, oversight hearing on Deepwater Implementation, 1 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

June 15, Subcommittee on Highways, Transit and Pipelines, oversight hearing on Intermodalism, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, June 14, hearing on the Implementation of the Medicare prescription drug benefit, beneficiary enrollment and lessons learned now that the initial enrollment deadline of May 15 has passed, 10:30 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

June 15, Subcommittee on Social Security, hearing on the Social Security Administration's improved disability determination process, 11 a.m., B–318 Rayburn.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, June 14, Subcommittee on Terrorism, Human Intelligence, Analysis and Counterintelligence, executive, briefing on Title 50/Title 10 Concerns, 3 p.m., H–405 Capitol.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: June 15, to hold hearings to examine human rights challenges that countries in South Central Europe face as they seek integration into the European Union and/or NATO Alliance, focusing on legal restrictions on religious activities and other attacks on religious freedom, lagging efforts to combat trafficking in persons, discrimination and violence against Roma, and the prevalence of official corruption and organized crime, 2 p.m., SD–226.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

2 p.m., Monday, June 12

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 3 p.m.), Senate will begin consideration of S. 2766, National Defense Authorization Bill.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

12:30 p.m., Monday, June 12

House Chamber

Program for Monday: To be announced.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSEP
Baldwin, Tammy, Wisc., E1089
Boucher, Rick, Va., E1104
Cardoza, Dennis A., Calif., E1105
Cleaver, Emanuel, Mo., E1106
Cuellar, Henry, Tex., E1111
Culberson, John Abney, Tex., E1107
Davis, Tom, Va., E1093, E1096
Diaz-Balart, Lincoln, Fla., E1107
Emanuel, Rahm, Ill., E1092, E1096
Etheridge, Bob, N.C., E1110
Farr, Sam, Calif., E1105, E1109
Fitzpatrick, Michael G., Pa., E1110
Fortenberry, Jeff, Nebr., E1089
Graves, Sam, Mo., E1090, E1092, E1093, E1094, E1097, E1098, E1100, E1103
Green, Gene, Tex., E1109
Green, Mark, Wisc., E1108
Gutknecht, Gil, Minn., E1103
Harman, Jane, Calif., E1108
Inglis, Bob, S.C., E1108
Johnson, Eddie Bernice, Tex., E1106
Johnson, Timothy V., Ill., E1100
Jones, Walter B., N.C., E1108
Kucinich, Dennis J., Ohio, E1106
Lee, Barbara, Calif., E1111
Lewis, Ron, Ky., E1109
McCollum, Betty, Minn., E1091, E1094, E1097, E1100
Maloney, Carolyn B., N.Y., E1110
Markey, Edward J., Mass., E1104
Matsui, Doris O., Calif., E1105
Meek, Kendrick B., Fla., E1111
Musgrave, Marilyn N., Colo., E1091, E1092, E1094, E1096
Ortiz, Solomon P., Tex., E1091, E1094, E1098
Pence, Mike, Ind., E1104
Rangel, Charles B., N.Y., E1090, E1092, E1093, E1095, E1097, E1098, E1100
Regula, Ralph, Ohio, E1110
Schakowsky, Janice D., Ill., E1106, E1111
Simmons, Rob, Conn., E1103
Terry, Lee, Nebr., E1103
Udall, Mark, Colo., E1108
Udall, Tom, N.M., E1107
Walsh, James T., N.Y., E1103
Wilson, Joe, S.C., E1107

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