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No. 84

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
June 26, 2006.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, Jr. to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

### MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 31, 2006, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

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

### FOREIGN LAW IN U.S. COURTS

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, with the Fourth of July celebration next week, it is important to again remember why we fought for independence, namely, to free ourselves from foreign domination.

I fear that the Supreme Court's appeal to foreign legal practice has headed us down a slippery slope, down which our rapid descent could hurt the values we hold so dear.

In fact, to measure the standards of our Constitution by foreign opinion is to believe the false premise that other

nations are evolving toward better answers than we are capable of finding ourselves. If we begin thinking that way, surely we will cease to be Americans.

In 2003 in *Lawrence v. Texas*, five Supreme Court justices created a new right to sodomy based largely on legal precedents from the European Convention of Human Rights. In his dissenting opinion on this ruling, Justice Scalia agreed with what I am trying to point out in this speech by saying, he "expects and fears that the court's use of foreign law in the interpretation of our Constitution will continue at an accelerating pace."

Later, in the 2005 *Roper v. Simmons* case, the United States Supreme Court found juvenile execution to be unconstitutional. In deliberations, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor claimed that the United States is the only country in the world that continues to give the juvenile death penalty official sanction. She allowed international law to override her own decisionmaking abilities. In the majority decision, Justice Kennedy stated that using foreign law "does not lessen our fidelity to the Constitution or our pride in its origin to acknowledge that the affirmation of rights by other nations and people simply underscores the centrality of those same rights within our heritage of freedom."

Though it may be proper to acknowledge the weight of foreign opinion against the juvenile death penalty, should it be the basis for American law? Justice Ginsburg, one of the most prominent advocates of using international opinion in U.S. courts, recently delivered a speech at the Constitutional Court of South Africa. She essentially concluded that she and other justices have the authority to change the Constitution as they see fit, deferral to foreign laws and rulings being a key part of their creative process. She insisted that U.S. jurists honor

the Framers' intent to "create a more perfect union," which would allow justices to alter the Constitution, to keep it from being "fixed forever by the 18th century understanding."

My colleagues, the Framers of the Constitution did not give justices the authority to create a more perfect union; in fact, they purposely made changing the Constitution a very difficult process, to ensure that these changes were thoroughly vetted and absolutely necessary. Any amendments require a two-thirds vote of both Houses of Congress and three-fourths of State legislatures to convene constitutional conventions to ratify them. But, as we have seen, some justices believe they have the power to amend the Constitution to suit every whim.

Foreign laws and decisions simply provide a convenient justification for some justices to almost thumb their noses at the Constitution and the legislative branch.

Foreign legal standards can help U.S. courts determine the meaning behind treaties, foreign law might even aid us in interpretation of our Constitution as the Framers were of English descent; but there needs to be a distinction between appropriate and inappropriate consultation, aside from justices' personal opinions.

In an address to the American Enterprise Institute earlier this year, Justice Scalia said, "If there was any thought absolutely foreign to the Founders of our Country, it was the notion that we Americans should be governed the way Europeans are." In the *Federalist Papers* Number 46, to take just what one example, James Madison speaks contemptuously of the governments of Europe, which are afraid to trust the people with arms. Are we now to revise the second amendment because what these other countries think?

During his confirmation, Justice Roberts pointed out, "Looking to foreign law for support is like looking out

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

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



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over a crowd and picking out your best friends." A judge relying on foreign law in their decisionmaking can hand-pick a precedent based on a predetermined outcome of their choice.

So, Mr. Speaker, I believe that our courts should rely on our history, our laws, and most importantly our Constitution to help them reach a decision, especially when it comes to domestic issues. That is why we must focus our energies on the other body on confirming quality judges with a healthy respect for the Constitution like Justice Roberts and Justice Alito.

#### ANTI-AMNESTY RESOLUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 31, 2006, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, 11 days ago in this House, we had a partial limited debate on the war in Iraq. The same day, it was reported in a number of the area newspapers that there was consideration of giving amnesty to those Iraqis that killed, maimed, or injured U.S. troops or citizens. A few of us took to the floor during the Iraq debate and raised the issue of amnesty. Is this what we are fighting for in Iraq, the type of democracy that gives people who kill American soldiers amnesty?

Last week, I joined with Democratic leadership, Mr. LARSON, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, and others, and introduced House Joint Resolution 90, which says: Disapproving the grant of amnesty by the government of Iraq to persons known to have attacked, kidnapped, wounded, or killed members of the Armed Forces of the United States or citizens of the United States in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, proposing amnesty for Iraqis who have killed our troops is another stunning example of the failure of this administration's handling of the war and their overall policy. I, like the rest of the American people, would like to know, what did the President know about this amnesty and when did he know it? I find it coincidental that the day after the President comes back from his secret trip to Iraq, we start hearing these reports in newspapers about an agreement on amnesty.

In 3 years of war, we have lost more than 2,500 of our best and brightest Americans. The war in Iraq now boils down to amnesty for insurgents who attack and kill U.S. troops? This amnesty proposal appears to have the tacit agreement of the Bush administration and the Iraqi government officials, as they were quoted in the Washington Post as saying, and I quote, "There is some sort of understanding between us and the U.S.-led multinational force in Iraq that there is a patriotic feeling among Iraqi youth and the belief that those attacks are legitimate acts of resistance and defending their homeland. These people will be pardoned definitely, I believe."

So officials in the Iraqi government believe that this is a done deal, and that attacking U.S. troops is a courageous act of self-defense. We could not disagree with it more, and that is why we have our House Joint Resolution 90.

I want to know, who agreed with the Iraqi government? How did they get this understanding that it is part of the policy of the United States that it is okay to kill U.S. troops? Was it someone in the Department of Defense, someone in the Secretary of State, or, again, during the meeting the President had in Iraq a few weeks ago, was that part of it?

The amnesty was reported in the papers the same day that two U.S. troops were found to be tortured and mutilated in Iraq. Do we give their torturers, their killers amnesty? Is this what the Commander-in-Chief does, lead troops into war, and then it develops into a civil war and those who kill U.S. troops get amnesty?

We ask the Republican leadership to bring House Joint Resolution 90 up before this floor. Let's bring it up before the Fourth of July recess, pass this House resolution, it should move quickly, and it should be a bipartisan resolution.

There is a lot of talk in this town, and some people like to use the word cut and run. Let me ask this. If the administration and if this Congress accept a policy that says it is okay to kill U.S. troops, what sort of message are we sending to the Iraqis on the street that it is okay to kill U.S. troops? But, more importantly, what sort of message are we sending to the 130,000 troops that are over there fighting in Iraq? To me, a proposal giving amnesty to those who have murdered Americans is the real definition of cut and run.

I urge the Republican leadership to allow our resolution to come to the floor, House Joint Resolution 90. No amnesty in Iraq, no amnesty for those who kill, maim, torture U.S. troops or our citizens in the country of Iraq.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 41 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOUSTANY) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

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

Lord, today we ask Your blessing on the work of so many here on Capitol

Hill. Besides the work of government, familiar to all, accomplished by elected Representatives and many staff, there are hundreds of personnel whose work is hidden.

Lord, here are people in a labor force of manual laborers, carpenters, cooks, kitchen help, gardeners and maintenance workers. Their work is often unnoticed, yet always appreciated. During daylight and night hours, this Capitol is kept clean, in good order and prepared for those who serve here in government.

You, Lord, reward everyone with all our differences for his or her own competency, expertise and daily labor. May the families of the workers and all hardworking Americans be proud of the many laborers who raise a high standard for all citizens by their work on Capitol Hill. Bless them and their work, 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.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. COBLE 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.

#### 55 GUARDSMEN HOLDING OFF INVASION

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, news from the front. The border war continues.

Generalissimo Fox and the Mexican media have taken a setback in the illegal invasion of the United States. Illegal border crossings and detentions

have dropped 21 percent in just 10 days. The reason: 55 National Guardsmen on the border. Even though the Guard was sent to the border in a support role and as a publicity stunt to appease Americans, they are deterring illegal entry into the United States.

The Mexican media, taking a page out of the New York Times and their hatred for the U.S. military, has so exaggerated the truth and alarmed the Mexican illegals about the National Guard, the crossings have decreased dramatically.

The fear that the National Guard is portrayed like their own corrupt military has slowed illegal entry, you know, that Mexican military machine that is on the southern Mexican border that reportedly "rapes, robs and beats Hondurans and Guatemalans that are just trying to do jobs that Mexicans won't do."

If 55 Guardsmen can reduce the number of illegals by 21 percent, just think what would happen if we used more Guardsmen on the border front.

Those who say we cannot stop the invasion so we ought to surrender our soil are underestimating the American National Guard.

And that's just the way it is.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, June 26, 2006.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on June 23, 2006, at 1:36 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5603.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5403.

That the Senate passed S. 2370.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,  
Clerk of the House.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

#### CORRECTING THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 889

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur

in the Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 103) to correct the enrollment of the bill H.R. 889.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. CON. RES. 103

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 889, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall make the following corrections:*

(1) In the table of contents in section 2, strike the item relating to section 414 and insert the following:

"Sec. 414. Navigational safety of certain facilities."

(2) Strike section 414 and insert the following:

"SEC. 414. NAVIGATIONAL SAFETY OF CERTAIN FACILITIES.

"(a) CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES.—In reviewing a lease, easement, or right-of-way for an offshore wind energy facility in Nantucket Sound under section 8(p) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1337(p)), not later than 60 days before the date established by the Secretary of the Interior for publication of a draft environmental impact statement, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall specify the reasonable terms and conditions the Commandant determines to be necessary to provide for navigational safety with respect to the proposed lease, easement, or right-of-way and each alternative to the proposed lease, easement, or right-of-way considered by the Secretary.

"(b) INCLUSION OF NECESSARY TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—In granting a lease, easement, or right-of-way for an offshore wind energy facility in Nantucket Sound under section 8(p) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1337(p)), the Secretary shall incorporate in the lease, easement, or right-of-way reasonable terms and conditions the Commandant determines to be necessary to provide for navigational safety."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on Senate Concurrent Resolution 103.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, Senate Concurrent Resolution 103 clarifies the intent of the conferees that the Coast Guard review and assess the impacts of any proposed offshore energy facility on the navigation safety in Nantucket Sound and on the service's capabilities to conduct missions within and near the proposed facility.

The resolution will require the Coast Guard to establish terms and conditions that are necessary to safeguard recreational and commercial vessel traffic in Nantucket Sound before any draft environmental impact statement is made available for public review.

The resolution also provides that these terms and conditions will be incorporated into the requirements of any lease that is granted for the construction of a proposed offshore facility.

This provision will allow us to develop offshore alternative energy resources in a way that does not jeopardize the safety and security of the maritime community in Nantucket Sound.

I urge my colleagues to support this concurrent resolution and to support the underlying resolution.

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

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution will make changes to the Coast Guard conference report that reflects the compromise agreement that was worked out concerning the Cape Wind project.

It will allow the Commandant of the Coast Guard to set the terms and conditions on any leasing of Federal waters in Nantucket Sound that may be necessary to protect navigational safety. For example, over 3 million passengers ride ferries that transit through Nantucket Sound, and it is vitally important to protect the navigational safety of those vessels.

Recent emergencies have reminded us once again why a well-funded and fully operational Coast Guard is paramount for protecting the citizens of this Nation.

The 2006 Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act conference report has been delayed for far too long. We are all glad to see that a fair agreement based on navigational safety has been worked out and that this bill will now move to the President's desk for signature.

I encourage all my colleagues to support this fair resolution and support full funding for the Coast Guard.

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

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. At this time I yield whatever time he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE).

Mr. COBLE. I thank the gentleman from Alaska, the distinguished chairman of the full committee.

Mr. YOUNG, I want to commend you and Mr. LOBIONDO, the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey, for having chaired the full committee and the Coast Guard subcommittee, along with your respective ranking members, Mr. OBERSTAR, the gentleman from Minnesota; and Mr. FILNER, the gentleman from California. You all have done notable work.

Chairman YOUNG, you and I have talked about this before, but I believe the U.S. Coast Guard probably more than any other Federal entity assumes additional duties time after time without corresponding increased appropriations. I told the Commandant the other day, Admiral Allen, I said, You must

have a magic wand down there, because you all continue to discharge duty after duty, oftentimes newly assigned duties, with the same amount of money. And I don't know how they do it, but they do.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate concurrent resolution, S. Con. Res. 103.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 889, COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2006

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the conference report on the bill (H.R. 889) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2006, to make technical corrections to various laws administered by the Coast Guard, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of April 6, 2006 at page H1640.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 889.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 889, the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006.

This bill authorizes \$8.7 billion in funding for the Coast Guard, including \$1.6 billion for the recapitalization of Coast Guard vessels, aircraft and support systems.

Funding at this level would result in the acceleration of the Deepwater program and would provide a new, more capable fleet to support the Coast Guard's many traditional and homeland security missions.

The conference report also includes provisions related to Coast Guard's response in the regions that were af-

ected last year by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and the impacts of the storms on the maritime industry.

The conference report also requires safety inspection for passenger ferries, makes it easier to prosecute illegal drug smugglers, encourages the construction and use of U.S. flag liquefied natural gas vessels, enhances maritime security by increasing penalties for violations of the Maritime Transportation Security Act, and adjusts oil spill liability limits for the first time since the Oil Pollution Act was passed in 1990.

H.R. 889 also includes legislation passed by the House as H.R. 1412, the Delaware River Protection Act.

This bill was introduced by the Coast Guard Subcommittee chairman, our colleague from New Jersey, Mr. FRANK LOBIONDO. I commend him for his hard work on this measure.

H.R. 889 is a truly bipartisan bill and deserves the support of each Member of this House.

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

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairmen YOUNG and LOBIONDO and Ranking Members OBERSTAR and FILNER for their hard work in bringing this conference report to the floor. It has been a long time coming, and I am glad to see the finish line ahead.

Every time this country faces an emergency, the Coast Guard is the first agency on the scene. The Coast Guard was the first agency to react to the terrorist attacks on September 11 and within minutes was guarding our ports and bridges and directing maritime traffic out of New York. They were also the only agency in the Bush administration to actually do their job during the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. That is worth repeating: they were the only agency in the Bush administration to actually do their job during the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. And they are still in the gulf region supporting the recovery effort.

They respond to these emergencies all while completing their core missions of search and rescue, drug interdiction, and enforcing maritime and fisheries laws.

Fortunately, the Transportation Committee realizes how important the Coast Guard is and has once again stepped up to the plate and provided the Coast Guard the true amount of funding they need to do their job. I encourage all my colleagues to support this bill and support full funding for the U.S. Coast Guard. It is simply the right thing to do for America.

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

□ 1415

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield to the chairman of the subcommittee who has done an outstanding job, a man who under-

stands the Coast Guard and really has been leading the Coast Guard for the last 6 years, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LOBIONDO).

Mr. LOBIONDO. I thank the chairman for yielding, and I would like to thank Chairman YOUNG for his ongoing very strong support for the Coast Guard and their maritime missions.

H.R. 889, the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act, authorizes nearly \$8.7 billion in funding for the Coast Guard in fiscal year 2006. This authorization includes funding to support each of the Coast Guard's important missions, including many that have been highlighted in response to the tragedy that occurred in the gulf region last year.

The Coast Guard is a unique entity within the Federal Government, as both a military service and a Federal agency with law enforcement abilities and wide regulatory responsibilities. The men and women of the Coast Guard carry out their missions every day to protect the safety and security of our Nation. Whether the mission involves saving thousands of lives, responding to oil spills, keeping our ports and waterways open, or boarding a suspicious vessel, the men and women of the Coast Guard work tirelessly.

However, we cannot allow the commitment that is being shown by the men and women of the Coast Guard to go on without a real commitment by this body to provide the service with the assets and resources necessary to carry out all of these missions that we have asked them to do. H.R. 889 will authorize the funding levels required to do just that.

H.R. 889 authorizes \$1.6 billion for the Coast Guard's Integrated Deepwater System, a critically important system. Every day our Coast Guard servicemembers must deal with the unfortunate reality that an aircraft or boat they command may lose power, spring a leak, or otherwise fail to operate. This is unacceptable. It puts the safety of our personnel and the success of their mission in real jeopardy. We must accelerate Deepwater to make replacement assets available now. I urge my colleagues to support funding levels in this bill and in the future to make this a reality.

H.R. 889 also includes important oil spill response and liability provisions originally included in the Delaware River Protection Act legislation that I introduced, along with Representatives SAXTON, CASTLE, ANDREWS, and SCHWARTZ, in the wake of the Athos I oil spill in the Delaware River. These provisions represent the first real effort in 15 years to strengthen our Federal oil spill prevention and response system. This bill will provide the Federal Government with the authorities that will enhance our capability to prevent and respond to future oil spills.

Once again, I would like to thank Chairman YOUNG for his strong support, Ranking Member OBERSTAR, as well as subcommittee Ranking Member

FILNER for working with me to develop a strong bipartisan product. I would also like to thank our dedicated staff on both sides of the aisle for their work: John Rayfield, Eric Nagel, and Liz Megginson on the majority staff, and John Cullather on the minority staff, who did an outstanding job in helping us put this conference report together.

The bill takes a balanced approach to providing the resources and authorities necessary to support each of the Coast Guard's many and varied missions. Although the Coast Guard has received a great deal of attention for its port security mission, we must strive to protect the service's unique multi-mission character. We must maintain a Coast Guard with the ability to successfully accomplish each of its vital missions.

I would like to urge all my colleagues to support this important bill and continue to support the men and women of the Coast Guard who do such an exceptionally good job for the United States of America.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I echo the words of Mr. LOBIONDO. This Coast Guard that serves this great Nation of ours has done such an outstanding job over the years in my 34 years in Congress that I can only just applaud each time I see a Coast Guard vessel or a member of the Coast Guard or the flag that they carry.

It is a unique privilege, being in a State that has probably the greatest challenge of all the States and probably the most involved with the Coast Guard. When I first arrived in Congress, we had one Coast Guard station, actually two, one in Juneau, which was a command station, and one in Ketchikan, which was relatively small. Since that time, over the last 34 years, we now have, I believe, the largest Coast Guard unit in the United States on Kodiak Island.

They do a great job not only patrolling and watching for foreign interference of our fishing fleet, but saving my constituents. Many times they go out in weather, and I don't know how many of you watch the show of the most dangerous fishing, the "Dangerous Catch," they call it, but there you will see the Coast Guard involved rescuing people in hundred mile winds, or knots, of seas of about 40 feet, 50 feet, sometimes. Even so bad that it took a helicopter down last year when they were trying to rescue people off a foreign ship that was carrying soybeans.

But they do not only that, but they watch for oil spills which pollute our seas. They do it for the little fisherman going out in the small dinghy, in larger seas than he should have, to catch those big King salmon Alaska has that belongs to Alaska and doesn't belong to Washington State or Canada. And sometimes they get in trouble, and the Coast Guard is there. And the young

men and women that enlist and stay voluntarily for years and years, I just compliment them.

This bill is a good bill. As mentioned by Mr. LOBIONDO, John Rayfield has done outstanding work. There were very tiring times, especially in conference, because we are dealing with a conference, and they are very difficult in this business we are in. Conferences with the other side are equally difficult but sometimes ridiculous in the sense of what we have to negotiate for. But we believe we have negotiated a good conference. Liz Megginson, my legal counsel, has done very well on this legislation.

And for my colleagues, this is the end of 2006 as far as the authorization for the Coast Guard. As of today, we will be introducing a 2007 reauthorization bill; and we will be working on that, hopefully with expedited results, and getting the bill out of the House and to the Senate to decide and maybe having the finalization and being ahead of the ball game. That is what we are going to attempt to do to try to make sure that the Coast Guard gets the recognition, the organization, the authorization and be able to fulfill the mission that they have and will continue to have.

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

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I just want to once again thank Chairman YOUNG and Mr. LOBIONDO and Ranking Members OBERSTAR and FILNER for their hard work on this bill.

The Coast Guard, once again, is the first agency on the scene that is doing their job; and I am very pleased that we finally have a bill that we are going to send to the President's desk.

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

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I would just close by urging my colleagues to support this legislation.

The House has under consideration the conference report (109-413) to the bill H.R. 889 to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2006, to make technical corrections to various laws administered by the Coast Guard, and for other purposes.

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the leadership of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for their hard work shepherding through the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2005, and to express my strong support of the bill.

It authorizes \$8.7 billion for the Coast Guard for fiscal 2006, which will be used to perform the essential duties of the U.S. Coast Guard in the areas of homeland security, maritime safety, law enforcement, environmental protection, and emergency response: a mission area in which the Coast Guard led the pack in responding to Hurricane Katrina. To support these activities, the conference report authorizes \$500 million in additional emergency funds for Katrina response.

Mr. Speaker, I want to highlight a provision that I offered and was accepted by the Committee last July and is included in this conference report. It directs the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct a study of the

pollution in Newtown Creek caused by underground oil spills in Brooklyn, N.Y. The study is to be fully funded through the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund. As outlined in section 410 of the conference report, this study is to be completed no later than one year after enactment of this law.

Newtown Creek is a 3.5 mile long waterway that flows from the East River and separates the boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens. The State of New York has ruled that the Creek does not meet water quality standards under the Clean Water Act. It is the single most polluted waterway in New York City, and its banks are home to the largest oil spill in the United States. The spill is 150 percent the size of the Exxon-Valdez spill.

In 1978, a Coast Guard patrol detected petroleum on the surface of Newtown Creek and identified a spill that spreads from the banks of the Creek through the Greenpoint neighborhood in Brooklyn. Evaluations at that time identified a spill totaling 17 million gallons attributed to refineries operated along the banks of the Creek by the predecessors to ExxonMobil, BP/Amoco and Chevron-Texaco. To date, 8.7 millions gallons have been cleaned but estimates indicate it will take at least 25 more years to finish the remediation, primarily conducted by ExxonMobil under a 1990 consent agreement with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation that sets no timetable for completion and includes no meaningful criteria for compliance.

Even though it has been over 25 years since the oil spill was detected, the public health and safety risks associated with the oil spill are still unknown.

The legislative intent of the amendment that directs the Coast Guard to study Newtown Creek (Creek) is for the Environmental Protection Agency to revisit the findings of the U.S. Coast Guard's July 1979 report entitled "Investigation of Underground Accumulation of Hydrocarbons along Newtown Creek," and address the following issues:

The actual current size of the Greenpoint Oil Spill (Spill) and the extent to which oil from each refinery site contributes to the Spill.

The extent and severity of surface water pollution and sediment contamination from the Spill, and methods to prevent further seepage into the Creek.

The Spill's impact on existing conditions in the Creek including but not limited to low levels of dissolved oxygen and high levels of bacteria.

The interaction between pollution from the Spill and pollution from other sources in the Creek including but not limited to Combined Sewer Overflow Pipes and the Newtown Creek Sewage Treatment Plant.

The extent to which oil and contaminated sediments in the Creek disperse into New York Harbor.

The extent to which the Spill has affected aquatic species in the Creek and Harbor, and methods to prevent further harm.

The extent to which the Spill has affected groundwater in the surrounding area, and methods to prevent further harm.

The extent and severity of contaminated soil in the area affected by the Spill, and methods to prevent further harm.

Any public health issues raised by the Spill and the current remediation efforts, both independently and in interaction with other pollutants in the Creek.

Any safety issues raised by the Spill and the current remediation efforts, both independently and in interaction with other pollutants in the Creek.

The extent to which the current remediation efforts are sufficient, and any new technologies or approaches that could accelerate product recovery and/or improve the scope of the remediation.

I would like to express my thanks to Chairman YOUNG, Mr. OBERSTAR, Chairman LOBIONDO, and Mr. FILNER for their willingness to work with me on this very important yet often overlooked issue. The country will benefit from renewed Federal attention on this oil spill, the largest in the country.

Furthermore, I would like to thank my Democratic colleagues in the New York City delegation, all of whom signed a letter to conferees urging that this study be included in the conference report. I would especially like to commend Mrs. VELÁZQUEZ, who represents the people of Greenpoint. She and I have worked together closely on this initiative.

Additionally, I would like to thank both the Democratic and Republican staff of the Transportation Committee and the Subcommittee on the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation. In particular, Ward McCarragher and John Cullather of Mr. OBERSTAR's staff and Fraser Verrusio and John Rayfield of Mr. YOUNG's staff were very helpful.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the conference report on the bill, H.R. 889.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

#### VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2006

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4843) to increase, effective as of December 1, 2006, the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4843

*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 "Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2006".

#### SEC. 2. INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.

(a) RATE ADJUSTMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, effective on December 1, 2006, increase the dollar amounts in effect for the payment of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation by the Secretary, as specified in subsection (b).

(b) AMOUNTS TO BE INCREASED.—The dollar amounts to be increased pursuant to subsection (a) are the following:

(1) COMPENSATION.—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under section 1114 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under section 1115(1) of such title.

(3) CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.—The dollar amount in effect under section 1162 of such title.

(4) NEW DIC RATES.—The dollar amounts in effect under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 1311(a) of such title.

(5) OLD DIC RATES.—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under section 1311(a)(3) of such title.

(6) ADDITIONAL DIC FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES WITH MINOR CHILDREN.—The dollar amounts in effect under section 1311(b) of such title and paragraph (1) of section 1311(f) of such title (as redesignated by subsection (e) of this section).

(7) ADDITIONAL DIC FOR DISABILITY.—The dollar amounts in effect under sections 1311(c) and 1311(d) of such title.

(8) DIC FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN.—The dollar amounts in effect under sections 1313(a) and 1314 of such title.

(c) DETERMINATION OF INCREASE.—

(1) BASE FOR INCREASE.—The increase under subsection (a) shall be made in the dollar amounts specified in subsection (b) as in effect on November 30, 2006.

(2) PERCENTAGE OF INCREASE.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), each such amount shall be increased by the same percentage as the percentage by which benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are increased effective December 1, 2006, as a result of a determination under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

(3) ROUNDING.—Each dollar amount increased pursuant to paragraph (2) shall, if not a whole dollar amount, be rounded down to the next lower whole dollar amount.

(d) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary may adjust administratively, consistent with the increases made under subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation payable to persons within the purview of section 10 of Public Law 85-857 (72 Stat. 1263) who are not in receipt of compensation payable pursuant to chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code.

(e) DESIGNATION CORRECTION.—Section 1311 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by redesignating the second subsection (e) (added by section 301(a) of the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-454; 118 Stat. 3610)) as subsection (f).

#### SEC. 3. PUBLICATION OF ADJUSTED RATES.

At the same time as the matters specified in section 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)(2)(D)) are required to be published by reason of a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act during fiscal year 2006, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish in the Federal Register the amounts specified in subsection (b) of section 2, as increased pursuant to that section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from In-

diana (Mr. BUYER) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4843, as amended, is one of the more important bills the committee brings to the floor each year.

On April 6 of this year, the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, chaired by Mr. MILLER of Florida, took testimony on H.R. 4843. The subcommittee then marked this bill on June 8 and reported the bill favorably to the full committee by unanimous voice vote. The full committee reported the bill, as amended, on June 22.

H.R. 4843, as amended, would provide a cost-of-living adjustment, a COLA, to disabled veterans and certain survivors in the same amount given to Social Security recipients. All veterans who receive disability compensation and qualified survivors would receive the adjustment beginning December 1 of this year. Congress has acted on COLA legislation every fiscal year since 1976.

More than 2.6 million veterans receive service-connected disability compensation. These benefits are paid monthly and range from \$112 for a 10 percent disability to \$2,393 for a 100 percent disability. Additional monetary benefits are available for our most severely disabled veterans, as well as those with dependents.

Spouses of veterans who died on active duty or as a result of a service-connected disability may also be entitled to monetary compensation. The amount of the dependency and indemnity compensation is \$1,033.

Additional amounts are paid to survivors who are housebound or in need of aid and attendants or have minor children. Currently, about 340,000 surviving spouses and children are receiving survivors' benefits.

The amendment to the bill by Ms. BERKLEY would also provide a COLA to the dependency and indemnity compensation transitional benefit. Established in Public Law 108-454, transitional DIC is a 2-year benefit; and it is intended to ease the family's transition following the death of a service member or veteran.

The Congressional Budget Office is projecting a 2.2 percent COLA increase, but it may be higher or lower depending upon the changes in the Consumer Price Index. The exact percentage will be calculated as of September 30, 2006.

The cost of providing a COLA is assumed in the administration's budget baseline; therefore, it will be budget neutral. Additionally, H.R. 5385, the Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill of 2007 fully funds a veterans' COLA effective December 1, 2006.

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

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

I would like to thank Chairman BUYER, Ranking Member LANE EVANS, subcommittee Chairman JEFF MILLER and our subcommittee Ranking Member, Ms. BERKLEY, for their work on this bill. In particular, I want to thank Ms. BERKLEY for her amendment, which was offered during our markup and which received unanimous bipartisan support.

H.R. 4843, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2006, will help our service-disabled veterans and their survivors maintain the purchasing power of their benefits in 2007. Ms. BERKLEY's amendment assures our Gold Star Wives with young children that the value of their benefit will not continue to erode as it did during this current year.

Unfortunately, many do not fully recognize that the benefits we pay to men and women who have borne the battle, their widows, widowers, and children are a continuing cost of war. Indeed, the VA is currently paying benefits to survivors of Civil War veterans. We have a moral obligation to the men and women who put on the uniform and are harmed in the service of the Nation that we will compensate them for the harm which occurs. We have many examples where this is not being done, because, although costs increase, the benefit has remained static. The least we can do for the young families of our deceased veterans is to provide them the full value of the 2-year transitional benefit they receive.

Although we will not know the exact percentage by which the benefit is to be increased until the Consumer Price Index is calculated in October, I expect this bill will help VA beneficiaries maintain the value of their benefits.

□ 1430

No amount of money can ever compensate our veterans for the loss of their health or the families for the loss of a loved one. Nonetheless, it is critical that the monetary value of these benefits, which partially compensate for such losses, is not reduced merely by the passage of time.

In 2004, over 28,000 veterans in New Mexico received disability compensation or pension payments from the VA. Many New Mexico family members of veterans and their survivors also receive VA cash benefits. The action we are taking here today will help the veterans in my congressional district who depend on these VA benefits.

H.R. 4843, as amended, will receive my full support; and it deserves the support of all Members of the House.

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

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN), a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee who has been a fighter for our Nation's veterans.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support

this bill to increase the veterans compensation, or COLA. It is important to pass this legislation to support those who have put their lives on the line to protect the freedom this country holds so dear.

This money is very important to veterans living on fixed incomes and very little outside support. The COLA increase is tied to the Social Security COLA, which could change depending on the Consumer Price Index.

While many of the beneficiaries of the increase are veterans of past wars, the disabled from the current war, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, will benefit also.

Those injured in the current war are surviving once fatal injuries at greater numbers than anytime in the past. The rates of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation affected by the COLA will help those recovering to have a better quality of life and help them to become contributing members of society.

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

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to revise and extend my remarks and that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4843, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I would also like the Members to note that last year when we came to the floor, we thought that the COLA was going to be about 2.7 percent. Once they did the adjustment on the CPI, it ended up being about 4.1 percent. I don't know what it is going to be this year. That was a huge change. Even though we are saying approximately 2.2, I don't know what it is going to be.

I would like to thank LANE EVANS and BOB FILNER for their work. I would also like to thank Mr. MILLER and Ms. BERKLEY. I would like to thank Mr. UDALL and Ms. BROWN. Also, I thank them in appreciation for the timely fashion in which they moved this bill through the committee and now onto the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2006.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4843, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2006.

This is a good bipartisan bill.

It will help to ensure that the real value of the benefits earned by our veterans does not decrease as prices rise.

These benefits are critical for many veterans and their families to help make ends meet.

Veterans and their families need to know that the purchasing power of their earned benefits will not decrease over time.

This legislation also includes a provision similar to my bill, H.R. 1573.

Last Congress, in response to a VA evaluation, we passed legislation to provide an increase of \$250 to the monthly DIC, Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, benefit for surviving spouses with children under 18 for the first 2 years of eligibility.

While I believe that we should make this benefit permanent, especially in light of the brave men and women giving their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan; the provision in today's bill is extremely important and will ensure that this benefit maintains its value over time.

I want to thank Ms. BERKLEY for her amendment in Committee to include this provision.

This is a good bill that will help veterans and their families across the country and I urge my colleagues to support it.

I hope that this is the first of many bills that we will now move forward to improve the benefits and quality of care provided to our veterans and their families.

I congratulate Chairman MILLER of Florida for introducing this important bill, and I thank full committee Chairman STEVE BUYER and full committee Ranking Member LANE EVANS for moving this legislation forward.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4843, as amended, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2006.

On March 2, 2006, as Chairman on the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, I introduced H.R. 4843 with SHELLEY BERKLEY, Ranking Member of the Subcommittee, and STEVE BUYER and LANE EVANS, Chairman and Ranking Member, respectively, of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. On June 22, 2006, the full Committee adopted an amendment offered by Ms. BERKLEY to provide the annual adjustment to a two year transitional benefit offered under the dependency and indemnity compensation program.

Each year since 1976, Congress has provided a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to the benefits provided to our Nation's disabled veterans and their survivors. The purpose of the annual COLA is to ensure that Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) cash benefits retain their purchasing power and are not eroded by inflation.

The Committee is following its longstanding practice of setting the COLA by reference to the yet-to-be-determined Social Security increase. In February 2006, the Administration projected a 2.6 percent increase; as of May 2006, the Congressional Budget Office is projecting the COLA to be 2.2 percent. However, it may be higher or lower depending on changes in the Consumer Price Index. The exact percentage will be calculated as of September 30, 2006, and the COLA will go into effect on December 1, 2006.

As Chairman BUYER indicated, this is one of the more important pieces of legislation the Veterans' Affairs Committee brings to the floor each year, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4843, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 35 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1834

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire) at 6 o'clock and 34 minutes p.m.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the pending business is the question of agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken tomorrow.

#### CONGRATULATING THE MIAMI HEAT FOR WINNING THE 2006 NBA CHAMPIONSHIP

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 887) congratulating the Miami Heat for winning the 2006 NBA Championship.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 887

Whereas on June 20, 2006, the Miami Heat defeated the Dallas Mavericks, the Western Conference Champions, in 6 games to win the 2006 National Basketball Association (NBA) Championship;

Whereas Dwyane Wade, of the Miami Heat, was named the 2006 NBA Finals Most Valuable Player;

Whereas the Miami Heat defeated the Chicago Bulls in 6 games in the first round of the NBA playoffs;

Whereas the Miami Heat defeated the New Jersey Nets in 5 games in the second round of the NBA playoffs;

Whereas, in the third round of the NBA playoffs, the Miami Heat defeated the Detroit Pistons, their archrival and the defending Eastern Conference Champions, in 6 games;

Whereas the "White Hot" Miami Heat fans sold out the American Airlines Arena and cheered on their hometown team;

Whereas the Miami Heat remained persistent and continued to believe in themselves throughout the playoffs;

Whereas the Miami Heat are the first team since 1977 to win 4 NBA Finals games consecutively after losing the first two games, and in doing so, the Miami Heat made one of the most stunning turnarounds in NBA history;

Whereas the Miami Heat became just the third team in the history of the NBA Finals to win a series after losing the first two games, and the first team in the history of the NBA Finals to do so after losing the first two games by double-digit margins;

Whereas this is the first NBA championship title for the Miami Heat, which has long been one of the most outstanding basketball programs in the Nation;

Whereas Pat Riley, the head coach of the Miami Heat, has cemented his legacy as one of basketball's all-time great head coaches by winning his fifth NBA championship title;

Whereas, in game 3 of the NBA Finals, the Miami Heat were losing by 13 points on their home floor with only 6 minutes 30 seconds left;

Whereas the Miami Heat came back with the tenacity of Dwyane Wade and won game 3 of the NBA Finals by 2 points;

Whereas Micky Arison, owner and Managing General Partner of the Miami Heat; Pat Riley, Head Coach and President of Basketball Operations; Randy Pfund, General Manager; Eric Woolworth, President of Business Operations; and Andy Elisburg, Senior Vice President of Basketball Operations, have shown a positive commitment to the Miami Heat franchise by successfully acquiring, assembling, and maintaining a team of high-quality, winning players;

Whereas "15 strong" brought the first NBA championship title to the City of Miami;

Whereas the Miami Heat team of skilled players, including Derek Anderson, Shandon Anderson, Earl Barron, Michael Doleac, Udonis Haslem, Jason Kapon, Alonzo Mourning, Shaquille O'Neal, Gary Payton, James Posey, Wayne Simien, Dwyane Wade, Antoine Walker, Jason Williams, and Dorell Wright, contributed extraordinary performances during the regular season, the NBA playoffs, and the NBA Finals;

Whereas veteran Michael Doleac, and future stars Jason Kapon, Wayne Simien, Dorell Wright, Earl Barron, and Matt Walsh, helped shape the Miami Heat by preparing the starters for the postseason, giving the starters tough practices and quality scrimmages;

Whereas Shandon Anderson and Derek Anderson added to the Miami Heat's experience base by bringing their knowledge and NBA Finals experience from runner-up finishes in Utah and San Antonio, respectively;

Whereas, in game 6 of the NBA Finals, James Posey hit a big 3-pointer to put the Miami Heat up by 6 points with only 3 minutes left to play;

Whereas Alonzo Mourning, returning from a nearly career-ending kidney illness and kidney transplant, came up with 6 rebounds and 5 monster blocked shots to turn the tide in game 6 of the NBA Finals;

Whereas Gary Payton, having consistently shown his greatness on two near-championship NBA teams, hit a 21-foot jumper to save and seal a comeback victory for the Miami Heat in game 3 of the NBA Finals;

Whereas Jason Williams shot a team-high 34 percent from the three-point line and led the Miami Heat in assists during the NBA Finals, while directing the Miami Heat offense from the point guard position;

Whereas Antoine Walker, the Miami Heat's second-highest scorer in the NBA Finals, scored 14 points and kept the Miami Heat in important point-scoring opportunities by pulling down 11 big rebounds in game 6 of the NBA Finals;

Whereas Udonis Haslem, playing with a badly injured shoulder, showed the heart of a champion by contributing 17 points, 10 rebounds, and 2 steals, one of which was with time winding down;

Whereas Shaquille "Shaq" O'Neal came to the Miami Heat and on July 21, 2004 said, "I want ya'll to remember this day, because we're going to do it again in June. I'm going to bring a championship to Miami. I promise you.";

Whereas Shaq delivered over 1,100 points, 104 blocks, 113 assists, and 541 rebounds in the regular season, adding another 83 points, 5 blocks, 17 assists, and 33 rebounds in the NBA Finals for his fourth NBA championship title;

Whereas Dwyane Wade scored 42, 36, 43, and 36 points in the Miami Heat's NBA Finals victories, leading all scorers;

Whereas, in the NBA Finals, Dwyane Wade had the Miami Heat's second-highest rebound total, with 47; the second-highest number of assists, with 28; the second-highest number of blocks, with 6; the highest free throw percentage, at 77 percent; and the highest point total from the free-throw line, with 75; all in route to his first NBA Finals Most Valuable Player award;

Whereas the Miami Heat coaching and support staff, including Head Coach Pat Riley; Assistant Coaches Bob McAdoo, Keith Askins, Erik Spoelstra, and Ron Rothstein; Assistant Coach/Advance Scout Bimbo Coles; Strength and Conditioning Coach Bill Foran; Athletic Trainer Ron Culp; and Assistant Trainer Jay Sabol, exhibited exemplary leadership and guidance to the team;

Whereas the Miami Heat have not only been players on the court, but have also been instrumental role models to the south Florida community;

Whereas the Miami Heat organization has a positive civic impact on the south Florida community through the Miami HEAT Family Outreach Charitable Fund, Heat Academy, Heat Scholarships, Miami Heat Read to Achieve, Miami Heat Fun-Raiser, Miami Heat Wheels, Shoot For the Stars Books and Basketball Summer Clinics, Heat Youth Basketball, and the Miami Heat Learn to Swim Program; and

Whereas the Miami Heat fans are a part of this championship by supporting the team and giving the team the energy, strength, love, and passion to compete each and every season: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates—

(A) the Miami Heat for winning the 2006 National Basketball Association (NBA) World Championship and for their outstanding performance during the 2005–2006 NBA season; and

(B) Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade for winning the 2006 NBA Finals Most Valuable Player Award;

(2) recognizes and praises the achievements of the Miami Heat players, coaches, management, and support staff whose hard work,

dedication, and resilience proved instrumental throughout the Miami Heat's championship season;

(3) commends the south Florida community and the Miami Heat fans for their dedication; and

(4) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) each of the Miami Heat players;

(B) Pat Riley, Miami Heat Head Coach and President of Basketball Operations;

(C) Micky Arison, Miami Heat owner and Managing General Partner;

(D) Randy Pfund, Miami Heat General Manager;

(E) Eric Woolworth, Miami Heat President of Business Operations;

(F) Andy Elisburg, Miami Heat Senior Vice President of Basketball Operations;

(G) each of the Miami Heat coaches and trainers;

(H) the Honorable Manny Diaz, Mayor of the City of Miami, Florida;

(I) the Honorable Carlos Alvarez, Mayor of Miami-Dade County, Florida; and

(J) the Honorable Jeb Bush, Governor of the State of Florida.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate south Florida's own Miami Heat for winning the 2006 NBA championship. This momentous occasion marks the first NBA championship title for the Heat, a young franchise with a proud basketball tradition.

Despite some hardships in the beginning of the 2005–2006 season, the Miami Heat remained persistent throughout the playoffs and the finals.

I would like to recognize especially the Heat fans, as they are an integral part of this championship. Their relentless support energized the Heat players to compete each and every game. The “White Hot” Heat fans also helped to sell out the American Airlines arena and cheer their hometown team on to victory. An estimated 200,000 Heat fans came together last Friday during a parade down Biscayne Boulevard to celebrate the team's first championship in 18 years as a franchise.

The Miami Heat players are not only an inspiration on the court, Mr. Speaker, but they are also role models to the youth of south Florida. Through its many charitable organizations, such as the Miami Heat Family Outreach Char-

itable Fund, Heat Scholarships, and the Miami Heat Read to Achieve program, the Heat franchise has contributed to the well-being of our community.

The Heat coaching and support staff, led by head coach Pat Riley and owner, Micky Arison, have shown a positive commitment to the Heat franchise by successfully acquiring, assembling, and maintaining a team of high-quality winning players. And, of course, we need to applaud the achievements of the Miami Heat players, whose hard work and dedication proved instrumental throughout this NBA championship.

The outstanding support given by the city of Miami, Miami-Dade County, and the State of Florida were all crucial in forging one of the best teams we have ever seen.

Congratulations to our 15-strong Miami Heat team for bringing the first NBA title, the first of many, Mr. Speaker, to the city of Miami and to everyone who has participated in this magnificent season.

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

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is definitely an honor being here on the floor with my colleague ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN and also other colleagues from the Florida delegation to commend the Miami Heat. I am so glad my colleagues are here.

As we know, the Miami Heat was a team that kind of came together over a period of 19 years to be able to bring about the kind of championship series that we have been able to witness over the last couple of weeks.

I would like to commend the Dallas Mavericks for a hard-fought game, and I believe that it was a game of life. I mean, there were mistakes made and there were also ups and downs; but I can tell you when the Miami Heat was down by two games, they came fighting back and it was not easy, and I want to thank not only the Dallas fans but especially the Miami fans, and I want to thank the NBA in general for all of their assistance to local communities in Miami and also in Dallas.

I would also like to, as we commend the Miami Heat, commend American Airlines for all that they did to not only assist both teams because they have arenas in both cities. They do quite a bit in both cities, and they also help fans travel back and forth to the games. I can tell you that this is especially unique for Miami because we have so many of the players who have been in the NBA for so long.

Just on a personal note, a personal friend of mine, Alonzo Mourning, has a youth center in the middle of my district in Overtown, which is one of the areas where children are challenged, in a safe place to be. He has been able to provide that and is leading into his 10th year of a program called Zo's Summer Groove where a number of

NBA players come to south Florida, along with the Miami Heat, and raise a lot of money for great kids.

And I am also pleased with the coaching staff. I want to thank the members of the Florida delegation and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN for putting in and mentioning the coaching staff and the front office there at the Miami Heat and Pat Riley, who has done an excellent job and who will go down in NBA history as one of the greatest coaches ever coaching the game.

For the Miami Heat fans, we can't say enough. This resolution also outlines their contributions. Some 200,000 members of south Florida's community came out in celebration of the Miami Heat. And as we all know, Dwyane Wade, and we all know Shaquille O'Neal, there are a number of players there that have contributed quite a bit; and I can tell you that that sixth player on the court has always been the Miami Heat fans. Even when the Heat are out of town, I think we have a good travel team that goes along with them, Heat fans, and I know the “White Hot” fans that are still white hot for the Heat are still celebrating and still appreciating. As we are here now tonight, Mr. Speaker, Shaquille O'Neal who is one of the outstanding philanthropic members of our community and who cares so much about the people, he is actually putting on a celebration party on South Beach as we speak.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

I just would like to congratulate Mr. MEEK for rallying the support of our delegation behind the Miami Heat. Throughout every game, even those first tough ones, he was passing out beads for the Miami Heat and rallying support, along with Members of this body, even giving Heat beads to Dallas fans. So he was winning converts one fan at a time.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield such time as he may consume to another fan of the Miami Heat championship season, my good friend, Mr. FOLEY.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

I appreciate the efforts of both of my colleagues from south Florida, particularly Dade County, for introducing this resolution, H. Res. 887. I rise in strong support, and I want to congratulate the Miami Heat for winning the 2006 NBA championship.

As chairman of the Travel and Tourism Caucus, I would also like to signal a hearty good luck to the American Airlines arenas, hosting both the Mavericks and the Heat. They had the good fortune of having the naming rights on both of those facilities; so they too have benefited significantly from this. American Airlines is an important airline in Florida into the Miami market and to Latin America; so they too join in the celebration as well.

Since taking over the Heat a decade ago, owner Micky Arison has built the Heat into one of the NBA's marquee franchises. His steadfast leadership has now been rewarded with his first NBA championship.

I want to congratulate coach Pat Riley. As many of you know, Coach Riley returned to the Heat bench part way into the season and led his team to a successful regular season and to the NBA finals. He brought together a team of many different personalities, leading them as one cohesive unit.

I also want to recognize finalist MVP Dwyane Wade. Anyone watching could see that Mr. Wade elevated his game to another level during the finals. The Heat found themselves down two games to none and down by 13 points with only 6 minutes remaining in game three. This was when Mr. Wade took over and led the Heat to a roaring comeback before a cheering crowd at American Airlines Arena.

And we all know the Heat could not have done this without the outstanding effort and leadership of Shaquille O'Neal. When Mr. O'Neal was traded to the Heat in the summer of 2004, he promised he would bring a championship to Miami, and he held true to his promise.

I also feel special recognition is in order for veteran players Gary Payton and Alonzo Mourning. This is a well-deserved championship for Alonzo as he has battled back from kidney disease and a kidney transplant to win his first championship.

□ 1845

This is a remarkable feat of accomplishment for any human being, much less a player of which so much is demanded on the court.

I commend all the players and everyone involved with the Heat organization, including such fans as my local supporter, Richard Bernstein, who was here in D.C. and decided to fly home during the finals to his regular seat in the arena. He has been a passionate advocate for the Heat. He has never given up on them, no matter how dismal the season; and, of course, his loyalty and steadfast determination to sit by the Heat players as they went season to season has been amply rewarded by this outstanding victory.

South Florida is thrilled. We will cherish and remember this 2006 world championship. To all the fans who have given loyal support to the team, we thank them as well. All Florida celebrates the Miami Heat's championship.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Palm Beach for sharing those very thoughtful comments.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say how important this is not only for South Florida but also for the country. This team is a team of individuals that have been on NBA rosters for some time, and also some newcomers. Dwyane Wade was

not known by the rest of the country prior to this NBA championship and this series.

Just from a personal note, I took my two children to the game five; and it was one of the most enjoyable games I have ever witnessed in my entire life. Being there with my children and seeing so many other parents there with their children witnessing such a game between two great NBA teams was something I know they will never forget and something I will never forget.

Mr. Speaker, I hope we can continue this. Like Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN has said, I hope this is just the first of several resolutions. I look forward to coming to the floor commending the Miami Heat and commending the fans.

But to my friends from Texas and from Dallas, I just want to let them know they have a great team, also; and we look forward to beating them, I mean playing with them, in the future as we move on.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my staff member, Eddy Acevedo, for his work in getting all of our Florida delegation united on this resolution.

As my good friend from Florida (Mr. MEEK) has pointed out, the Miami Heat players are not only tremendous athletes, outstanding people, but they also give back to the community so much. We thank them for their contribution to making South Florida a better place in which to live.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the adoption of House Resolution 887.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 887.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### REAUTHORIZING PERMANENTLY USE OF PENALTY AND FRANKED MAIL RELATING TO LOCATION AND RECOVERY OF MISSING CHILDREN

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4416) to reauthorize permanently the use of penalty and franked mail in efforts relating to the location and recovery of missing children.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4416

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

#### SECTION 1. REPEAL OF TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY TO USE PENALTY AND FRANKED MAIL TO LOCATE AND RECOVER MISSING CHILDREN.

Public Law 99-87 is amended by striking section 5 (39 U.S.C. 3220 note).

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4416, a bill which permanently reauthorizes the use of penalty and franked mail in efforts relating to the location and recovery of missing children. This bill was passed by the Government Reform Committee by a voice vote on June 8.

I would like to thank my colleague from California, Juanita Millender-McDonald, for sponsoring this very important bill.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, every day more than 2,100 children are reported missing somewhere in the United States. We are all familiar with the missing child notices that appear in the media, on government office bulletin boards, on advertising mail and, of course, on milk cartons. These notices provide immeasurable help in bringing missing children home. According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, one out of every six children featured on these notices are recovered.

This bill will allow Members of Congress and Federal agencies to continue to assist in the recovery of missing children by authorizing them to include missing child notices on their official and franked mail envelopes. The wider these notices are disseminated, the greater the chances that someone will recognize a missing child and contact the proper authorities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H.R. 4416, legislation sponsored by Representative MILLENDER-MCDONALD, which would permanently reauthorize the use of franking and penalty mail by Congress and Federal agencies and departments. This measure, which was unanimously reported from the Government Reform Committee on June 8,

would allow Members to assist in efforts to locate and to recover missing children.

First enacted in 1985, this program authorized the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the Department of Justice to prescribe guidelines under which the government and franked mail may be used to help find and recover missing children. The law also authorized the Senate Committee on Rules and the House Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards to establish guidelines for the use of franked mail in the House and Senate.

Although the law was reauthorized three times, the underlying statutory authority expired in 2002. H.R. 4416 would permanently reauthorize this very important effort. The placement of photos of missing children on government and congressional mail will greatly assist in locating and recovering children.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, Ranking Member Millender-McDonald, for sponsoring this bill; and I urge my colleagues to include photos of missing children on their official and franked mail.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD a letter from Congressman Vernon Ehlers, chairman of the Committee on House Administration, regarding the bill before us that is under consideration.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION, LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING,

Washington, DC, June 14, 2006.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I write concerning H.R. 4416, a bill to permanently reauthorize the use of penalty and franked mail in efforts relating to the location and recovery of missing children. H.R. 4416 was ordered reported by the Committee on Government Reform on June 8, 2006.

As you know, the Committee on House Administration received a joint referral on the bill because of the Committee's jurisdiction over matters concerning Congressional franking privileges. However, in order to expedite this legislation for floor consideration, the Committee will forgo action on this bill. This is being done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation.

Sincerely,

VERNON EHLERS,  
Chairman.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time; and I hope that our colleagues support this important legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4416.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof)

the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

UNITED STATES-OMAN FREE  
TRADE AGREEMENT—MESSAGE  
FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 109-  
118)

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I am pleased to transmit legislation and supporting documents to implement the United States-Oman Free Trade Agreement (FTA). This FTA enhances our bilateral relationship with a strategic friend and ally in the Middle East region. The FTA will benefit the people of the United States and Oman, illustrating for other developing countries the advantages of open markets and increased trade.

In negotiating this FTA, my Administration was guided by the objectives set out in the Trade Act of 2002. Congressional approval of this FTA will mark another important step towards creating a Middle East Free Trade Area. Like our FTA with Bahrain that the Congress approved in December 2005, and our FTA with Morocco that was approved in July 2004, this FTA offers another important opportunity to encourage economic reform in a moderate Muslim nation. Oman is leading the pursuit of social and economic reforms in the region, including by selling state-owned businesses, encouraging foreign investment connected to broad-based development and providing better protection for women and workers. It is strongly in our national interest to embrace these reforms and do what we can to encourage them.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, June 26, 2006.

PRIVILEGED REPORT ON RESOLUTION OF INQUIRY TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr. SENSENBRENNER, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted an adverse privileged report (Rept. No. 109-528) on the resolution (H. Res. 845) requesting the President and directing the Secretary of Defense and the Attorney General to transmit to the House of Representatives not later than 14 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, documents relating to the termination of the Department of Justice's Office of Professional Responsibility's investigation of the involvement of Department of Justice personnel in the creation and administration of the National Security Agency's warrantless surveillance program, including documents relating to Office of

Professional Responsibility's request for and denial of security clearances, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore 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.

□ 1900

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

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ILARIO PANTANO'S MEMOIR

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I might speak at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on April 5, 2005, I rose on the House floor in defense of former Marine Lieutenant Ilario Pantano, who had been accused of premeditated murder for his actions in April 2004 that resulted in the deaths of two suspected Iraqi insurgents.

At that time I encouraged my colleagues to support a resolution calling on the United States Government to dismiss all charges against Lieutenant Pantano who had defended the cause of freedom, democracy and liberty, while serving as a platoon commander in Iraq.

In an action of self-defense, Lieutenant Pantano made a split-second battlefield decision to shoot two suspected Iraqi insurgents who refused to follow his orders to stop their movement towards him. Lieutenant Pantano did his duty as any marine officer should when faced with the enemy.

Following a 5-day military hearing in May 2005, the truth of Lieutenant Pantano's innocence prevailed, and he was cleared of all charges. Lieutenant Pantano left the Marine Corps following the dismissal of the charges brought against him, as the media frenzy surrounding his case may have put him or other corps members at greater risk were he to return to duty.

As an outstanding leader and dedicated servant to the Marine Corps and our Nation, I believe Lieutenant Pantano's resignation was a great loss for the Marine Corps and a great loss for America. Mr. Speaker, I recall these events to draw attention to the recent release of a memoir by Lieutenant Pantano, coauthored by Malcolm McConnell, entitled: "Warlord, No Better Friend, No Worse Enemy."

Ilario Pantano first enlisted in the Marine Corps at the age of 17 and was inspired to reenlist following the terrorist attack of September 11 of 2001, 10 years after his service as an elite marine sniper and a veteran of Desert Storm.

Answering the patriotic call to duty, Lieutenant Pantano voluntarily left a successful career in finance to head to officer's training school in Quantico, Virginia. As a platoon commander in Iraq, Lieutenant Pantano was praised by his fellow marines and superiors as a capable and devoted leader and an intelligent and motivated officer who embodied the Marine Corps principles of honor, courage, and commitment.

As someone who had the pleasure of meeting Lieutenant Pantano, along with his lovely wife, Jill, and his two sons, I believe every American would benefit from reading the inspiring story of such a great American and a military hero.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that those who read Lieutenant Pantano's story will come to a better understanding of the depth of his strength and heroism, both on the battlefield and in the courtroom.

Mr. Speaker, I close by asking God to please bless the men and women in uniform and to ask God to continue to bless America.

#### RAISING AWARENESS OF AUTISM

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to a disease that has a profound impact on those it afflicts. Autism is a bioneurological developmental disability that generally appears before the age of 3.

Autism impacts the normal development of the brain in the areas of social interaction, communication skills, and cognitive function. Individuals with autism typically have difficulties communicating and interacting with others and often engage in repetitive behaviors. Individuals with autism often suffer from numerous physical ailments, which may include allergies, asthma, epilepsy, digestive disorders, persistent viral infections, feeding disorders, sensory integration dysfunction, sleeping disorders and more.

Some may be surprised, Mr. Speaker, to learn that autism is diagnosed four times more often in boys than girls. Its prevalence is not affected by race, region or socioeconomic status. According to the National Autism Association, autism and related developmental disorders affect one in 166 people across the country, 10 times as many as just a decade ago.

No one knows for certain what causes autism. Some believe that anything from genetics to certain vaccines can lead to autism. Those with infants and toddlers should watch for the early signs of autism, which include no big

smiles by 6 months, no sharing of sounds, smiles or facial expressions by 9 months, and no babbling by 12 months, no words by 18 months, and any loss of speech or social skills at any age.

I wish to repeat that, Mr. Speaker: those with infants and toddlers should watch for the early warning signs of autism, which include no big smiles by 6 months, no sharing of sounds, smiles or facial expressions by 9 months, no babbling by 12 months, no words by 18 months, and any loss of speech or social skills at any age.

Autism, however, does not affect life expectancy. Currently there is no cure for autism, though with early intervention and treatment, the diverse symptoms related to autism can be greatly improved. This makes it imperative that appropriate resources are available to help people with autism and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I intend to take to this floor over the coming weeks and months to highlight the impact autism has on those it afflicts and those who care for them. I hope by doing so that I can help raise awareness about this disease and encourage greater understanding about the importance of research into its prevention, detection and treatment.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. LEE addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. GOHMERT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5672, SCIENCE, STATE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

Mr. GINGREY, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report

(Rept. No. 109-529) on the resolution (H. Res. 890) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5672) making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4973, FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2006

Mr. GINGREY, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-530) on the resolution (H. Res. 891) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4973) to restore the financial solvency of the national flood insurance program, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

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

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise at this time to say a few words about the U.S. economy, which has been actually quite good. It is quite amazing for us here in the House with all of the responsibilities that we have and with all of the responsibilities outside of the beltway that the American people have to just take a minute or a few minutes, I guess, to review the current economic situation.

Mr. Speaker, as the chairman of the Joint Economic Committee, some of the observations are quite apparent to me, and I just wanted to share these observations with my colleagues and with others who may be present.

According to Mr. Speaker, to most neutral observers, including the Federal Reserve and a consensus of private economists, the economy is doing quite well and is quite healthy. Indeed, if anything, there seems to be a little concern in some quarters that the economy may have been growing too fast, a concern with which I do not agree.

The economy actually grew 4 percent in 2004 and advanced at a rate of about 3.5 percent in 2005. The growth rate for the first quarter of 2006 is expected to be very robust, consistent with the trend of strong growth since 2003.

In the first quarter of 2006, the economy expanded at a blistering rate of 5.3 percent. Now, these are all figures and statistics that we can vividly see because, in effect, we have already been through them. Looking ahead is a somewhat more difficult exercise, and an exercise that I often refer to others with whom I communicate from time to time.

I have here in my hand a copy of the "Blue Chip Economic Indicators Top Analysts Forecast of U.S. Economic Outlook for the Year Ahead."

This blue chip economic indicator document was actually issued just a few days ago on June 10. And for those who may not be familiar with this report, it is essentially a compilation of the beliefs based on what they see, of a variety of organizations and individuals from organizations which will be quite familiar if you hear who they are. There are actually 50-plus organizations that take part in this process, organizations like Bear Stearns, Lehman Brothers, Goldman Sachs, the National Association of Home Builders, Merrill-Lynch Economics, General Motors Corporation, Standard and Poor's. And those, of course, are just a few of the more than 50 organizations that take part in this economic forecast.

You might suspect that since I have got it here with me it is good news, and it is good news for the economy going forward. It projects that in the second quarter of this year, the quarter that will end just a few days from now on June 30, the economic growth rate, the GDP, will continue to grow at almost 3 percent; and in the third quarter of this year at 2.9 percent; in the fourth quarter of this year at 2.8 percent; jumping back up in two quarters of next year to 3.1 and 3 percent respectively.

And so these are good numbers; and so going forward, based on the economic basis that we have been able to set in our country, we expect things to continue to do quite well. The improvement in economic growth in recent years is reflected by some very good economic figures. For example, since August 2003, business payrolls have increased by over 5.3 million jobs. The unemployment rate stands at a low 4.6 percent. Consumer spending continues to grow, and the number of American families who own their own homes is at an all-time high.

The household net worth for families in the United States is also at a record high. Productivity growth continues at a healthy pace. Long-term inflation pressures appear to be contained at about 2.7 percent or so. Long-term interest rates, including mortgage rates are still relatively low. I can relate to this very well. I was in the real estate business for 20 years before I came here. I can remember in the 1960s selling houses with 6 percent, with mortgages that carried an interest rate of 6 percent. It was pretty much a standard rate.

Then as the years went by and inflationary pressures took hold, inflation drove interest rates to 6 percent, 6½ percent, 8 percent, 10 percent. Mr. Speaker, I can even remember interest rates on home mortgages being 19 percent, and of course that shut the market down.

Recently, interest rates for home mortgages have been at about 5 percent. But today, even today, when we

think about interest rates being higher than they were a year or a year and a half ago, they are still at about the 1960s level of 6 percent or a little bit higher.

So low interest rates are still an incentive to economic growth. In addition, the resilience and flexibility of the economy have overcome a number of serious shocks: the war, the attacks on 9/11, and of course most recently the hurricanes of last year, all disruptive influences which have not been as disruptive as one may have thought.

□ 1915

Equipment and software investment has been strong. It is clear that the Federal Reserve remains poised to keep inflation under control. All good news. The only soft spot that we see in the economy is in the housing sector. It seems to be slowing somewhat, although it appears that a soft landing is most likely. So in the recent policy report to Congress, like the Blue Chip Indicators, the Federal Reserve noted that the U.S. economy delivered a solid performance in 2005.

Furthermore, the Fed observed that the U.S. economy should continue to perform well in 2006 and 2007. In summary, overall economic conditions appear to remain positive. The U.S. economy has displayed remarkable flexibility and resilience in dealing with many shocks. The administration forecast for economic growth in 2006 is comparable with those of the blue chip consensus and the Federal Reserve. With growth expected to be about 3.5 percent in 2006, the current economic situation is solid and the outlook remains favorable.

Mr. Speaker, in December of 2005, this is another way to look at the economy, the Joint Economic Committee issued a report, under my direction, entitled "U.S. Economy Outperformed the Canadian, European and Japanese Economies Since 2001." When we look at our U.S. economy and have comparisons within the economy, that is one way to look at economic growth. But another way is to compare it with what is going on in the rest of the world. The economic data showed that since 2001, the United States has outperformed every other large developed economy in the world. This report examines the performance of a peer group of large developed economies from 2001 to the present time. The peer group included Canada, Japan, the United States, and 25 member states of the European Union.

Recently, we updated this report to bring it current. The United States and Canada in the most recent version of this report tied for first place in economic growth among the major developed economies with an average gross domestic product growth of 2.6 percent a year from 2005 to the current period. That compares with just 1.6 percent economic growth in the European Union and 1.5 percent in Japan. The period includes the economic slowdown

after the collapse of the stock market bubble in 2000 and the terrorist attack of 2001.

However, after Congress cut taxes on capital gains and dividends and provided business with incentives in May of 2003, the United States enjoyed the highest rate of economic growth among the major developed countries.

This is a point that I would just like to stop and pause for a moment to talk a little bit more about. We knew that economic growth while we were growing beginning in the fourth quarter of 2001, when we began to grow, job growth was very slow. The President said, and the Congress agreed, that if we gave business some incentives to invest, that investment in fact would take place and that we would grow. That actually happened.

As we see on this chart, we had this valley of very slow growth and very little invested in the economy during 2001 and 2002. But after the tax cuts that took place in the first quarter of 2003, business investment occurred rapidly and it helped to spur economic growth throughout the economy. For example, the United States created more jobs than any other major economy from 2001 to 2006: 6 million jobs as of today created in the United States, 5.7 million jobs in the European Union, 1.5 million jobs in Canada, and a loss of almost 1 million jobs in Japan.

The unemployment rate. In March of 2006, the United States had an unemployment rate of 4.6 percent. That is the second lowest among the major developed economies. Only Japan was better with 4.1. Canada was actually 6.4. Here is the unemployment rate in the United States; 4.6 percent in the yellow bar, actually 6.3 percent in Canada, and 8.4 percent unemployment rate in the European Union.

In industrial production, another example, from January 2001 to February 2005, the United States ranks first in the growth of industrial production among major developed economies. Industrial production grew by 7.4 percent in the United States, 4.1 percent in Canada, 2.8 percent in the European Union, and 1.4 percent in Japan.

The rate of inflation is more good news. It has remained contained throughout the countries that were studied. As I noted a little while ago in the United States, interest rates are comparatively low with other countries.

And so as we look at the economy generally, we believe that we have done some things right. I mentioned tax policy a minute ago. Let me mention one other item which I think is extremely important. While we give credit to our friends at the Federal Reserve, interest rates are a direct reflection, or follow along as a reflection, I guess is a better way of putting it, of the rate of inflation. And so we have to give credit to our friends at the Federal Reserve who have done a great job in controlling inflation.

Another prominent feature of the recent U.S. economy is in fact a lower

and more stable rate of inflation than we have experienced in quite some time. The persistently low rate of inflation depicted on this chart there has helped to calm financial markets and reduce risk. This persistently lower rate of inflation has in turn fostered lower expectations of future inflation and consequently helped to lower the lid and keep interest rates low.

As we look here, we see that back in the eighties we had relatively high inflation, and as we went through the nineties, we can see that inflation actually dropped below 2 percent and has persistently stayed below 2 percent. The Fed has in essence adopted an implicit inflation targeting approach which has been very good for economic growth.

I would like to just conclude my portion of these remarks by saying that the blue chip indicators look good going forward and we have done some things right both here in the House and at the Federal Reserve. One of the things that I like to say about economic growth is that no matter what we do here, economic growth can't take place without the continued enthusiastic participation of the American worker. We try to provide those opportunities as best we can through our tax and spending policies, through the Federal Reserve's policy, through business incentives that we time and again put in place to encourage things to happen. But in the final analysis, it is the American working man and woman out there in the private sector that make economic growth possible.

I would like to yield at this point to my friend from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) who would like to add some thoughts perhaps to what I have said.

Mr. GINGREY. I appreciate the gentleman from New Jersey yielding, and I thank him, Mr. Speaker, for bringing these statistics to the floor of the House this evening. Clearly, these numbers show that this economy is doing well under this Republican leadership and this Republican President. The blue chip report that the gentleman talked about on fiscal year 2007, and he mentioned those 50-something prestigious financial organizations, says that the economy will continue to do well the rest of this fiscal year and into 2007. Mr. Speaker, it is because of the policies of this administration and this Republican-led Congress. Those policies I am speaking of, of course, are that you grow the revenue when you cut taxes.

This is not a novel idea that we just invented over the last 2 or 3 years. This happened under a Democratic President in 1960, John F. Kennedy. It happened again in the early eighties under President Reagan. You cut taxes; you grow the revenue. All of these statistics that the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) has pointed out in regard to low inflation, low unemployment, robust gross domestic product over something like 12 straight quarters now. Five million jobs since 2001.

I know when I first got to the Congress in the 108th in 2003, all I heard, Mr. Speaker, from the other side was how many jobs had been lost since George W. Bush was first elected. They pounded on that. I have not heard too much from the other side recently, because clearly this economy is robust, these jobs are growing, and they will continue to grow.

We have this arcane scoring system, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, and I know everybody agrees, and this is really not in dispute, that when you cut taxes, they calculate a number of how much it is going to cost. I think with the Bush tax cuts, it was estimated that it was going to cost \$1.3 trillion in reduced revenue; \$1.3 trillion less coming into the Treasury because of a reduction of every marginal rate so that everybody in this country, every American taxpayer, would get a reduction in their Federal taxes and get a check in their pocket. To double the child tax credit, to eliminate the marriage penalty, to lower the capital gains and dividend rates to 15 percent for almost everybody and, indeed, for some as low as 5 percent, and to give our small business men and women, Mr. Speaker, we are talking about the mom-and-pops of this great country who probably create 65, 70 percent of all these jobs that we are talking about, to let them more rapidly depreciate their capital improvements so they can, with bricks and mortar, new machines, new equipment, whether it is in my profession, the health care industry, or any other, to put people back to work, so that more people, albeit at a lower rate, are paying taxes.

What happens is instead of costing \$1.3 trillion over 10 years, in about 2½ years our revenue increased, and I know the gentleman from New Jersey will confirm this and agree with me, by something like \$250 billion, increased revenue, because of the boldness, the courage, and the good common sense to look at historical perspective and understand that when you cut taxes, you pull a country out of recession and you don't cause decreased revenue coming to the Treasury, you end up with more.

This is a great opportunity that the gentleman brings to us tonight to make sure the American people and all our colleagues on both sides of the aisle understand. Every Member is entitled to their own opinion, but they are not entitled to their own facts. I commend the gentleman from New Jersey for bringing us the true facts this afternoon and this evening on this floor of the House.

Mr. SAXTON. I thank the gentleman for emphasizing the importance of tax policy relative to economic growth.

One of the things that I would like to point out, and I know the gentleman knows this as well, the President today has been criticized by some for his tax policy, I think, unfairly. One of the charges that is often made is that these are, quote, tax cuts for the rich. I have some other statistics here that I

would just like to share with my colleagues and that is simply this: if you believe that tax policy can be used to promote economic growth, as the gentleman and I do and as many others in this House do, then we are going to have to cut taxes relative to the people who pay taxes, because people who don't pay taxes can't get a tax cut because they don't pay taxes, unless we give them money back.

And so the facts are that the top 1 percent of the wage earners in this country pay 34 percent of the taxes. That is the individual income taxes. The top 5 percent of the people, wage earners, pay 54 percent of the taxes to the Federal Government. The top 10 percent pay 65 percent of the taxes. The top 25 percent pay 84 percent of the taxes. And the top 50 percent of the wage earners in this country pay 96.5 percent. So the bottom 50 percent of the wage earners in America, in the United States, pay about 3.5 percent of the taxes.

□ 1930

So if we are going to have tax cuts and if the people who pay taxes are the ones whose taxes you cut, which you kind of have to do by definition, then it will fall that the top 50 percent of the wage earners get most of the tax breaks because they are paying 96.5 percent of all the taxes that are paid on the personal side in this country.

So because of what has gone on in Republican and Democrat administrations, and the gentleman mentioned John Kennedy's inaugural address in 1962. I can remember his words, almost, not quite, but he said something like this. He said, we cannot for long expect to remain the leaders of the world if we fail to set the economic pace at home; and he stood right up there on that lectern and outlined a set of tax cuts to make the economy grow. And John Kennedy's tax cuts went into effect, and the economy did grow.

So this is not new to many here, but it is a revelation sometimes to people who haven't heard this before.

So our economy is growing. It has been growing since 2001. Since 2003, when we put in place our tax cuts, we began to see investment take hold and the economy grow and jobs being created, almost 6 million new jobs created since this economic recovery began; a low rate of unemployment, 4.6 percent, and things looking pretty good for the future, according to the blue chip indicators, which we referred to earlier.

So, Mr. Speaker, I went on to share with my fellow Members these observations based on the facts that the gentleman from Georgia and I have cited here; and I want to thank the gentleman from Georgia for coming here and taking part in this Special Order.

I think we can look forward, Mr. Speaker, to some good economic growth going forward, hopefully during 2006 as well as 2007 and beyond, as we continue to do what we can here to make that happen.

Again, I thank the gentleman for taking part.

#### AVIAN FLU PANDEMIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the amount of time that remains?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 34 minutes remaining.

Mr. BURGESS. I thank the Speaker, and the gentleman from New Jersey for allowing me a little time on the floor tonight.

I thought it was important to come to the floor and talk about an issue that pops up from time to time on our news shows and the American consciousness, and that is the issue of avian flu, or the bird flu.

Mr. Speaker, as far as a little background is concerned, there are several types of influenza. There is the common flu, or seasonal flu, that we all receive inoculation against every year. Because of modest genetic changes that occur in this virus year over year, it is necessary to get a vaccination every year. But sometimes, instead of just that genetic drift that happens within the virus, there is a major change, a genetic shift; and when that happens, the stage is set for a worldwide pandemic. And, indeed, history tells us that that will occur about three times every century.

Now, currently, the avian flu is present in birds; and a big genetic change would have to occur for this to become a major health threat to humans. As of June 16 of this year, the World Health Organization has confirmed 227 human cases, with 129 deaths reported. The problem is, Mr. Speaker, if you do the math, that is a mortality rate that is in excess of 50 percent.

Now, when you think of a worldwide pandemic, there are various trouble signs you encounter. The World Health Organization has identified five of those. Widespread distribution of the virus in nature, in this case in birds, an endemic carrying of the virus in birds. A wide geographic setting with involvement of other animals, in this case felines, cats and tigers have become infected, presumably from eating infected animals. Bird-to-human transmission occurs with inefficiency and then comes inefficient human-to-human transmission. The last step, efficient human-to-human transmission, has not yet occurred, but that is the step, the previous four have occurred, and that is the step that would signal the onset of a worldwide pandemic.

Because the threat is so significant, our Secretary of Health and Human Services, Michael Leavitt, has designated the threat anywhere in the

world, a threat anywhere in the world is a threat everywhere in the world, and that is why it is incumbent upon us to keep such a close watch on this illness.

Steps one through four occurred between right now and 1997. The last step, which has not to date occurred, would trigger a human pandemic. One of our major problems with a worldwide pandemic is we, as humans, have no underlying immunity to this relatively new type of flu virus.

Now, as I mentioned earlier, there are approximately three pandemics every century; and, indeed, last century there were exactly three. In 1918, the Spanish flu killed 50 million people worldwide; in 1957, the Asiatic flu killed 170,000; in 1968, the Hong Kong flu killed 35,000 people in the United States.

If the pandemic flu were to hit, the Department of Health and Human Services estimates that 209,000 deaths in the United States for a moderate flu outbreak, such as occurred during the Asiatic flu outbreak of 1957, and 10 times that many, 1.9 million deaths in the United States for a severe epidemic, such as occurred when the Spanish flu broke out in 1918.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw your attention to this map that I have here. It is somewhat shocking to look at the eastern part of the world, several continents, in fact, that are totally covered in blue. And as you see from the key here, avian flu cases confirmed in 52 countries, and again widespread distribution across the eastern half of the globe.

The countries colored in black are, in fact, where human cases have occurred; and we see originally China and Vietnam, Southeast Asia but more recently the addition of other countries that are moving more and more westward. There has been a gradual spread westward since 2004.

Mr. Speaker, let me demonstrate that further on this second map. Gradual western spread since 2004, and since 2004 the avian flu has gone from China to Cambodia to Thailand to Russia and then to Turkey in 2005.

Mr. Speaker, there was an explosion of outbreaks in early 2006 to the Middle East and Eastern Europe; countries such as Iraq, Romania, Italy, Germany, France, Africa, Nigeria, and Egypt, just to name a few. We see these concentric circles indicating the year of the spread. Here we have June, 2004, affecting primarily China and Southeast Asia; December of 2004, June of 2005, January of 2006; and as you can see, the arrow is pointing ever, ever westward.

From January to April, 2006, 35 new countries have reported avian flu outbreaks in poultry; and some of these have had their new first reported cases of H5-N1 virus in humans as well. So the total estimate of the World Health Organization for the number of countries affected is just over 50.

The disease is indeed endemic in birds. Over 200 million birds have been

culled in the last 3 years, both birds that were suspected of having the infection and those culled for preventive measures. One of the keys here, Mr. Speaker, is this virus can be stopped in birds; and, indeed, stopping the virus in birds has to be the first line of defense.

The reason this is so important, and let me go to an additional map, if we look at the migratory flyways throughout the world, this disease is spread by migratory birds and infected poultry. Countries with outbreaks, this map shows the concentration of poultry worldwide and the migratory bird flyways.

The darker the color here, the greater the concentration of humans and poultry. You see the eastern United States, starting in my State of Texas, east Texas eastward, we have several significant concentrations of poultry juxtaposed to human populations.

Countries with outbreaks in general have a high concentration of poultry populations. There are some concerns over two flyways that go from Africa to North America, the so-called East Atlantic flyway, and the one that goes from Asia to Alaska, the East Asia-Australian flyway. Countries in both Africa and Asia have reported outbreaks and are countries that are directly on that flyway.

Now it is not for sure the virus will be carried this way, but the fact that the distribution has occurred in migratory birds, and those are the migratory pathways, certainly that is going to bear careful watching.

Some of the other unknowns is what is the behavior of the virus in very cold climates. I don't think anyone knows that yet, but, indeed, it is around this time of year that those bird populations are in fact returning to the Arctic areas. So increased testing across the United States, starting with Alaska, and indeed over nearly 100,000 samples have been taken from both live and dead wild birds as well as from high-risk waterfowl habitats.

On the World Health Organization scale of pandemic alerts, you go from low risk of human cases to efficient and sustained human-to-human transmission; and there are six stages on that World Health Organization pandemic alert chart. Currently, we are at a level three, no or very limited human-to-human transmission.

As of June 6, 2006, there have been 227 cases and 129 deaths. H5-N1, the virus that causes bird flu, has been cited first in 1997 in Hong Kong, with 18 human cases, six died, all poultry were culled. From 2002 to 2003, there was a reemergence of the virus in Asia. There was a high incidence of cases in a few countries. Vietnam accounts for 40 percent of the human cases; and Indonesia, so far, accounts for 20 percent of the human cases.

The problem is that, in Indonesia, avian flu has not yet been contained, compared to Vietnam. Indonesia has had outbreaks since early 2004, and new outbreak reports are coming out all

the time. Last week or the week before, the 50th case of the human infection, which was fatal, was confirmed.

Let's look for just a minute at a map of Indonesia. There has been a steady rise in reported cases and a high correlation between poultry and human outbreaks. On the map, the triangles represent human cases. It is a little misleading, because more cases have occurred and many of the triangles overlap. Since these cases occur in clusters, they are very close together geographically. But look at how close the triangles are and take notice of Singapore and Malaysia and the close geographic location.

Indonesia is densely populated. It is the world's fourth most densely populated country. Indonesia is still suffering from the effects of the tsunami that occurred in December of 2004. In May of this year, an earthquake in the central Java region left as many as 1.5 million people homeless. The country of Indonesia raises about 1¼ billion chickens a year, about 7½ percent of the global total. About 70,000 villages, spread across 17,000 islands, raise poultry. Poultry is raised in the backyards of about 80 percent of the country's 55 million households.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to put a chart up here that is a little busy, but it illustrates a very important point for us to keep in mind. This chart shows only a sample of the human cases in Indonesia, some 15 of the now 51 cases. Information confirmed by scientists and field researchers from the World Health Organization is present on this graph.

□ 1945

Mr. Speaker, there is a family cluster from the Kubu Simbelang Village in North Sumatra. Many of the recent news headlines had to do with concern that the avian flu virus might have become effective at transmitting from human to human. When you just look at the number of cases involved, you would have to ask yourselves that question.

Now, this outbreak has been extensively investigated. The outbreak investigation showed that this cluster is, indeed, what is called a contained cluster, meaning that no other individuals, no other health care workers, no neighboring villagers, were, in fact, becoming infected.

In the initial case, a 37-year-old woman was most likely infected by sick and dying chickens that she was keeping in her backyard. Indeed, on the chart there, you see she kept them in indoors with her at night. Because no specimen was taken before she was buried, it can't be confirmed that the illness from which she died was indeed the avian flu, or the H5N1 virus, more specifically.

However, seven of her relatives have tested positive for the H5N1 virus. The relatives most likely became ill due to close contact with the initial case, the woman who initially became ill. Six of

these seven individuals have since died. So there is currently limited human-to-human transmission of avian flu.

If we look at this chart of those, indeed, who are sick or who have died from this illness, spent the night with a sick index patient on April 29, spent the night with the index patient on April 29. Spent the night with the index patient on the 29th. Took personal care of the sick index patient. Took personal care of the patient. Often visited the patient, was there April 29. Took care of a sick son in the hospital on May 9 through 13.

Another thing that I would like to point out are the ages of these individuals, and how very young they are. This is not a disease of the old and infirm. This is an illness of the young and robust. The ages span that of an 18-month-old baby to a 43-year-old man. This disease, when it strikes, is extremely virulent. On average, it is about a week, from 5 to 10 days from the onset of symptoms until the disease claims its victim or the victim recovers.

The illness itself is characterized by an intensely consolidated process in the lung, basically a pneumonia, a hemorrhagic pneumonia. There may be bleeding into lung tissue, and it is a very striking picture from these patients when they are ill with this disease.

Mr. Speaker, my main purpose in being here tonight is not to discuss how frightening the disease is, because, indeed, it is frightening, but to talk about what weakened it, what we can do as a country, what we can do as a partner in the world, what we can do as a Congress to place in motion those things that are going to be responsible for preparedness, particularly preparedness at the Federal level, because, after all, that is our responsibility.

There are medicines available that are known as antivirals. In the 1918 Spanish flu epidemic there were no antiviral medications. They had not yet been invented, but we have antiviral medications today.

Now, an antiviral is different from a vaccine or an immunization. An antiviral is a medicine like an antibiotic would be administered for a bacterial infection. An antiviral is administered after an onset of symptoms. It does, indeed, reduce the severity of symptoms, but it must be administered within 24 to 48 hours of the onset of the symptoms.

Having proper stockpiles of antiviral medications is going to be of critical importance. Even just as critical is going to be the distributive network to get those antivirals into the hands of communities where the virus may be present.

It does reduce the severity of symptoms. The New England Journal of Medicine indicated that the treatment with an antiviral reduced the median duration of illness from nearly 5 days to 3 days, and the severity of the illness by about 40 percent. When you

have got an illness that has a 55 to 58 percent mortality rate, that reduction in severity is extremely critical.

In another study, the antiviral Tamiflu, given within the first 12 hours after the onset of fever, shortened the illness duration by more than 3 days as compared with the treatment that was started at 48 hours.

Vaccines are the other tool in the armamentarium against this illness. Vaccines also were not available in the 1918 flu epidemic, but obviously vaccines were available with the outbreak of the Hong Kong flu and the more recent pandemics.

Vaccines are of such critical importance that it is mandatory that we move the production of vaccine manufacture from foreign countries back into this country. We have seen an exodus of vaccine manufacturing out of this country. The vaccine needs to be manufactured within our shores, within our borders. We can't very well go around to other countries who may be suffering also with this disease and ask them to supply our vaccinations for us. It just simply won't happen.

It is going to be necessary, although a vaccine has been developed, reverse genetics were used to take one of the virus samples from one of these early cases in Vietnam and create a vaccine to the H5N1 as it exists today. The vaccine appears to be safe and effective, but it does require a lot of that vaccine in order to immunize any one of us, because we have no native immunity to this particular type of flu.

But since the flu is constantly changing, since it is constantly evolving, indeed it is going to be one of those changes if a pandemic occurs and it changes from a disease that is very bad in birds to a disease that is very bad in people, there will be of necessity another shift that has occurred in that virus.

Therefore, the virus that is present today, if we make vaccine in large quantities against that, it may or may not be effective against the virus that would go easily from human to human. So we do to some degree have to wait and develop the correct vaccine for the correct strain of flu.

But within the past 6 months, in fact our Department of Defense appropriation bill that we passed last December, had money in it for the development of a flu vaccine. Recently, the Department of Health and Human Services was awarded a total of \$1 billion and a request for proposals for companies to develop cell-based vaccines manufactured in this country. Those contracts were let in May of 2006.

Mr. Speaker, when you look at vaccine manufacture in this country, not only have we suffered because companies have gone offshore, our method of creating vaccines is somewhat antiquated. We are still stuck back in the 1950s. We use an egg-based system to create our vaccines.

Well, you can just imagine, you have got an illness that is primarily affecting chickens, and we are culling chickens from chicken farms. Where are we going to get the eggs to manufacture the vaccines? Newer type of vaccine technology, the so-called cell-based vaccine technology. It is critical that the companies that manufacture the flu vaccine, not just for avian flu but for our seasonal flu, it is critical that we develop the companies and the capability of manufacturing those vaccines with a cell-based system much less prone to contamination and to all the other difficulties that have been much encountered by the egg-based system.

To some degree we may have to consider streamlining the FDA regulation and emphasize teamwork amongst our various research teams, not only at the NIH, but across the country and indeed across the world. We have to explore the promise that a universal vaccine holds.

When we talk about flu vaccines, the reason we are always changing is because the virus will change various parts of its outside protein coat, if you will. But there are several of the genes of the virus that don't change, from flu type to flu type, the so-called more pedantic or housekeeping genes within the core of the virus. If there is a way to develop a vaccine that will target those genes, it is going to be a much more effective vaccine because it will have that cross-reactivity across many different strains of the flu virus.

The current H5N1 vaccine clinical trials with Sanofi are of necessity. Those are going to continue. It will be critical, even though it may not be the final genetic result that they are developing the vaccine for. This vaccine is going to be critical as far as providing a pool for vaccinating our first responders, our nurses, our doctors, our firefighters, our ambulance personnel, if the virus were to make a sudden appearance in this country.

It is important again to remember, let me stress, that a much higher dosage of this vaccine is needed than for the average flu inoculation. Generally up to 90 micrograms of this vaccine are necessary to immunize one individual, where typically you need only 15 micrograms for the more common seasonal flu.

Other things that we need to do around our country, we need to be sure that we have the surge capacity of our vital workforce thought about and in place, identifying those key players, and ensuring their safety during the crisis and their ability to get and help people who have been harmed by the illness. Strengthening the health care infrastructure in general is a worthwhile thing that we should consider, really, on a daily basis here in this Congress.

Protecting first responders, I alluded to wanting to have a vaccine stockpile available, even if it is not the correct vaccine that we will end up with at the

time when the flu virus mutates for that last time. But some immunity will be imparted by that early vaccine, and we need to be certain that we have that early vaccine to have for our first responders to allow them to have some measure of protection as they are on the first lines fighting this illness if the worst were to develop.

Offering support services, even including mental health support services. Remember the flu epidemic that occurred in 1918, it didn't just happen around the globe in 3 weeks and then it was over. It came in waves and wave after wave would affect communities, and basically the virus encircled the globe three times before it eventually died out.

We are going to have to be able to rotate workers, not just health care workers, but workers in various lines of work so that they don't become fatigued, give up, and we have to be able to sustain their efforts.

The economic impact of this illness is pretty hard to tell. In some countries already it has had a significant impact. Some of the maps I showed earlier of Africa, the country of Nigeria, where chickens are basically used as currency, this has had a significant economic impact. It may well have significant economic impact in this country as well.

We just go back to one of the earlier maps and point out, as the disease spreads westward. Look at where the chicken populations are concentrated in this country and other countries. There could be a devastating effect on the poultry industry, and some compensation for poultry farmers, especially if they involve themselves in early reporting and maintaining the livelihood of those individuals.

Safe cooking practices to kill the virus and, let me stress at this point, the virus has not been found in the Western Hemisphere, and United States chicken populations at this juncture are not affected or infected with this virus, but early containment of any outbreaks to prevent paralysis of a whole economy that is based on poultry.

We have got to encourage understanding. Panic is not going to be a solution for a pandemic, but proper planning is going to be one of the keys. The focus of the messaging, the World Health Organization, has already put out outbreak communication tips for public officials. I encourage my colleagues to become familiar with those. Enhance the public's compliance if a quarantine is needed and a quarantine is required, and common prevention techniques are going to go a long way towards preventing the spread of this illness; then we must be prepared to not only talk about them, but mandate them if indicated.

Our Federal, State, and local community officials will help play a big role in the preparedness. I know my officials back in north Texas have done a great job as far as preparing them-

selves for some of the things that would happen or could happen in the even of a pandemic. Bear in mind, this may be one of those things just like Y2K. We get all concerned about it, and it never happens.

But the manufacture of vaccine within the shores of this country is critically important. We should be doing that anyway and not just if we are faced with the threat of avian flu. Stockpiling of antiviral medications and indeed our Nation's stockpile of critical medicines, we need to look at that and be sure we have the distributive networks in place.

It doesn't matter if it is a hurricane, an earthquake or a terrorist strike. Preparedness should just be one of the bywords of this United States Congress for the rest of this decade and likely for many decades to come.

There are places on virtually every congressional committee where steps towards preparedness can be undertaken and, in fact, should be undertaken. Certainly we will look at a committee like Armed Services and what happened during the Spanish flu outbreak of 1918 and how it affected the returning troops from World War I. Armed Services needs to pay a good deal of attention to observing the outbreaks globally and implementing quarantine plans when is necessary.

The Committee on Agriculture, tracking avian populations as they disperse throughout the United States; my own committee of Energy and Commerce, and they have. I want to thank the committee on Energy and Commerce. They have done a great deal as far as the hearings on avian flu and as far as providing information for our committee.

□ 2000

The Committee on Homeland Security will have critical oversight over border security and, in fact, coordinating efforts should a pandemic hit across the country.

The Committee on Judiciary will have to decide some jurisdictional issues; and, indeed, they will have to decide whether or not we relax some of the liability as it pertains to vaccine manufacture as well as indemnifying first responders if they are harmed by vaccines or new antiviral medicines that are developed.

The Committee on Science, of course, will have an integral role in encouraging research on vaccines, vaccine development and rapid testing to detect is this just a cold or is this, indeed, a more serious type of flu.

The Committee on Veterans Affairs will be involved with educating veterans and combating the spread of the illness, as well as providing very educated, organized local spokespersons for educating the public should this disease become a problem.

The Committee on Ways and Means will have significant oversight of trade issues as they become important. Look at the countries that could possibly be

affected by this, as well as issues in countries that are currently experiencing an outbreak.

Integration from the Federal, State and local levels is going to be critical. The global health threat is important. It should not, indeed, it cannot be ignored. But preparing for the threat within our own country is certainly critical.

The virus, H5N1, could appear in the bird population as early as this fall in the Western Hemisphere; and even if it does appear in birds it doesn't mean that a pandemic has started. But because of the natural flyways that exist, that is a possibility that we need to be, we, in Congress, need to be prepared for how we educate our constituents and how we help our State and local officials adjust to that.

Preparedness is going to be the greatest single tool at our disposal to mitigate what might otherwise be a disaster of worldwide proportions.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important issue. I thank you for the time and letting me come to the House and talk about this tonight. I know I have covered a lot of these issues relatively quickly. I know a lot of the maps are somewhat involved, and they have gone by quickly. They are available on my Web site at [burgess.house.gov](http://burgess.house.gov).

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 367. Concurrent resolution honoring and praising the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution on the 100th anniversary of being granted its Congressional Charter.

#### OUR IRAQ POLICY

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This evening I come to the floor to continue the discussion that this Congress has had with respect to our policies as it relates to Iraq.

I was fortunate this past weekend to attend yet another ceremony, in this case, with the 1048th Tankers Division from the State of Connecticut who was being deployed to Iraq.

We in this country continue to owe a great debt of gratitude to the men and women who wear the uniform and who have served this country so valiantly and with such courage. But we also owe a deep debt of gratitude to their families in what has become gut-wrenching ceremonies as you watch young children and mothers and grandparents say goodbye to their loved ones who are going over to Iraq, including a mother who has three sons that are now over there, and another mother who saw her

son off and her husband had just left the week before.

So it is very disconcerting when you find that the only people that we have asked to make a sacrifice in the war on terror have become the men and women who serve in the front lines and their families who are left behind.

Our hearts go out to all of them. And what they deserve, more than anything else, is a Nation that will level with them, that will provide them with a plan, that will tell these troops, especially in the case of the National Guard and the reservists who have been deployed, redeployed, deployed again, their stays more so than at any other point in the history of this country, and they do so with a salute and they follow orders. How grateful a Nation we should be.

And yet here at home we hear, just in the previous hour, discussions that center on a tax cut and how important a tax cut is. I have never met anyone that didn't favor tax cuts. But it is disconcerting when you look out at these families and you see that this Congress focuses on tax cuts for the Nation's wealthiest 1 percent, making sure that we ladle on more tax cuts to those already impoverished oil companies who are experiencing unprecedented profits.

Yet I look out into that audience in Connecticut, in the State armory and see these families, many who will struggle during this time, many whose gas prices will rise during the time of this 18-month deployment.

So you say to yourself, well, where is the plan? What is the exit strategy? What do we owe these individuals? Do we not at least owe them the truth?

So there was a debate enjoined on this floor 2 weeks ago, a nonbinding resolution, in essence, a conversation, a conversation where 99 percent of the people on the other side of the aisle said, stay the course, while the Nation and while this side of the aisle clamors for a new direction for America.

When I looked out into the eyes of the audience of those families and I saw their concern and need, they want a new direction for the country, especially as it relates to Iraq.

Isn't it amazing that they can get a plan from the Iraqi government, that they can get several plans from Democrats, whether it be JACK MURTHA's bold plan that, well, seemingly the Iraqi government agrees with, or whether it be CARL LEVIN's plan, well, that seemingly now General Casey agrees with?

So we find the Pentagon and the Iraqi government, JACK MURTHA, CARL LEVIN, and several other Democrats offering thoughtful plans, and the Republicans saying stay the course and a President still unable to level with the American people and unwilling still to meet with parents who have lost their kids, who line the highway on the way to Crawford, Texas, or wait patiently outside The White House for an audience.

It amazes me that, while the Iraqis can say that they have a position and they know that they have to take on

responsibility, that we will somehow let the Iraqis determine the faith of our brave men and women, so much so that there has even been talk of amnesty, amnesty for those who have killed, maimed or kidnapped American soldiers or citizens. There can be no amnesty for that. There is no honor in the great sacrifice that our men and women have provided. No matter what the Iraqi government might say, we, as the United States Congress, have an obligation to our men and women and the citizens that are in Iraq working on behalf of this country to make sure that that cannot stand.

And what do we get from our erstwhile colleagues on the other side of the aisle and why was this debate conducted in the manner that it was?

Well, let me tell you why. Because Karl Rove hatched a plan in New Hampshire. You see, he went there and laid out this strategy; and the strategy was a very simple one. It is one that they used before. They just dusted off the playbook and said, you know, it works when we attack Democrats. We attack them for their patriotism.

It worked successfully against Max Cleland. We were able to take that man, who gave three of his limbs for this country, to make him appear to be unpatriotic and go after him personally.

It worked against JOHN KERRY. We were able to swift boat him during the Presidential campaign, to tarnish his service and the medals he earned.

And it is working against JACK MURTHA, they think. So that we can turn around and tarnish him as well.

And Karl Rove launches his strategy, and then JOHN BOEHNER rolls out the talking points for the caucus, and then the debate is neatly sandwiched in between the time allotted, with no Democratic alternative being allotted, and the White House picnic, just in time for the President to take a surprise trip to Iraq for a photo-op and to return home.

The Nation deserves better than that. If the Iraqi security advisors can provide us with a plan, why can't Donald Rumsfeld provide us with a plan?

No wonder, in the Washington Post today and the New York Times over the weekend, people are wild over the fact that, if all that debate and discussion was truly about a course for this Nation, how is it that General Casey's plan sounds identical to CARL LEVIN's plan? And how is it that the Iraqis can acknowledge what Mr. MURTHA acknowledged last November?

On this side of the aisle, we have come to know what it is all about. It is about the continued hypocrisy as it relates to leveling with the American people and, more importantly, leveling with our troops, with the National Guard and reservists and their families and the kind of sacrifice that we have asked them to do, and we have prevailed upon them, and they have done

with honor. And yet we can't level with them?

We find ourselves right now with the congressional Republicans that have no plan for Iraq, a flawed plan for going in, a failed plan to win, and no plan to get out. Stay the course is the slogan. And that is all it is, a slogan, not a solution. It is a prescription for an endless occupation of Iraq.

The Democrats are united on the need for a new direction in Iraq. 2006 must be a year of significant transition. Iraqis must take control of their security and begin a responsible redeployment of U.S. troops.

There has been no person who has addressed that issue more eloquently on this floor and back home in her native California in the city of the Angels than the gentlewoman from California, who has led a task force here in this Congress that focuses on a meaningful plan for an exit strategy from Iraq.

At this time, I would like to yield to the distinguished lady from California, MAXINE WATERS.

Ms. WATERS. I thank the gentleman, Mr. JOHN LARSON, for yielding me time and for organizing this special order.

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It is so important that we continue daily to help the American people understand exactly what is going on in this Congress. Time out for tricks. Time out for maneuvering. Time out for all of that. And I am so pleased that JOHN LARSON organized this Special Order tonight so that we can clarify what is going on here in America.

I rise as the Chair of the Out of Iraq Caucus. The caucus has 72 members, who for more than a year have been fighting to conclude the war in Iraq and reunite our troops with their families.

Over the weekend the New York Times reported that General Casey met with President Bush to discuss redeploying U.S. troops from Iraq. According to the New York Times, the number of U.S. troops in Iraq will decline by two brigades by not replacing two brigades that are currently scheduled to leave Iraq this year. Further reductions in U.S. personnel will occur next year. The number of brigades in Iraq is expected to drop from 14 to about five by the end of 2007. The Casey plan also provides for a brigade to be kept on alert in Kuwait "in case American commanders need to augment their forces to deal with a crisis. Another brigade will be kept on a lesser state of alert elsewhere but still prepared to deploy quickly." According to the Times, carrying out the terms of this plan depends on developments on the ground in Iraq.

Now, why don't we just tell it like it is? This is basically the Murtha plan. This plan is so similar to a plan that the Out of Iraq Caucus has been pushing since late last year, the Murtha plan, H.J. Res. 73.

Under Congressman MURTHA's plan, no additional U.S. troops will be sent

to Iraq and the U.S. troops now deployed in Iraq will be redeployed out of Iraq at a point determined by U.S. generals in Iraq, which is very similar to the plan outlined by General Casey. The Murtha resolution also calls for a contingent of marines to remain in the Middle East to respond to threats that threaten to destabilize our allies in the region or the national security of the United States, again mirroring the Casey plan.

Finally, the resolution calls for the United States to pursue security and stability in Iraq through diplomacy. Again, the Times reports that the General Casey plan is to engage the Iraqi Government to develop a plan to turn security over to the Iraqis.

With nearly identical parameters, it appears that the administration proposes to carry out a plan that has already been introduced, debated, pushed by Mr. MURTHA himself and by the Out of Iraq Caucus and many members of this Democratic caucus. It is confusing to understand why then there was such outrage from the Republicans during the debate of H. Res. 861 two weeks ago during which members of the Out of Iraq Caucus called for all Members of Congress to support the Murtha plan. The only conclusion is that the Republicans are again playing politics with the safety of our Nation.

Instead of holding a free and open debate on Iraq, they crafted a resolution, H. Res. 861, to intentionally mislead the American people and seize an opportunity to attack Democrats who want accountability for those who led the march to war in Iraq. Democrats are also demanding that the President provide a clear plan that will allow for the redeployment of U.S. troops and permit them to return home to their loved ones.

The Out of Iraq Caucus can support the proposed Casey plan. It is our plan. It is the Murtha plan. It is the plan that we have been pushing all along. Their plan we do not disagree with. We just wanted them to have some leadership. They had made so many mistakes, so many mishaps, as Condoleezza Rice called it, that we kept urging them to come up with a plan. We are glad they have adopted the Murtha plan.

According to news reports, the implementation of this plan will begin just prior to the November elections. The next step will be completed as the 2008 Presidential elections are heating up, providing the President an opportunity to claim progress despite more than 3 years of mismanagement and incompetence.

Mr. Speaker, this war was mismanaged by this administration. The men and women in uniform have paid for that mismanagement, more than 2,500 with their own lives. It is long past time to bring our troops home, and I will not rest until our service men and women are able to return home to their loved ones.

Be clear. We are glad that Mr. Casey and the President have come up with

what we have been advocating. We are glad that they have seen the light of day. We are pleased that they understand that the American people want real leadership and they want an end to this war, they want the troops home. So while we know that it may be calculated in a political way to time with the November elections and all that, we still support it. I do, and the Out of Iraq Caucus will certainly embrace it because, again, it is our plan.

When Mr. MURTHA talked about over the horizon, that is exactly what he was talking about, the same thing the Casey plan has come up with: keep some soldiers in the region just in case they are needed in a crisis.

So thank you, Mr. Casey and Mr. President, for finally embracing the Democrat plan by Mr. MURTHA that calls for redeployment. It has been misinterpreted, misidentified. Even the press got it wrong, and they tried to say that the Murtha plan was demanding that our troops get out immediately. It has never been that.

Now I want to see how the press will interpret the Casey plan, if the press will understand and report that it is the Murtha plan.

I will say it over and over again. I am pleased and proud that the President and Mr. Casey at least have come to the point, for whatever reasons, whatever their motivations are, to embrace something that will work, the Murtha plan.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentlewoman; and I just want to buttress her point here. In The Washington Post, first, CARL LEVIN, our distinguished Senator and brother of SANDER LEVIN here in the House, one of the sponsors of the resolution, said that "probably the worst kept secret in town is that this administration intends to pull out troops before the midterm elections in November. It shouldn't be a political decision, but it's going to be with this administration. It is as clear as the nose on my face," he said, "that it is all about November and this election." And as the gentlewoman pointed out, it shouldn't be.

JACK MURTHA has said over and over again only the Iraqis can solve the problems in Iraq. They are fighting with each other, and our troops are caught in between.

And no one less than Iraq's National Security Advisor said, "Iraq has to go out of the shadow of the United States and the coalition, take responsibility for its own decisions, learn from its mistakes, and find Iraqi solutions to Iraqi problems." Repeating again exactly what Mr. MURTHA has been advocating.

I want to now also turn to the gentleman from Washington State (Mr. INSLEE), who has been part of the Iraq Watch and from the very outset of this war has come to this floor almost on a regular basis to talk about the concerns that so many Americans in this

country care deeply about, most notably the men and women who serve this country.

I yield to Mr. INSLEE.

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Mr. LARSON's leadership on this.

I wanted to talk about three hard realities in Iraq. It is very easy, tempting when we are in the middle of a struggle, as our Armed Forces are, to forget harsh realities and to become emboldened by the rhetoric that is associated with war. But I think it is very important for us, when our sons and daughters and husbands and wives are there, to just take a very cold, harsh, realistic look at what is really going on in Iraq. This is not a moment for rose-colored glasses. It is a moment for reality. And I want to talk about the three realities in Iraq today, because basically the debate over Iraq is really twofold.

One side says that we should just keep doing what we are doing. We will just trust the President to make the decisions as he has made them in Iraq. We won't question them. We won't ask to accelerate them. We won't question the strategy. Congress will just sit back and let George Bush decide what to do in Iraq.

Others of us take a different approach that says the status quo is inadequate, that we cannot expect to keep doing the same thing in Iraq and expect a different result. So we believe we need some changes in Iraq. And I want to talk about some three realities about why we need a change, why the status quo is unacceptable, unacceptable in Iraq.

Number one, the security situation. The reality in Iraq is that the current strategy proposed by the Bush administration is resulting in things not only not staying the same but getting worse. If you take a look at the Brookings Institution, you can go online and take a look at the Brookings Institution's Web site. Anybody can Google that to find Brookings. You will find the statistics that I want to talk about tonight.

Fatalities in Iraq of Armed Forces are not only going down; they are going up. Compared to May 2003 and May 2005, we are now experiencing greater loss of our sons and daughters in Iraq than we were 2 years ago, 3 years ago. Those are going up, regrettably. The Bush plan is not working when it comes to protecting our men and women in uniform.

When you looked at the wounded in the Brookings Institution report, regrettably, they are not going down; they are going up, compared to 2½ years ago. When you look at Iraqi fatalities compared to the same time in February, March, May 2005, they are going up. When you look at the number of car bombs in May 2004, to May 2006, they are going up. When you look at Iraqi civilians killed, in fact, the number of Iraqi civilians killed compared to the same period about 3 years ago, they are three times higher per month.

And I think we rightfully care about Iraqi civilian fatalities from a sense of humanity and from a sense of the American spirit.

When you look at the number of multiple fatality bombings, they are up by a factor of 50 times higher than they were 3 years ago, a 50 times increase in multiple fatality bombings that the Iraqis are experiencing. When you look at crime-related deaths, they are up 50 times what they were over 2 years ago. When you look at the number of daily attacks, they are up compared to May 2004. When you look at weekly attacks on our service personnel, 2 years ago they went from 185 to 620 now. Up substantially, unfortunately.

So the security situation under the George Bush plan for security in Iraq, all of the indicators are going in the wrong direction. The status quo is not adequate. We cannot just trust the President with making decisions in Iraq.

So I want to turn now to sort of the life-style, if you call it that, in economic conditions in Iraq. We were told, when we were briefed on this war by Paul Wolfowitz and others of the President's men and women, that oil would be quickly restored in Iraq and that, indeed, the Iraqis would pay for this war by themselves. In fact, the production of oil today has still not reached prewar levels under that tyrannical, abysmal dictator Saddam Hussein. We still have not achieved oil and gas production records on one of the largest pools of oil on Earth; they are still at 2.18 million barrels compared to 2.5 in the prewar level. We still are not back up to those levels. And we are paying hundreds of billions of dollars today for Iraq.

In electricity we, at best, are back to prewar levels after 3 years and untold tens of millions of dollars squandered, American taxpayer dollars. And, in fact, in Baghdad today I read they are having a heat wave in Baghdad and they still only have 3 to 4 hours a day of electricity. You can imagine, after 3 years of sitting under a foreign army's occupation, with 3 hours of electricity for your air conditioner. I read these Iraqis said that, We basically sit and look at each other. I read this comment by a middle-class Iraqi who said, We are going crazy doing that. And I can understand that.

The economic condition is not making substantial improvement in Iraq under the harsh realities.

So now we turn to the political situation and ask ourselves if the George Bush plan is adequate on Iraq. And, yes, we have had elections and we were all thrilled by elections. All of us would like to see a democratic Iraq. But there is a very harsh reality that we think demands a change of plans in Iraq.

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That is, until the Shia community and the Sunni community and the Kurd community can strike the hard

bargains it takes to make a democracy in Iraq, and particularly over access to the oil resource, which they still have not done after 3 years. It doesn't matter what an outside force will do. The current plan is not a plan for success.

Frankly, our continued presence in Iraq is now acting as a security blanket to allow the politicians in Iraq to refuse to move forward with hard compromises about oil revenues, which is dooming our military to be there for decades. That is why we need to send a message to the Iraqi politicians that we are not going to be there for decades and they must make the compromises necessary about oil revenues, because they are shortly going to have responsibility for their own country.

I am not the only one to think that. There are some people with some skin in this fight besides Americans, and that is the Iraqis. We went there to help the Iraqis. It was based on false information and deceit, but, nonetheless, Americans had I think the right intentions. So I think it pays some heed to see what the Iraqis think about this.

What the Iraqis think about this, when a poll was done January 31, 2006, by the World Public Opinion Poll, and that is not a group that has any particular dog in this fight, they went out and asked the Iraqi people, do you approve the government endorsing a timeline for U.S. withdrawal?

These are the people whose lives are most dependent on obtaining a secure, safe Iraq. They are not sitting thousands of miles away like we are, like the President is. They are sitting in these rooms with no electricity and 120 degrees temperature and bombs going off next door where they can't send their kids out to play. They may be considered perhaps the experts on this issue. What do the Iraqis say about that issue?

What they say is 87 percent of Iraqis would approve of the government endorsing a timeline for U.S. redeployment. That is something we ought to think about. I think there is a reason for that. I think there is a reason that 87 percent of the Iraqis who are living in such squalor and danger today believe that it makes sense for us to tell Iraqis that the time is shortly coming where the country will be theirs. I think the reason is they recognize that their politicians aren't going to get around to disposing of really coming up with an agreement on oil reserves until they know that the day is coming that the United States security blanket will be removed. The Iraqis have figured this out. We should figure it out.

So we are here today saying it is not enough just to trust President Bush with decisions in Iraq. Security is not getting better, the economy is not getting better, the political situation still really has not come to terms with the necessary compromise, and it is time for us to send a message to the Iraqi government that they need to get serious about resolving issues and redeploying our troops.

This is a strategy for success. The Bush plan is a strategy for long-term failure. It is time that we come to terms, take off the rose-colored glasses and make hard decisions.

I want to thank Mr. LARSON for allowing me to participate.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Washington State again for his insightful comments and pointing out the new direction that this country needs to forge and that certainly that the people of this country desire and, as you so eloquently pointed out, as importantly, the people of Iraq.

But I would also add that this is something that the generals of this country who have come forward and spoken out with great clarity also feel strongly about.

Lieutenant General Greg Newbold: "What we are living with now is the consequences of successive policy failures."

Major General Paul Eaton: "Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld is not competent to lead our Armed Forces. His failure to build coalitions with our allies has imposed far greater demands and risks on our soldiers in Iraq than necessary. He has shown himself to be incompetent strategically, operationally and tactically."

Lieutenant General John Riggs: "They only need the military advice when it satisfies their agenda," speaking on National Public Radio about the Bush administration. "They only need the military advice when it satisfies their own agenda."

General Wesley Clark: "They pressed for open warfare before diplomacy was finished. It was a tragic mistake. It's a strategic blunder."

General Anthony Zinni: "We are paying the price for the lack of credible planning, or the lack of a plan. Ten years worth of planning were thrown away, troop levels dismissed out of hand. These were strategic mistakes, mistakes of policy made back here by this administration."

Mr. INSLEE. Will the gentleman yield for a moment? I want to add an additional mistake, if I can briefly, that I think is very important for us to talk about, and that is the mistake to not send the message that the Iraqis are going to have a country that is free at some point of United States forces.

This poll that I talked about, when they asked Iraqis, do you think the U.S. Government plans to have permanent military bases in Iraq, 80 percent of the people answered that they thought we were going to do that.

When asked, do you believe that we will at some point remove our military once Iraq is stabilized, 80 percent of Iraqis believe we will not remove our forces even after Iraq is stabilized.

There is a reason for them to believe that. Because on this floor, when we tried to put a provision in a defense bill that says we won't have any Iraq permanent bases in Iraq, which we actu-

ally succeeded in doing on the floor, the first thing that happened, in the dead of night in one of these conference committees, the Republican Party stripped it out.

The message we are sending to Iraq is we are going to stay there as long as we want and perhaps permanently. That is the wrong message. We need to send a different message. That is why we are here tonight.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Someone who has sent that message consistently also hails from Washington State, the senior member of the delegation, JIM MCDERMOTT, a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee.

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

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. LARSON for yielding. I want to thank him for organizing this event this evening to give us a chance to spend a little extra time talking about what is going on.

I think the American people, as they look at this situation, have every reason to be very confused about what is going on in Iraq; and I want to try to help them understand it.

The first thing you have to understand is that everything that is happening on this floor and in the other body has to do with the 7th of November, the election. Don't ever lose sight that what is being done here is to influence the American people to keep the Republicans in power in the next election.

Now, the confusion you feel is being created by the very people who want to retain power. If you ask yourself where are we today, well, on Saturday in the morning they announced in the London Times that Prime Minister Maliki wanted reconciliation. He wanted to have a reconciliation plan coming out, and he wanted to meet with the Sunnis and try to defuse the situation.

You would think that would be in everybody's interest. Did you hear one word from the White House about the Iraqis standing up and trying to defuse the situation? Did you hear any support? None. Because the basic underlying fact that my colleague from Washington has pointed out is we have no intention of leaving Iraq. We intend to be there with 50,000 troops and permanent bases for an extended period of time. But we won't say that. We say exactly the opposite.

What we are saying to the Iraqis is, now, look, this is what we mean. We mean we are not going to stay here. But the Iraqis open their eyes and they see this permanent stuff, and they say to themselves, it doesn't make any sense. They are not here on a temporary basis.

An Arab friend of mine in Jordan told me that one of the things that Americans do not understand is what it means to an Arab when you occupy his land, and as long as we occupy their land, they will fight. He said, you can

do all the talk you want, but until the United States indicates clearly that they are pulling their troops out, you will never get any peace in the area.

That was on Saturday morning. Then we come to the New York Times the next day, Sunday, quoting General Casey. Now this is the President that says, stay the course, stay the course; and the New York Times leaks a story saying that they have drafted a plan for withdrawing troops by September.

This is a leak. Did the President jump up and down and say, send out the FBI to find out who leaked that plan? No. Because they want to send that out to one part of the population. They want part of the United States to think we are actually going to pull the troops out, when in fact there is no real evidence that they are going to take them out.

The American people have got to stay awake. Ronald Reagan said you should trust, but verify. The President says stuff, but when you try to verify it, you can't find it. He is against leaks, as long as it is an official leak of something he wants to get out there. Karl Rove really wants to get it out there.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Reclaiming my time, in my opening remarks, this is confusing to American citizens, because Karl Rove, the Sunday prior to the debate that started here in this House, was in New Hampshire; and he laid out the strategic vision for the Republican Party. It was a political gathering, but he laid out that strategic vision. I can understand why the public gets confused, because he said very publicly that what we have to do is "stay the course," and then it was the Democrats who wanted, to use one of their slogans, "cut and run." But they were going to stay the course.

Then that was followed by the majority leader's talking points that were disseminated on the floor here which, of course, was again discrediting Democrats, and most notably Mr. MURTHA, about cutting and running.

Then it becomes even more confounding, because the debate that ensued was, as you point out, I think uplifting in some circumstances, because it was trying to define where people stand. Ninety-nine percent of them felt very strongly that we ought to stay the course, while 78 percent on this side felt there ought to be a new direction. So people became somewhat confused. And that was all sandwiched in between the President's flight and photocopy to Iraq and the White House picnic.

Then, lo and behold, last week, the debate in the Senate, where it even reaches a feverish pitch, and we have had more plans hatched and looked at by the Democrats, including the Murtha proposal, as MAXINE discussed, and the Levin plan in the Senate, as well as IKE SKELTON's proposal and DAVID PRICE's proposal down here. It goes on and on. So people can get confused.

Then, as you are chronicling these events, all of a sudden the Iraqi security adviser says they have a plan; and their plan includes, as Mr. INSLEE pointed out, that the Iraqi people want us out of there. Eight-seven percent want us out of there. Eighty-seven percent believe that they are better off taking control of their own destiny. And now you are telling the American people, though, that, look, this really doesn't have anything to do with all of that. This is about an election. Not their election.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Our election. One of the fascinating things about it is, I don't know how many times the President has said, we will stand down when the Iraqis stand up. Well, that makes sense to people. People say, yes, that is right. As soon as they are ready to take over their country, we will back out and we will leave. So we think he really means it.

Then we have Maliki, the new prime minister, stand up and say, I have got a reconciliation plan, and I would like to talk with you guys about a timetable for you to leave.

Have you heard the President say one thing about the prime minister standing up? Of course not. They have ignored the fact that the Iraqis that they maneuvered into charge of the place are actually standing up and saying, yes, we are going to have to talk to the Sunnis, because we are Shiia and they are Sunnis, and they feel like they are left out; and, secondly, we have to do something about all this fighting that is going on.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Briefly reclaiming my time, could it be that one of the reasons they are not speaking out as forthrightly as they should, and I am just surmising this, is because part of this reconciliation that has been discussed is the granting of amnesty to Iraqis who have murdered or kidnapped American soldiers or civilians?

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We have put forward a resolution here. It was debated during our discussion here, but not a nonbinding resolution. We put forward a resolution that will actually bind the Congress to instruct the President to send a message to the Iraqi Government that that cannot stand; that we, this Congress, and the American public will not stand by and let them recuse people who have taken American lives, who have kidnapped and tortured and mutilated Americans.

We will never stand by and let that happen. Could that be part of the reason?

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, well, one of the questions you have to ask yourself is, Did Mr. Maliki and the Iraqi Government sit down and come up with this reconciliation package all by themselves? Does anybody think that the American Government was not, in the form of the ambassador, involved in those discussions, or that

talked to the military? Of course they did.

So what you have got is our own government talking out of both sides of its mouth. The Iraqis, all they know is we are staying there. We have got a \$500 million embassy, the largest embassy in the world. It is really Fortress America. We have got military installations which are very permanent, and we are saying we are leaving tomorrow or sometime, whenever you are ready to run your own country.

The fact is that we have shown nothing to suppose that we really mean that we will one day say, you guys are doing such a great job, we are going home. See you later. That is not what we are up to. We are trying to control the natural resources of the area and trying to give ourself a platform to operate some place in the Middle East, and we simply are going to have this fight continue unless, and I could not help thinking, I was sitting over thinking about what I was going to say today.

I remember during the Vietnam War, back in 1968, coming up to an election. What was Mr. Nixon saying at that point? I have a secret plan to end the war. Ha. A secret plan to end the war. After he was reelected, we went on for 4 more years. This issue, if the President is serious, then he ought to explain to us why he let his commanding general go out there talking about setting a deadline and bringing troops home.

Does he mean to do that, or is that just to throw smoke up in the air and get people confused? I think it is the latter. I do not think he intends to bring any troops home if he is going to give the impression that they are leaving Iraq. And that is why we have to continue to get out here and talk about what is in the newspapers.

I mean, you do not have to read very far. The London Times, the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, a few papers, and you can see it if you put it all together in one place. And that is why it is important for us as a body to have these hours when we do this.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. One gentleman who has been doing that consistently is the distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts, who, along with Mr. INSLEE, headed up the Iraq Watch from the inception of this war, and who always provides us with insightful observations.

I am sure he is intrigued, as both Mr. INSLEE and Mr. McDERMOTT are, with the developments of this past weekend with General Casey's proposal, et cetera. I would yield to him at this time.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding. What I find interesting is ever since, well ever since before the invasion the administration has not been forthcoming, has not played it straight with us and with the American people.

And I just got in from Boston, my plane was late, I am sure that many of

you encountered those kinds of difficulties. But I had an opportunity to listen to my friend, Mr. INSLEE from Washington. And he talked about the Iraqi people not wanting us to stay, if you can accept the results of that poll, which presumably are valid.

And you make a point about the prime minister talking about a timetable. And yet during the course of, I do not want to call it a debate, but during the course of the speeches that were given here last week regarding Iraq, we heard a term like "cut and run," you know, cut and run.

Well, I find what is interesting is that now there is some cutting, or there appears to be some cutting. But you know what was unsaid during the entire conversation that was held on this floor? It is not just the Iraqi people that want us to leave, or at least to provide a timetable, but maybe President Bush was not hearing what the prime minister and the vice president and the president of Iraq had to say when he made his visit there a week or 10 days ago.

Because flying back on Air Force One with the media, this is what he had to say, "There are concerns about our commitment and keeping our troops there. They are worried, almost to a person, that we will leave before they are capable of defending themselves. And I assured them they did not need to worry."

But I guess when he says "almost to a person," he is not referring to the vice president and the president of Iraq. Because it was reported in the Associated Press last week that the Iraqi vice president had asked President Bush for a timeline for withdrawal of foreign troops from Iraq.

And that was confirmed by President Talabani, and in addition, President Talabani agreed with that request. So it was not just Democrats and others that were interested in a timeline for when we are getting out of there, but it was the Iraqi president and the Iraqi vice president.

And yet we hear terms like cut and run. Cut and run. The only thing we are cutting here are taxes for the super-rich and running up a deficit. That is what we are cutting and running here in this institution. Everyone recognizes there is a responsibility, but we did not get into this mess. Should we trust this administration?

We were told by the Vice President that we were going to be greeted as liberators. False. The Secretary of Defense said the war would not last more than 6 months. False. His deputy, Paul Wolfowitz, said that Iraq could pay for its own reconstruction from oil revenues. False.

We heard from the Vice President and everyone else that there were links between al Qaeda and Saddam Hussein. False. False. False. And now we are told that, well, we cannot put out a timeline or a timetable to withdraw.

The Iraqi people want it. I dare say the American people need to know

about it. It is in the best interests of our national security, because what we are doing there is we are creating terrorists. We are eroding the efforts against terrorism worldwide the longer we stay there. We are viewed by the world as occupiers. All you have to do is take a look at the recent polling data, the most recent one being from a very reputable foundation, the Pew Foundation, 33 out of 35 countries have a negative image of the United States. Our own Government Accountability Office that my friends on both sides of the aisle know is a nonpartisan agency of the U.S. Congress has said this: anti-American sentiment is broadening and deepening and is a threat to our national security and will hurt our efforts against terrorism.

And, of course, there is a possibility and a real potential that it will hurt us in other areas, and furthermore it could very well erode and hurt our commercial interests.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. One of the reasons that we come to the floor this evening, and Mr. MCDERMOTT alluded to it, is making sure that we do not sit idle to miss the so-called debate that Mr. DELAHUNT suggested took place both here in this Chamber, a non-binding discussion, if you will, and in the Senate.

Because in the past, charges have been made and leveled, slogans tossed out, and they have not been responded to. We are not going to stand by, because the American public desires a new direction, and more importantly desires people who are willing to speak truth to power.

That is why JACK MURTHA is so celebrated across this country. It is not so much for the particulars of his plan, but for the fact that he had the temerity to speak truth to power. And so we will not stand idle, and we will come to this floor on successive evenings to drive home the point to the American people.

Mr. DELAHUNT, you articulated so clearly the need to level with the American public. And I started this evening talking about saying goodbye to the Reservists and National Guard of the 1048th Truckers Division from the State of Connecticut, a very painful thing.

And most important is the need to level with our own troops and the families, who, as you point out, are the only ones who have had to make a sacrifice since September 11. The only people that our government has requested sacrifice of are the men and women who wear the uniform and their families.

Mr. DELAHUNT. And the American taxpayer.

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to pose this question here about who is driving the bus when it comes to Iraq policy. And this is an important question I know all of us feel. Yesterday, two of our finest from the State of Washington were killed in Iraq, young men.

The day before that, a young man from Port Orchard, Washington, who

had been fighting for life for 3 months died in one of our hospitals in Texas. We need somebody to drive the bus of Iraqi policy that is trustworthy, accurate, and has a full understanding of what is going on in Iraq.

And when you ask yourself, does the President meet those criteria for that policy, does his policy meet that criteria; was he right on weapons of mass destruction? No. Was he right on association with 9/11? No. Was he right on the number of troops we needed? No.

Was he right on flac jackets for the troops? No. Was he right on armored Humvees? No. Is he right on the issue of who is actually doing the fighting now? He still wants to make it sound like it is just part of an international conspiracy, not a sectarian conflict that is going on when Shiites and Sunnis are killing themselves in the streets? No.

He still is wrong about the basic nature of the conflict, and yet some people in Congress want to let him just drive the bus after he has crashed it 52 different times, and we have lost over 2,500 of our finest as a result.

□ 2100

It is time for someone else to start driving the bus, and that is Congress; to start asking these hard questions and demand a different strategy

Mr. DELAHUNT. Well, I would conclude by asking a question, which is that, ultimately, what has occurred because of our invasion of Iraq? Let us project 2 years, 5 years, 10 years.

We hear so much talk about bringing democracy to the Middle East. Well, you know what I see, I see an emerging relationship between Iraq and Iran. I already have noted that there is a bilateral military cooperation agreement between Iran and Iraq. In my memory, please help me, wasn't Iran one of the original members of the access of evil club?

And just recently, I noticed where the prime minister suggested that the international community ought to leave Iran alone and drop its demand, drop its demand that Iran prove that it is not developing nuclear technology for purposes of a weapon.

Now, what is happening here? Are we going to end up with the legacy of this loss of American lives and American taxpayer dollars with a more influential Iran? I mean, please, has anybody even talked about this or considered it? Do we hear this as part of the debate and the discourse even among think tanks, even among the popular media outlets?

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Well, if the gentleman will yield, I think Graham Ellison has stated it most eloquently. He said "Americans are no safer from nuclear terrorist attack today than we were on September 10, 2001." He said, "A central reason for that can be summed up in one word: Iraq. The invasion and occupation have diverted essential resources from the fight against al Qaeda, allowed the

Taliban to regroup in Afghanistan, fostered neglect of the Iranian nuclear threat, undermined alliances critical to preventing terrorism, devastated America's standing with the public in every country in Europe, and destroyed it in the Muslim world."

That about sums it up, where we were and why we need a new direction.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlemen for joining me this evening.

#### FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCCAUL of Texas). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the privilege to address you this evening, and I appreciate the fact that my message to you echoes across America in this technology that we have today.

As I awaited my opportunity to address the Chair, I also reflected upon many of the remarks that were made by my colleagues in the preceding segment, and I would like to start out first by stating that there were some remarks that I do agree with. I know that that may seem a bit unusual, but the objection to the proposed policy by the newly sovereign nation of Iraq to the rejection of the proposed amnesty is something that we stand together on, as I heard my friend Mr. LARSON say; and I thank him for raising that issue tonight.

As I think about what that means, to offer amnesty to someone for killing Americans or killing coalition troops but not amnesty if they happen to attack Iraqis, whatever stripe they might happen to be, and the same administration will be making demands on us to prosecute to the fullest extent of the law and punish American soldiers that may or may not, but certainly today we know are accused of those kinds of activities.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. If the gentleman will yield.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I would be happy to yield to the gentleman from Connecticut.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. I profusely thank you and hope you will join us in signing H.J. Resolution 90 that we have put on the floor and we hope to bring to a vote before the 4th of July so that we send a very specific message.

I think that is something that everyone in this Chamber will agree with.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman; and I will take a good look at the text of that. I know that philosophically we do agree, and I will give it serious consideration, and that is the spirit that we should operate in in this Chamber. I appreciate the gentleman's work on this cause.

I do also, though, have an obligation to lay out a disagreement, and that disagreement is with the language we

heard with regard to permanent bases. We know that a year ago there was language that was inserted into the Department of Defense appropriation bill, and this was language that I understood a year ago was introduced by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA). This language prohibited any of the funds from being used to negotiate for or to establish any bases in Iraq.

Now that language was taken out in conference. It passed through this Chamber, and no one caught it, evidently, and it was taken out in conference, I understand, at the request of the White House, because the President is the Commander-in-Chief. That is something, Mr. Speaker, we didn't hear over here in the last hour, about who it is that conducts foreign policy in America. Constitutionally, the President of the United States has the duty to conduct foreign policy, and he is the Commander-in-Chief of our Armed Forces.

The rest of this verbiage and rhetoric that comes out is an effort to try to fence him in, limit his options, and sometimes make him look bad across the globe. But the President is the one who conducts our foreign policy, and he is the Commander-in-Chief. But the Murtha language a year ago would have tied the hands of the President, would have tied the hands of the Iraqis and prohibited them from even negotiating for a temporary base, no matter how essential for the entire nation of Iraq.

Well, that language was stripped out in conference, thankfully so; and the bill went to the President without the Murtha language. This time, the bill came to the floor with the same language back in it again. The language, they argue, prohibits permanent bases. But there is nothing in that language that says permanent. It just says no money will be used to either negotiate for or establish bases in Iraq. All bases, no matter how temporary. Not even to talk about it.

Now we have a sovereign Iraq, with a new prime minister, Prime Minister Maliki, and we have a new minister of defense and a new minister of the interior, and now that they are finally standing on their own two feet, within a matter of weeks. We are tying their hands as well as the hands of the Commander-in-Chief, the President of the United States, the conductor of foreign policy by Constitution, with language in the DOD appropriation bill that says that not \$1 of those funds can be used to even negotiate for a temporary base, no matter how desperately it might be needed by the newly sovereign Iraq.

Now, that is a shortsighted policy. That is a foolish policy, Mr. Speaker. It is a policy that if we had followed that policy in each one of the other conflicts we had been in, for example, we wouldn't have bases to operate out of in Kuwait. We wouldn't still be in Germany, a pretty handy place to have. We utilize those bases considerably in

Germany. We wouldn't be in places across the Pacific.

And, in fact, that place we finally found out was the horizon. When the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) said that we should immediately redeploy back to the horizon, we couldn't get him to define what the horizon was for months. Finally, he has defined horizon. Out on the horizon from Iraq, so you can quickly deploy in case there is a crisis, and I don't know why you would want to let it get to a crisis stage, but that was the strategy, and now he has said that horizon is Okinawa. We should redeploy to Okinawa. From there, we could mount air raids into Iraq, perhaps with some B-52s and do some carpet bombing to teach them a lesson, I guess.

But when you are taking on a terrorist entity, you have to beat them on the ground where they are. You can't pull out and let things brew and then come back in with overwhelming force. The gentleman from Pennsylvania knows that. He knows that if we ever pull out of Iraq, they will do everything they can to make sure we don't go back for any reason whatsoever, no matter what the consequences.

And I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, the consequences would be cataclysmic if we pull out of there, let things fall apart, and then the terrorists will have the very thing they were seeking to establish in Iraq in the first place.

So the Murtha language in the Department of Defense appropriation bill did make it through this floor in the House of Representatives. We could have made some better decisions on that, but it will go over to the Senate, where hopefully it will get pulled out, but I am just confident, if that is not the case, that it will be pulled out by the White House at their request in conference.

No president should have their hands tied behind their back and then be drubbed here every night on the floor of the House of Representatives and prevented from conducting his foreign policy. That is what happened at the end of the Vietnam War, and the end of that cost three million or more lives in Southeast Asia because this Congress tried to tie the hands, and effectively did tie the hands, of the Commander-in-Chief.

Now, we also hear that they are quite offended by the term "cut and run." And you can describe it a lot of ways, but I can't describe it any better than cut and run. That is what I heard they want to do. Why can't they simply wait for the new government of Iraq to get their feet on the ground and establish themselves and do what they are doing, which is taking on this enemy? They are taking out the enemy, going into Baghdad, in some of the neighborhoods in Baghdad and cleaning those areas out.

Now, war is never pretty. It is always ugly, and it is always costly, and you can never measure the progress of a war by the minute or the hour or the

day. It has to be looked at incrementally. And sometimes a battle that is lost might end up being the war that is won, and vice versa.

We know that the writings that came from General Giap and other commanders of the Vietnam military, they were desperate. They were nearly ready to give up. But what gave them hope and what kept them in that war and kept them from giving up and surrendering was the rhetoric on the part of the left wing United States Senators and House Members.

In fact, that is something that is in Bud Day's book. Colonel Bud Day, who is the highest decorated living American war hero, writes in his book that the first years of his incarceration as a prisoner of war at the Hanoi Hilton, as a prisoner of the North Vietnamese, after being shot down over there, the first years they had to write propaganda. But after a few years, all they had to do was quote people like Senator KENNEDY and Senator Fulbright and Jane Fonda, and, he said, pick your House Member, that we quote as well.

That is going on in this conflict as well, Mr. Speaker, in the same way these 30-some years later. The results are going to be different, because the American people are not going to fall for this same rhetoric again. They are advocating cut and run. If they would like to describe it some other way, honestly, I would be happy to pick that language up, too. I like to use a lot of adjectives. Cut and run is the short term for it.

They say that 80 percent of the Iraqis want us out of there. I would like to know more about that poll. I would like to read the question. I would like to know who they asked. I think you could get a higher number than that. I think you could get 99 percent of the Iraqis to want us out of there, the same way they wanted us out of there 3 years ago. They said so. They said, we are happy to be liberated, and we want the Americans to go home, some day.

But not any time soon, Mr. Speaker. Not before the Iraqi people have control of the security of their country, not before the political solution at least gets some roots down and gets to operate. And the President has made this clear.

But the people on the other side of the aisle would not let the President move troops out of Iraq at a rate that he sees fit. They always want to be a little ahead of him.

If the President says we have 150,000 troops there, and they are thinking, well, maybe he will pull 10,000 out next month, they might hear a rumor coming from the Pentagon, and that isn't an air-tight operation over there either, Mr. Speaker, they might hear a rumor from the Pentagon that we are going to move 10,000 troops back to the United States. So people on the other side of the aisle jump to the floor, run down here and say, I demand the President remove 10,000 troops and bring

them back to the United States. And they will pound on the podium and make that demand in the hopes it actually happens. Because then they can stand up and say, he finally listened. He wouldn't listen for a long time, but, finally, he listened. They want to get ahead of things so they can declare they were the cause of those decisions.

And that just makes it harder for a Commander-in-Chief to make the right decisions. In fact, running out front and trying to get in front of an issue reminds me of Robespierre, who was one of the leaders in France during the revolution, about the 1789 time period. He looked out his window, and he said, the people are marching in the streets; I better get in front of them and see where they are going, for I am their leader. A few months later, Robespierre was a head shorter. I don't know if he ever learned the lesson that you can't lead from the rear. You actually have to have some vision of your own.

You can't get up every morning and try to decide who am I going to attack today; who am I going to make look bad. Surely if I can pull some people down the ladder on either side of me, I will look better, if I can drag them down the ladder. That is the mentality that motivates a lot of the people on the other side of the aisle.

They said that, according to the Pew Foundation, I didn't hear the percentage, but a significant percentage had a negative image of the United States, a negative image of the United States. Do you suppose some of those people listen to the rhetoric on the floor of the United States House of Representatives on a regular basis? What do they think, the kind of message they are sending? What do they think of the United States?

I wonder if they answered to the Pew Foundation's poll, I wonder what the gentleman that made this argument would say if they asked, do you have a positive or negative view of the United States?

□ 2115

I am going to say I would expect they would have said we have a negative view, because that is all I hear is a negative view from that side of the aisle. I don't hear solutions. I hear negative attacks on the White House, negative attacks on the Republicans and Congress.

Somehow they will learn how to spell Republican with four letters so we can truly be a four-letter word, instead of this optimistic, progressive operation that is looking for ways beyond the horizon to make the world a better place. Then the question was from the gentleman from Washington, Who was driving the bus when it comes to the Iraq policy?

When you swear allegiance to uphold the Constitution, you are supposed to understand what is in there. I need to inform the gentleman, the person driving the bus, when it comes to Iraq policy, is the person driving the bus when

it comes to foreign policy, and the person driving the bus when it comes to being Commander in Chief of our Armed Forces, in Iraq, its President Bush by Constitution.

So I hope that has cleared up some of the issues here. There are no negotiations going on for permanent bases. There would be no negotiations going on for permanent bases. We have no permanent bases anywhere around the globe.

We have no permanent bases here in the United States. They are all temporary bases. They are all established for a period of time, a term that can be agreed to by the parties involved. Sometimes it is a short term, sometimes it is a longer term; but none are permanent. If anyone thinks that here in the United States we have permanent bases like Fort Hood, for example, or Fort Campbell would be another, the answer to that is, no, they aren't permanent either. All bases in the United States are all subject to the BRAC approach.

We voted on that, and we are closing some bases, and we are downsizing some bases and shifting some materials around. That ought to convince anybody in this Congress if they had ever been through a BRAC vote and a BRAC negotiation, that there is no such thing as a permanent base, no matter how badly Members of Congress would love to have permanent bases in their districts, even these Members, there is not any such thing takes a permanent base in the United States or overseas. We are not inclined to negotiate for them, but we are inclined to negotiate for temporary bases where they make sense and where we can reach an agreement with the people who are the sovereign government of each individual nation in question, including Iraq.

I would point out also that we have a neighbor to Iraq called Iran, and this neighbor is developing nuclear capability, not just the ability to build a bomb and detonate a bomb, but the ability to deliver that bomb to a target site. They have said that Israel has no right to exist, and they want to wipe it off the map.

They have named us as one of their number one enemies. So sitting next door to Iran, with a couple of large military bases, one would think that it would be a pretty good idea not to foreclose an option to be able to maybe mount an operation from the very bases that we have invested so many dollars into.

We have billions of dollars invested in Iraq. We have a tremendous amount of blood and treasure invested there, and that investment should return something back on it. It already has. It has returned freedom to the Iraqi people.

If we play our cards right, and we are able to negotiate with them, we might one day look at that and say it was a very good thing that we stripped out the Murtha language and saved the options and the authority of the Presi-

dent of the United States, who is Commander in Chief, and who by Constitution conducts our foreign policy.

I would be happy to yield to my friend from Tennessee, Mr. WAMP.

Mr. WAMP. I thank the gentleman. I am very grateful that he has come to the floor tonight to discuss these matters that are so important and even to respond to some of what has already been said here tonight. I think it is important for us, Mr. Speaker, to come and talk about what sacrifices are made on the other side of the world on our behalf.

British philosopher and historian John Stuart Mill once wrote this about war: he said war is an ugly thing, but it is not the ugliest of things. The decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling which thinks that nothing is worth war is much worse. A person who has nothing for which they are willing to fight, nothing they care more about than their own personal safety, is a miserable creature who has no chance of ever being free unless those very freedoms are made and kept by better persons than himself.

Mr. Speaker, those persons are the men and women in the uniform of our Armed Forces. One thing I know, because I respect my friends on both sides of the aisle, is that the lessons of history, including the Vietnam lesson, taught America to support the troops, the men and women in uniform, regardless of how you feel about the mission, regardless of the decisions made by the Commander in Chief who is charged, as the gentleman from Iowa said, with making these critical decisions, duly elected, even re-elected, in the midst of this conflict.

Supported by a majority of the American people, and making these decisions with an all volunteer force, every man and woman in uniform, today, volunteered to serve. I have been with our President, with tears rolling down his face, talking about the sacrifices that these mostly young men and women are willing to make on our behalf, knowing that this call is a difficult call, knowing that the sacrifices are extraordinary, and, yes, we have lost over 2,500; many, many more have been injured.

But I have got to tell you, freedom is never free, and every time it has been handed from one generation to the next, it has been handed by the men and women in the uniform, and they are there making that sacrifice for us. I want them to look back in this interactive world we live in and see us standing behind them, not talking about leaving early, never retreating, always finishing what we start.

Let me tell you, I saw a Democratic Senator on television this weekend talking about what is happening in northern Africa, specifically Somalia. You and I were in Africa together a year and a half ago, talking about Sunni extremism that has spread around the globe and influenced the east coast of Africa. This is not because of what has happened in Iraq; it

is happening if we are not in Iraq. It is happening, and it manifested itself on September 11, 2001, no, 1993 is when they wanted to bring down the World Trade Center, but they didn't. Their engineering didn't work.

Did we pay enough attention then, or the other 30 times that our ships and our interests in hotels that we own around the world were bombed by terrorist extremist, from radical Islam? No, we didn't pay enough attention. We even retreated from human intelligence. We cut the budget.

Mr. Speaker, if we are not on the offensive today, freedom is at risk again for this generation. Man, I am glad that these men and women will stand in harm's way on our behalf and stand in the gap. Absolutely we hail them.

Iraq is difficult, but it is a decision that was made. Over half the Democrats in the United States Senate voted to use force to remove Saddam Hussein, and almost half the Democrats in this House voted to use force to remove Saddam Hussein. They thought it was important to remove this genocidal mass murderer, terrorist, and they said with weapons of mass destruction.

Now, sarin gas was found again. We know he used it on hundreds of thousands of people. We know he is a genocidal mass murderer, just like Slobodan Milosevic was, and President Clinton chose to remove him from Eastern Europe. But here we are today, frankly, second guessing, instead of standing together.

I have got to tell you, I believe deep in my gut, Mr. Speaker, that it is a matter of time till we are hit again. We cannot sleep. We cannot rest. We must be vigilant, and the Senator was right. Now, in northern Africa, what they are looking for is a vacuum, Mr. Speaker. They are looking for a sovereign nation from which to operate.

You cannot convince me Iraq was not right to be a sovereign nation from which to operate. You cannot convince me, and I am on the Homeland Security appropriations subcommittee, been there since we created the Department of Homeland Security. Briefed at a very high level, you can't convince me that there were not connections with al Qaeda operatives and Saddam Hussein.

Now all you hear about this rhetoric here is this November. It is not about what has happened or what is happening. It is about them retaking the majority in the Congress. So let us just call it what it is. While I am on my feet, let me say, Mr. Speaker, that we are blocking and tackling and trying to do the people's business in this House as the majority. I am encouraged.

Our economic policies are working, amazingly durable economy today. I am amazed at that growth that is taking place out there in America. I am amazed that unemployment is this low, virtual full employment. I am amazed that everything we have been through from Katrina and Rita to terrorism all around, that we are still this strong,

and it is because we have enacted sound, economic policies.

Legislative line item veto passed the House last week. It is a compromise that we know the Supreme Court, or, we believe, will uphold this time. The President can eliminate unnecessary spending, something the people back home continue to want from this Congress.

We also came up with a compromise for the death tax, because you really shouldn't be taxed again when you die. Within 6 months, the IRS shows up. This is a compromise.

We are reasonable people, but we are going to continue to press the fundamentals of blocking and tackling and doing the people's business. I am encouraged that there is some momentum in this House again. I am encouraged by the leadership of this House.

I tell you what, I know this is the silly season. Next 4½ months you will hear all kind of rhetoric and all kind of talk. But America is too great to dumb it down to election-year rhetoric.

I have come to the House floor tonight to just try to rise above it. I rarely do this. I have tremendous friends on both sides of the aisle here, and I respect this institution so much. What a privilege it has been for me to be here for 12 years.

But I have to tell you, Mr. Speaker. When the going gets tough, the tough get going, and it is tough, if we left Iraq tomorrow with Sunni extremism, al Qaeda, Hezbollah.

Hamas was elected in Palestine, a terrorist organization was elected to the government, and now more people are being elected terrorists in Somalia. Terrorism is on the rise. We are on the offensive, or we are in retreat. Take your pick. Take your pick. You can't have it both ways.

I am glad this President has been strong and tough and consistent. The other people around the world are paying attention. Don't tell me Moammar Gadhafi turned over his nuclear weapons because we weren't strong. He turned them over because we were strong and consistent. He did not want to be on the list of countries that we were watching closely and concerned were aiding and abetting terrorist networks with weapons of mass destruction. So he turned them over.

This is a strong President, exerting leadership during very difficult times, extraordinarily difficult times. Because this war doesn't really have a front line, and there is no one to sign a truce or a treaty with at the end, because global terrorism now is spreading around the world through the Sunni extremism, this makes this the toughest of all fights.

It is the easiest to cast doubt about. It is the easiest to throw rocks at. There will be some rocks thrown in the next 4½ months. I think it is time for some people to come to this floor and speak out about what is at stake. Number one, the main thing that people expect of a President or this Congress is to protect them from threats.

If you don't think that Sunni extremism and radical terrorism is a threat, it is why we are working so hard in the House to secure our southern border, not come up with some notion of how to encourage other people to come here illegally, like we got out of the other body, but securing the other border, stopping the inflow of people into this country that can bring damage to us and bring harm to our people. Security is the main thing.

I tell you, in the wake of September 11, I know mistakes have been made, but I would rather be on the offensive, fighting them on our terms and their land rather than on their terms and our land. It really does boil down to that.

Again, I respect everyone who comes up with their open plan, and I believe the debate ought to come to this House for it, and we ought to do it in a civil way. But I tell you, I believe that those people that understand this threat and know historically what has been necessary to deal with these threats should come down here and defend, not only the men and women that are carrying it out, but the principle that says sometimes freedom comes with a price.

We have got to promote our way of life around the world, not be policemen around the world, but to promote freedom. Free countries do not war with one another. I believe in that. I think that is a Bush doctrine, and I believe in that. Twenty-two Arab League countries, none of them really have our form of government.

□ 2130

None of them really freely elect their leaders. None of them really respect the dignity of an individual. None of them really give women full rights and privileges. None of them really have freedom of the press, freedom of religion, freedom of thought. Those are the kind of freedoms that will contain and eliminate terrorism over time.

This is a bold proposition. It is a world-changing proposition. I actually believe it is the right thing to do.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman from Tennessee, and I wish to associate myself with every remark made here in this spontaneous demonstration of Mr. WAMP's heart and head and involvement in this big effort that we have. I don't think it can be overemphasized, and I am going to make it a point to go back and look at the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and read through those words again. Sometimes there is a gem that shows up here on the floor; and this is something that happened tonight, Mr. Speaker. I do greatly appreciate it.

I want to emphasize that I believe that our United States military that is involved in this conflict, this global war on terror, it is the very highest quality military ever sent off to war. And I don't say that to diminish the contribution on the part of anybody, especially the greatest generation or those wars that came behind. I say this

to build on top of that reputation, not diminish it.

But some of the reasons we heard from Mr. WAMP were, first of all, they are an all-volunteer service. And not only that, they are people that have all volunteered for this conflict, because this conflict has gone on long enough that everyone had a chance to re up. So everybody that is in uniform got to consider the current state of conflict globally, and they signed back up again in numbers far larger than ever anticipated.

They said, I am going back for a second tour, I will go back for a third tour, I will put my life on the line, and I will certainly put it on hold for a year or more to give the Iraqi people a chance at freedom. Because they believe, as Zach Wamp and I believe and as President Bush believes, that we never go to war against another free people. Free people resolve their differences at the ballot box, not on the battlefield. That demonstration of that has been true throughout history, and it can be true in the Middle East as well.

I continually point out this example, and that is on 9 November, 1989, when the Berlin Wall went down, when people climbed over the top of it and chiseled pieces of it out and broke champagne bottles on it and families were reunited, the story in the mainstream media was all about how families were reunited, and they seemed to think it was all a personal thing, that now they didn't have to write letters across the wall or maybe wave through the Brandenburg Gate at each other or go to Checkpoint Charlie and figure out how they might get through.

No, it wasn't about that. It wasn't about that at all. It was about the end of the Cold War. It was about the Iron Curtain crashing down November 9, 1989, not predicted until you look back at Ronald Reagan when he said, Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall. And the people tore down the wall out of a desire for freedom.

That desire for freedom, once that wall went down, November 9, 1989, within about 2 to 3 short years, freedom echoed across eastern Europe, almost bloodlessly. And I will say virtually bloodlessly in the single most significant historical event of my lifetime, the end of the Cold War, Mr. Speaker. That freedom that echoed across eastern Europe for hundreds of millions of people can be the same freedom echoing across the Arab world for hundreds of millions of people. And that is a formula for a final victory in the global war on terror.

But not until then. Because there is a habitat that breeds terrorists. There is religious fanatical beliefs that their path to salvation is in killing people who are not like them. And we are some of their preferred targets. Wherever we are, they will attack us until that ideology is defeated. You have got to do it boots on the ground there, and you have got to give people freedom

and hope, and that is what we have been doing ever since September 11, 2001. The American people have voted on that issue. They have elected their Commander-in-Chief.

I heard these Presidential debates in Iowa. First in the Nation caucuses and continually eight or nine and sometimes ten candidates for the White House would get up every morning and decide what can I say to tear down President Bush. And they would have advisory teams out there trying to find soft spots that they could attack the President on. They didn't stand up and debate the differences between them as candidates, to determine who would be the nominee for the presidency. They decided that they would line up and take shots at the President. Whoever could be the most aggressive criticizer of the President presumably would be the one who then won the nomination and went on to run for the presidency and perhaps the White House.

That is when Howard Dean melted down, JOHN KERRY emerged. The JOHN KERRY who stood there and said over and over again, wrong war, wrong place, wrong time. First I voted for it before I voted against it. That example of leadership, that gift that kept on giving, and probably the biggest reason why we have this fine leader in the White House today is that that gift that kept on giving kept reminding the people that there was a stronger leader that had a clearer vision; and that has been true in spite of relentless, relentless attacks.

My friend from Tennessee also talked about how important it is for us to be a sovereign Nation that secures our borders; and I wish to pick up on that subject matter, Mr. Speaker.

Because, as I watch this situation, and we knew that when we were attacked by enemies from within, most of whom had violated our immigration laws in one form or another, faulty paperwork or let their visas expire, entered into the United States by a method that may or may not have been legal, but certainly the majority of them were not legal at the time that they attacked the United States, the 19 hijackers from September 11, tell us that if they want to come here to do us ill, then we needed to secure our borders.

So we got busy and spent a lot of money and set up a lot of new standards; and we have things now that are halfway in place, like US VISIT, where we have a computer database now that tracks everybody that comes into America, that is not quite yet tracking everybody that goes out of America, so we don't have a balance sheet list of who is here. We just have a list of who came. If they come back again, then we can presume that they left and went home again and then came back again. But, other than that, we have not caught up with US VISIT.

We set up the security in our airports where it is locked down tight. Yes, they make mistakes and sometimes

things get through. But for a while there, you couldn't get a nail clipper onto an airplane without them breaking off the file that you might use to clean your nails and file them with. That is how tight it has gotten. And our matches and cigarette lighters, things like that have been shut off of our airplanes. So we have done a lot. We have done a lot to create a TSA that is there protecting our airports.

And we are doing a better job at our ports. In fact, the job that is being done at our ports is far better than the critics would have you believe, because it has got a random and statistical selection process of these containers that are sealed containers, and it is more important than opening every one and looking through them to use our resources to pick which ones to open, which ones to x-ray, which ones to look through.

In fact, I have been the witness to some of that success as they have gone through sealed containers in our ports and uncovered contraband material that is in there.

But our most porous and most open vulnerability that we have, Mr. Speaker, is the vulnerability in the 2000-mile border between us and Mexico. Down there, when you have that kind of travel of people flowing across the border, and I sit on the Immigration Subcommittee, and for now 3½ years, I have heard continual testimony, nearly every week, that deals with how many people are coming across our border. And that number, the most consistent number that I come up with as I listen to this testimony from border patrol officers, high-ranking officials, it is their job to know this, and they will say that, well, that number is perhaps four million a year coming across our southern border. Four million. And they will testify that they stop 25 to 33 percent, a fourth to a third of those that seek to come across our borders, which means you have a positive opportunity, a chance, the odds are better that if you want to come into the United States illegally across the southern border, it is better that you make it that you don't.

We stopped, out of that four million that come across the border a year ago, we had stopped 1,159,000. That was for 2004. For 2005, we stopped 1,188,000 of those. Most of those were put on a bus, turned around and taken down to the port of entry, and they got off the bus, and they watched them walk through. Some of them got picked up within 24 hours when they came back in again.

We have a catch and release program that will stop them seven to 14 times before we adjudicate them and punish them, rather than just take them back.

But I would be happy again to yield to my friend from Tennessee at any time.

Mr. WAMP. I think, Mr. Speaker, in all fairness, we should point to some successes by the Department of Homeland Security since last September in

changing the policy from catch and release to catch and return. As I tell people back home in Tennessee, that the policy really was, going back to 1986, that you would actually release people coming across the southern border that were apprehended, you know, pending a court date. And there is always a chuckle in the audience because they know that that illegal immigrant would not show up for court. And so effectively the policy allowed them to come into this country and disappear.

But I have just got to say, the folks that I represent, and this is really where we need to stay focused, the people back home, they know that we have a system in this country that people who are sick can walk into the emergency room of safety net hospitals and receive free health care, regardless of their ability to pay, regardless of their socioeconomic condition or even whether they are a citizen of this country. And as long as we have that system, then that system is very much at risk if we allow the continued increase of illegal immigration into this country.

Now, they also say all we really care about, you people in Washington need to know is that you secure the southern border and slow and hopefully stop the influx of illegal immigration across the southern border.

I had a person ask me this past Saturday, at home at a meeting, what about the Canadian border? Well, it is important, too, but that is not where the influx of illegal immigration is coming across. It is the southern border.

So you have got to go, you know, the hunters go where the ducks are. You know, if you are trying to stop the flow of illegal immigration, you go where it is happening. And the lawless environment on our southern border demands action.

People say, well, you can't build the Great Wall of China on the southern border. You don't have to. In this day and age, you can put a protective fence around your yard of your home to keep your animals from leaving that you can't see. If you can do that, you can have the technology with a protective barrier. Some of it is going to be a fence, literally. Some of it is going to be the latest in technology.

But, listen, and I know the gentleman who is sitting in the Chair tonight knows from his extraordinary service in Homeland Security, we have not deployed the technology that we have available to us in the area of homeland security. You talk about US VISIT. It is going fast now. But through biometrics and the latest in technology, we are actually going to be able to keep track of people from all around the world. We really are.

We are almost at 300 million people in this country. But in terms of our intellectual capability and the advancement of technology, we are so close to being able to keep track of these people coming across the border and also

deploy systems, technologically, to detect people coming across the border, all across the southern border.

So job one is secure that border. The other thing my people are concerned about are illegal immigrants tapping into Social Security, which we already know is under great stress and duress, and Medicare. The greatest government expenses now are Social Security and Medicare. These are guarantees to people that reach a certain age in the work force or 65 for health care, and we cannot allow a system that invites people into that system that haven't paid into that system.

And I have got to tell you, the legislation we see coming out of the other body, it is a recipe for more Social Security deficits in this country, because it will invite illegal immigrants into the Social Security system. We cannot tolerate that. So if anybody thinks we are heartless, we are protecting, honest to goodness, we are protecting seniors by securing the border and not going for an amnesty plan to blanket people into this country.

Listen, I had a young lady come up to me a few years ago, not more than three, in Cleveland, Tennessee. She was from eastern Europe. She came up to me; and she, too, had a teary eyed, choking voice and said, Congressman, it took me over 5 years to become a United States citizen. I worked an hourly job, and it cost me several thousand dollars for a long period of time to become a U.S. citizen. And the day that I received my citizenship, she had a real strong eastern European accent, she said, it was the happiest day of my life. And her eyes gleamed, and she said, please do not dishonor my commitment by granting citizenship to people who came here illegally.

Let me tell you, that is something that is lost in this debate. What about the people who did go through the effort to do it right? What about the people who we, you know, we embrace immigration. The history of this country is embracing immigration. We want people to immigrate here; and, frankly, we want people to come here and work.

I have got to tell you, a lot of people that are coming across the southern border are hard-working people. No question about it. But just because they are hard-working people and just because they are providing a benefit to us doesn't mean we have to say, okay, we are going to stamp you as a citizen because you came here illegally.

□ 2145

No. That doesn't mean that. As a matter of fact, that means we are throwing the rule of law out the window. We are watering it down. Let me tell you, once you go down that slippery slope of not honoring the rule of law all the time, that is one of the things that on this floor is debated and frankly in strong support for making sure that everyone is held accountable under the rule of law and that no one is exempt from the rule of law. No one.

No Member of Congress is exempt from the law. No one is. So why would we embrace this notion that illegal immigration is okay and that those folks too will become citizens? No. There is a process that you go through, and we want to honor that process and honor the commitments made by those who came here legally.

Another tough issue, no question, and we face many. I think the fundamentals are as challenging as they have been in 30 years right now in this country. But as I said earlier, when the going gets tough, the tough get going. It is time for us to step up. Every generation sooner or later is called on to meet these great challenges, and our generation is meeting those great challenges.

I have to say that I think the Greatest Generation, the World War II generation, from September 11 forward is looking at our generation saying, I will be darned, they do have what it takes. They have stepped up. I know that a lot of people say we are the "me" generation and that we are selfish. No. I see people giving back. I see a lot of our sons and daughters, every parent of a person in our military today, they are giving back. Our sons and daughters are giving back. They are stepping up to meet our generation's challenge. So we have got to pull together, Mr. Speaker.

And I thank the gentleman from Iowa for letting me weigh in.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman and appreciate his delivery here on the floor.

I would point out for his edification that at that town where you met that lady in Cleveland, Tennessee, is where I believe this suit was made. You will be glad to know that I look around to find American-made suits, and I buy them off the rack in Denison, Iowa, and I am proud to do it.

I appreciate that contribution to this succession here tonight as well. And I point out also, Mr. Speaker, that it isn't just Americans that believe this way. It isn't just Americans that concur with the statements of Mr. WAMP and myself, but I have a survey in front of me. That survey is of the Hispanics in America, and some of these polls are this: that opposing increasing overall levels of immigration, overall immigrations of immigration, legal or illegal, 56 percent of Hispanics oppose it, and 31 percent say let us go ahead and increase the levels of immigration. But 56 percent, a significant majority, are opposed to increasing those levels of immigration.

Benefits for illegal aliens, 60 percent of Hispanics oppose; 20 percent support benefits for illegal aliens. And then even a guest worker program is kind of split. It leans a little bit in favor of a guest worker program, but it is not decidedly in favor of that.

A pathway to citizenship, Hispanics in America oppose that for people who are in this country illegally today, 52 to 38 percent.

So this is not something that alienates Hispanics in America when you stand up for the rule of law. It is one of the reasons they came here. And they followed the law. They jumped through the hoops, and they respect this. And they want us to honor their citizenship and support this rule of law and also defend our border.

And the time I spent on the border, and there have been a number of times that I have gone down and invested my time there, I sit down had and, of course, I meet with the highest ranking people that are there, and I see the display of all the equipment that they have and the technology they use and the tactics that they use, and the effectiveness that comes with that gives me a nice warm feeling.

Then I go back down there, and I sit alongside the border, and I talk with the rank-and-file people that are the boots on the ground, Mr. Speaker, and I listen to what they have to say. I listen to the Texas border sheriffs, what they have to say, and the local law enforcement along through Arizona as well, and I come up with a little bit different picture. And that picture is, as I said earlier, 4 million people pouring across our southern border every year; and yet if we appropriate the funds requested by the President, it will be \$8 billion to protect our sovereign border, 8 billion. And yet the numbers of illegal crossings are going up, not going down. The dollars' worth of illegal drugs coming across the border are going up, not going down.

So one would think if money were the answer, if we just threw more money at it, and we had more Border Patrol officers and we had the National Guard down there that the border crossings would go down. Well, they will in some areas until they retool and do their end-run and go through the areas that are vulnerable. And the President has said that we simply cannot stop people at the border that want to come here for a better life. If they want jobs to provide for their families, they are going to come. That has kind of been his answer and it is almost the same tone. As he contends that we cannot stop people that want to come here for jobs, I would argue that we can. In fact, of the forces pushing on our southern border, the easiest force to stop is the one of the honest hard-working people that just want to have a job and a better way of life. Those are the easier ones to stop. And if we cannot stop them, then we sure in the world are not going to be able to stop the criminals, the terrorists, those that want to come here to do us ill, those that are carrying \$65 billion worth of illegal drugs across our border.

That is a tremendous amount of force, \$65 billion pushing against our border and the drugs that come through there. Ninety percent of the illegal drugs in the United States come across the border from Mexico. Has anyone heard the Commander in Chief

speaking about that subject matter? Has that been uttered in a press conference? Is it anything that seems to be part of the lexicon or the rhetoric that comes from the White House? And I think no. But I think that needs to be a very big part of this debate. If we want to take a position that we cannot stop honest people from coming into the United States, why do we think we can stop the dishonest ones that want to come into the United States?

And that is why I contend that the time that I spent on the border, the time that I sat down there in the dark and listened to the illegals unload from their vehicles that drive up near the border, get out, pick up their backpacks and infiltrate into the United States, those that I have seen that are crossing illegally, the things that you see in the streets, 500,000 marching in the streets of Los Angeles with Mexican flags, that ought to give us an image to go by. They are feeling so confident, so self-assured, so strong that they go to the streets to demonstrate against us, thinking that they will scare us into granting them amnesty.

I mean, the threat of can you imagine a lawn that wasn't neatly trimmed or can you imagine having to cook your own steaks? Some of those things are arguments that have been made, Mr. Speaker. So I think the American people did get a message from that. I think they understand that there is a growing force here in the United States, and it is growing faster than 450,000 or so a year illegals coming in, growing faster than most realize.

Because if 4 million come in and we stop a little over 1 million and take those physically back to the border and watch them go back through the turnstile, some are back the next day. Some are not going back to the border because the Mexican consulate has all of the credentials for them to have access to our stations everywhere along the border, and they decide which ones go back and which ones do not. Now, why do we let the Mexican Government decide that? That is the same mentality of one who would write into a bill that we have to go consult with Mexico before we could build a fence on our southern border.

Now, I do not disagree with the gentleman from Tennessee. There is a lot of technology that we ought to be using. But I am a little bit more of a fellow that says I know what does work. We do not know that the technology works. I hope it does, but I know what does work. And as I sat down there on that border and I watched them catching drug dealers and pulling 180 pounds of marijuana out from underneath the bed of a truck and then hauling a Mexican across the border from Mexico that had been stabbed in the liver in a knife fight that just happened while I was there, those incidents come along so often that it is just part of the daily life down there. And the only way that you

can shut that off with that force is to build a fence and a wall.

And I do not submit that we do all 2,000 miles all at once. I submit that we do so where the highest pressure is, and then when they start going around the end, extend the fence and extend the wall. But I would put a 10-foot high chain link fence on that border. And I would put that fence all the way. We need to define the border, and "virtually" does not define the border. So I would put a 10-foot high wall. I would put razor wire on top. I would put a sign on the south side about every 200 feet in Spanish that says: Here is the Web page you can check with your wireless laptop, how to get in connection with the U.S. consulate and how you come to the United States legally. Go apply here. Do not be knocking on the gate on this fence because it is not open unless you have the credentials to come here legally.

Every nation has to do that. And as they begin to tear down that 10-foot high chain link fence and cut holes through it and do it like I saw them down there south of Lukeville where they had cut through the chain link fence and chained it back up again and put a hinge in there and a gate through our chain link fence with a double padlock on it and a great big guard dog on the Mexican side, that is their passage into the United States, Mr. Speaker, and it has got to be shut off. Those are people who mean us ill will.

So I am going to submit this: this box, before I cut the notch in it, this represents, let us say, the New Mexico, the Arizona, and the Texas part of the border, maybe part of California. Now, just plain old desert. We go in here to build this wall and we dig a trench through here. This is, Mr. Speaker, the trench that one would dig. And as we dig this trench, we build some machines up in Iowa that do a good job. They are the kind of machines that you pull this trencher along here, and as you do that, you pull the slipformer in behind it, and you pour a slipformer of about a 5-foot-deep tongue down in here. And it has got a slot in it, a notch in it. And you move along with that trencher and that slipformer, pouring a footing for this concrete wall that goes across the desert. A 5-foot-deep slot in it with a foundation so that it holds the vertical wall up and it is rigid.

And then you get a footing that looks something like this. It won't quite be above the ground, Mr. Speaker, because this area right here would be flush with the ground. But, nonetheless, one gets the image here that we are working with.

And then you bring in truckloads of these precast concrete panels. These panels would be 10 feet wide, about 12½ feet tall, tongue and groove, reinforced with steel, and you would just pick them up with a crane. They weigh about 188 pounds, and you drop them in the slot one at a time. The first one would go in like that. Then you pick up the second one and you put it in like

this. And pretty soon we end up with a wall here that will keep illegals out. It will keep the illegals out, and it will also keep out the drug runners, the smugglers, the terrorists.

And this is a pretty quick operation. It is not hard to do at all. Our little construction company, which I sold to my oldest son, could do about a mile of this a day. Now, we are not going to be in the business of bidding this. I want to tell you that in the beginning. That is not my interest. I am just taking my background, Mr. Speaker, and using it to demonstrate how simple it is to put together a design that they are not going to get across.

Now, it doesn't mean that they are not going to have some kind of human catapult and launch people across it or that they will not design and build some kind of a 12-foot-high ladder. Yes, they will. But it is not going to be that easy because we are going to put some of this wire right on top of there called concertina wire, or razor wire. I only put on one roll, but you could put on two or three, set that the concrete. We can then put cameras on the backside, if we choose, or on the front side. This would be about 100 feet inside the chain link fence. So there would be 100 feet of no man's land that one could patrol. So they would have to come through our 10 feet high chain link fence on the south side with the razor wire on top of that. And they will try to do that.

When they get to this wall, they would probably carry their 12-foot ladder through the fence. They would put it up on top and they would try to get over here on this side. They do not know what is over here. They cannot see the sensors, the cameras, the vibration sensors, the infrared, whatever is there that would trigger our warning, and that will let the Border Patrol converge on that area.

We can shut this traffic off going across our southern border at least 90 percent and maybe even a number approaching 100 percent if we make a commitment to the manpower to patrol a wall like this. And it will take far less manpower. We are spending \$8 billion on our southern border, \$8 billion. That is \$4 million a mile. And I would say this: if you would pay me \$4 million and say, Steve, you protect that mile, I am going to protect that mile. There will not be a species of anything getting across that mile if that is what my contract says.

So I will submit that the easiest way to do that with the least amount of manpower is build a fence, build a wall. This can be constructed for about \$1.3 million a mile. One point three, when we are spending \$4 million for that mile, every mile, to wear out Humvees and have our Border Patrol park on the X and watch people come through, sometimes a border that is not even marked, let alone fenced. And if it is fenced, it is not even a barrier for human beings.

We are talking about building a lot of fences along the border that are vehicle

barriers so semi-trucks full of marijuana cannot get through and straight trucks full of marijuana cannot get through and pickup trucks that have drugs in them, it is harder for them to get through.

But, still, what they do is they just create burros, pack horses, human pack horses. So they will bring the drugs up to the border, and if there is a vehicle barrier there, they will throw their marijuana through, their drugs through, go through and load their backpacks up with that, and each one of them carries 50 pounds of drugs, 25 miles across the desert, up to a pre-determined location point where they will then take their packs and toss them in the back of the semi or the straight truck.

□ 2200

Some of those people then, the illegals that are carrying drugs in that pack train, the burros in the pack train, climb in the truck and they go on into the United States. Some of them are continuing drug dealers. Some are criminals, some want just an honest day's work. And some turn around and walk 25 miles back down in the desert and pick up another load and come back again.

When they tell us that maybe 4 million people came into the United States, but a lot of them went back home again, some of them are going back to get another load of illegal drugs.

That is how \$65 billion worth of illegal drugs comes into the United States, and we can't stop that if we are simply going to sit down there and think that we are going to do this by a virtual approach to the border. We have to do it physically. We have to stop it.

\$20 billion gets wired back to Mexico out of the wages and labor that is there. Another \$20 million gets wired to the Caribbean and Central America from the labor of the United States of people that are here. So there is \$40 billion that goes south of the board that comes off of the labor. Out of the \$75 billion worth of labor at the hands of illegal people in the United States, most of it comes out of there. It is \$40 billion going south. Additionally, there is another \$65 billion paying for the drugs that comfort north.

So we have got altogether over \$100 billion being used for drugs and the economic incentive for Vicente Fox. Over \$100 billion. And what is the next highest economic factor in the Nation of Mexico? Oil. \$28 billion worth of oil. But this overall drug and human package for just Mexico is \$85 billion, nearly 3 times the value of the oil in Mexico.

So we must stop this. We must do it with a human barrier. We can do it with this wall. We can build this for \$1.3 million a mile. I will stand with it. We will design the machines to do it. We will build it, Mr. Speaker, and we need to stand together as a country.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. HIGGINS (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for June 27 before 4:00 p.m.

#### 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. MEEK of Florida) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. LEE, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. JONES of North Carolina) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BURGESS, for 5 minutes, June 28 and 29.

Mr. OSBORNE, for 5 minutes, June 27 and 28.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and June 27, 28, 29, and 30.

Mr. BILIRAKIS, for 5 minutes, today and June 27 and 28.

Mr. GOHMERT, for 5 minutes, today and June 27 and 28.

Mr. MCHENRY, for 5 minutes, June 27, 28, 29, and 30.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, June 27, 2006, at 9 a.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:

8253. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting a draft bill entitled, "Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) Budget proposals"; to the Committee on Agriculture.

8254. A letter from the Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Prohibition of Property Flipping in HUD's Single Family Mortgage Insurance Programs; Additional Exceptions to Time Restriction on Sales [Docket No. FR-4911-F-02] (RIN: 2502-A118) received June 16, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

8255. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Office of Special Education Programs—State Personnel Development Grants Program — received June 16, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

8256. A letter from the Deputy Assistant for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — General Order Concerning

Mayrow General Trading and Related Entities [Docket No. 060531141-6141-01] (RIN: 0694-AD76) received June 6, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on International Relations.

8257. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period October 1, 2005 through March 31, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

8258. A letter from the Chairman of the Board, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the semiannual report on activities of the Inspector General of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation for the period October 1, 2005 through March 31, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 8G(h)(2); to the Committee on Government Reform.

8259. A letter from the Inspector General, Agency for International Development, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Inspector General for the period ending March 31, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

8260. A letter from the Federal Co-Chair, Appalachian Regional Commission, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period September 30, 2005 through April 1, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 8G(h)(2); to the Committee on Government Reform.

8261. A letter from the Chairman, Broadcasting Board of Governors, transmitting a copy of the Broadcasting Board of Governors' 2005 Annual Report, pursuant to Section 305(a)(9) of the U.S. International Broadcasting Act of 1994, Pub. L. 103-236; to the Committee on Government Reform.

8262. A letter from the Chairman, Broadcasting Board of Governors, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period October 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

8263. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

8264. A letter from the Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Semiannual Management Report to Congress for October 1, 2005 through March 31, 2006, and the Inspector General's Semiannual Report for the same period, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

8265. A letter from the Attorney, Department of Transportation, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

8266. A letter from the Special Assistant to the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

8267. A letter from the Director, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's 2005 report on the Notification and Federal Employee Anti-Discrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 for the period of October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.

8268. A letter from the Director, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's 2005 report on the Notification and Federal Employee Anti-Discrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 for the period October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.

8269. A letter from the President, Ford Foundation, transmitting the Foundation's 2005 Annual Report; to the Committee on Government Reform.

8270. A letter from the Deputy Archivist of the United States, National Archives and

Records Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — NARA Facility Locations and Hours [NARA-06-0004] (RIN: 3095-AB50) received June 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

8271. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting a legislative proposal entitled, "To make technical corrections to the process for certification of Federal agencies' performance appraisal systems, and for other purposes"; to the Committee on Government Reform.

8272. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the semiannual report on the Management Decisions and Final Action on the Office of the Inspector General's Audit Recommendations for the period of October 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

8273. A letter from the Secretary, Smithsonian Institution, transmitting a copy of the Institution's audited financial statement for fiscal year 2005, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 57; to the Committee on Government Reform.

8274. A letter from the Director, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, transmitting the annual report on applications for court orders made to federal and state courts to permit the interception of wire, oral, or electronic communications during calendar year 2005, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 2519(3); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

8275. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Office of the Executive Secretariat, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Electronic Signature and Storage of Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification [BICE 2345-05; DHS-2005-0046] (RIN: 1653-AA47) received June 16, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

8276. A letter from the Acting Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting an informational copy of the General Services Administration's Fiscal Year 2007 Capital Investment and Leasing Program report, pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 2213(b); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8277. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Administrative, Procedural, and Miscellaneous (Rev. Proc. 2006-31) received June 16, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8278. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Weighted Average Interest Rate Update [Notice 2006-55] received June 9, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8279. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Pacific Gas and Electric Company v. United States, 417 F.3d 1375 (Fed. Cir. 2005), rev'd 55 Fed. Cl. 271 (2003) — received June 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8280. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Examination of Returns and Claims for Refund, Credit or Abatement; Determination of Correct Tax Liability (Rev. Proc. 2006-32) received June 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8281. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Information Returns Required with Respect to Certain Foreign Corporations and Certain Foreign-Owned Domestic Corporations [TD 9268] (RIN: 1545-BF49) received June 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8282. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Amounts Paid Pursuant to a Leave-Sharing Plan to Assist Employees Affected by a Major Disaster Declared by the President of the United States [Notice 2006-59] received June 21, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8283. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Examination of Returns and Claims for Refund, Credit, or Abatement; Determination of Correct Tax Liability (Rev. Proc. 2006-28) received June 7, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8284. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Guidance Under Section 7874 Regarding Expatriated Entities and their Foreign Parents [TD 9265] (RIN: 1545-BF48) received June 7, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8285. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Communications Excise Tax; Toll Telephone Service [Notice 2006-50] received June 7, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8286. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Definition of Regulated Investment Company (Rev. Rul. 2006-31) received June 7, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8287. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Rules for Certain Reserves (Rev. Rul. 2006-25) received June 7, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8288. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Clarification of Notice 2006-26 [Notice 2006-53] received June 7, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8289. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — 2006 Prevailing State Assumed Interest Rates; Correction (Announcement 2006-35) received June 7, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8290. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Deduction for Energy Efficient Commercial Buildings [Notice 2006-52] received June 7, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

8291. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Credit for New Qualified Alternative Motor Vehicles [Notice 2006-54] received June 7, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

[Filed on June 23, 2006]

Mr. HYDE: Committee on International Relations. House Resolution 946. Resolution requesting the President and directing the Secretary of State to provide to the House of Representatives certain documents in their possession relating to strategies and plans either designed to cause regime change in or

for the use of military force against Iran; adversely (Rep. 109-526). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER: Committee on the Judiciary. House Resolution 819. Resolution requesting the President and directing the Attorney General to submit to the House of Representatives all documents in the possession of the President and the Attorney General relating to requests made by the National Security Agency and other Federal agencies to telephone service providers requesting access to telephone communications records of persons in the United States and communications originating and terminating within the United States without a warrant (Rept. 109-527). Referred to the House Calendar.

[Submitted June 26, 2006]

Mr. SENSENBRENNER: Committee on the Judiciary. House Resolution 845. Resolution requesting the President and directing the Secretary of Defense and the Attorney General to transmit to the House of Representatives not later than 14 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, documents relating to the termination of the Department of Justice's Office of Professional Responsibility's investigation of the involvement of Department of Justice personnel in the creation and administration of the National Security Agency's warrantless surveillance program, including documents relating to Office of Professional Responsibility's request for and denial of security clearances; adversely (Rept. 109-528). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. GINGREY: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 890. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5672) making appropriations for Science, the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes (Rept. 109-529). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. SESSIONS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 891. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4973) to restore the financial solvency of the national flood insurance program, and for other purposes (Rept. 109-530). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 4761. A bill to provide for exploration, development, and production activities for mineral resources on the outer Continental Shelf, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 109-531). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

## PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska (for himself and Mr. OBERSTAR) (both by request):

H.R. 5678. A bill to provide for enhanced safety and environmental protection in pipeline transportation, to provide for enhanced reliability in the transportation of the Nation's energy products by pipeline, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Resources, 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. BOEHLERT:

H.R. 5679. A bill to establish a grant program to fund eligible joint ventures between United States and Israeli businesses and academic persons, to establish the International

Energy Advisory Board, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. WOLF, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. LEACH, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. SABO, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, and Ms. MCKINNEY):

H.R. 5680. A bill to encourage and facilitate the consolidation of security, human rights, democracy, and economic freedom in Ethiopia; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska (for himself and Mr. LOBIONDO):

H.R. 5681. A bill to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2007, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. HYDE (for himself, Mr. LANTOS, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. FALCOMA, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. CROWLEY, and Mr. ETHERIDGE):

H.R. 5682. A bill to exempt from certain requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 a proposed nuclear agreement for cooperation with India; to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, 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. HUNTER (for himself, Mr. BLIBRAY, and Mr. ISSA):

H.R. 5683. A bill to preserve the Mt. Soledad Veterans Memorial in San Diego, California, by providing for the immediate acquisition of the memorial by the United States; to the Committee on Resources, 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. BOEHNER (for himself and Mr. MORAN of Virginia) (both by request):

H.R. 5684. A bill to implement the United States-Oman Free Trade Agreement; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. KELLY (for herself, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. KING of New York, Mrs. MALONEY, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. ACKERMAN):

H.R. 5685. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 19 Front Street in Patterson, New York, as the "D. Mallory Stephens Post Office"; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 5686. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide medical assistance for certain men screened and found to have prostate cancer under a Federally funded screening program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. STUPAK:

H.R. 5687. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish and operate a community-based outpatient clinic in Alpena, Michigan; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ACKERMAN (for himself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. PENCE, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. WEXLER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr.

GRIJALVA, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mrs. MALONEY, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. HOLT, Mr. HONDA, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. PALLONE, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. KIRK, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. SCOTT of Georgia):

H. Con. Res. 435. Concurrent resolution congratulating Israel's Magen David Adom Society for achieving full membership in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. MELANCON (for himself, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. GORDON, Mr. CALVERT, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado):

H. Res. 892. A resolution recognizing the dedication of the employees at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Michoud Assembly Facility, the "Michoud Hurricane Ride-Out Team", who risked their lives during Hurricane Katrina's assault on southeast Louisiana, and kept the generators and pumps running to protect the facilities and flight hardware, and whose dedication kept the Michoud Assembly Facility an island of dry land, which made it possible to resume External Tank production less than 5 weeks after the storm passed; to the Committee on Science.

By Mr. TOWNS:

H. Res. 893. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that any reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act of 1990 should not impose catastrophic losses in funding for States with the highest prevalence of HIV/AIDS, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

## ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 147: Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H.R. 406: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.

H.R. 503: Mr. BAIRD, Mr. HYDE, and Mr. SHUSTER.

H.R. 515: Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 517: Mrs. BONO, Mr. KIND, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. COSTELLO.

H.R. 752: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.

H.R. 865: Mr. GIBBONS.

H.R. 952: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 955: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 1100: Mr. WHITFIELD.

H.R. 1243: Mr. SHADEGG.

H.R. 1366: Mr. BROWN of Ohio and Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky.

H.R. 1376: Mr. REICHERT.

H.R. 1384: Mr. HALL.

H.R. 1554: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 1671: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 1792: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 1898: Mr. BURGESS and Mr. MURPHY.

H.R. 2103: Ms. BORDALLO.

H.R. 2178: Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 2646: Mr. PEARCE.

H.R. 2679: Mr. HUNTER, Mr. AKIN, Mr. PICKERING, and Mr. BLUNT.

H.R. 2793: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 2822: Mr. ROTHMAN.

H.R. 2869: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. WYNN, and Mr. HINCHEY.

H.R. 2945: Ms. BORDALLO and Mr. WEXLER.

H.R. 2989: Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico.

H.R. 3476: Mr. LOBIONDO.

H.R. 3547: Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 3576: Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island.

H.R. 3753: Mr. BOOZMAN.

H.R. 3949: Mr. MCHENRY.  
 H.R. 4188: Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan and Mr. SIMMONS.  
 H.R. 4315: Mr. REHBERG.  
 H.R. 4366: Mr. WELDON of Florida.  
 H.R. 4416: Mrs. BIGGERT.  
 H.R. 4517: Mrs. LOWEY and Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan.  
 H.R. 4547: Mr. MURPHY.  
 H.R. 4562: Mr. ISSA, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. SODREL, Mr. BERRY, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. RUSH, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. FORTUÑO, Mr. TANNER, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. ROSS, Mr. BOUSTANY, and Mr. DAVIS of Alabama.  
 H.R. 4597: Mr. COOPER and Mr. SKELTON.  
 H.R. 4761: Mr. MURPHY and Mr. GRAVES.  
 H.R. 4794: Mr. DOYLE, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, and Mr. CARDOZA.  
 H.R. 4844: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.  
 H.R. 5005: Mrs. BLACKBURN and Mr. PENCE.  
 H.R. 5149: Mrs. CAPPS.  
 H.R. 5150: Mr. MCGOVERN.  
 H.R. 5200: Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. PORTER, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. MATHESON, Mrs. EMERSON, and Mr. BISHOP of Utah.  
 H.R. 5204: Mr. FARR.  
 H.R. 5218: Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. STARK.  
 H.R. 5229: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. WEXLER, and Mr. GALLEGLY.  
 H.R. 5247: Mr. KUCINICH.  
 H.R. 5249: Mr. EHLERS and Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida.  
 H.R. 5291: Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan and Mr. CAMPBELL of California.  
 H.R. 5319: Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan.  
 H.R. 5361: Mr. FEENEY and Mr. FERGUSON.  
 H.R. 5372: Mr. WYNN and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.  
 H.R. 5382: Mr. SOUDER.  
 H.R. 5444: Ms. HARRIS and Mr. WELDON of Florida.  
 H.R. 5468: Mr. MEEKS of New York and Mr. CROWLEY.  
 H.R. 5473: Mr. GONZALEZ.  
 H.R. 5476: Mr. KING of Iowa.  
 H.R. 5484: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Ms. FOXX, and Mr. MILLER of Florida.  
 H.R. 5493: Mrs. EMERSON.  
 H.R. 5499: Mr. SHAYS, Mr. HOBSON, Ms. HART, and Mr. BROWN of Ohio.  
 H.R. 5513: Mr. FORD, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. PORTER.  
 H.R. 5520: Mrs. BONO and Mrs. DAVIS of California.  
 H.R. 5538: Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico.  
 H.R. 5555: Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida.  
 H.R. 5556: Mr. COSTELLO.  
 H.R. 5557: Ms. LEE.  
 H.R. 5562: Mr. MCCOTTER and Mr. CONYERS.  
 H.R. 5587: Mr. PICKERING.  
 H.R. 5600: Mr. GONZALEZ and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.  
 H.R. 5601: Ms. DELAURO, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Ms. MCKINNEY.  
 H.R. 5615: Mr. RANGEL.  
 H.R. 5637: Mr. MCHENRY.  
 H.R. 5677: Mr. PLATTS.  
 H.J. Res. 86: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.  
 H.J. Res. 90: Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. ROTHMAN, and Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi.  
 H. Con. Res. 318: Mrs. CAPPS.  
 H. Con. Res. 340: Mr. KUHL of New York.

H. Con. Res. 390: Mr. DOYLE.  
 H. Con. Res. 396: Mr. McNULTY and Mr. BURTON of Indiana.  
 H. Res. 79: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. CLAY, and Mr. KILDEE.  
 H. Res. 350: Mr. ENGEL, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. FALBOMAVAEBA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, and Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan.  
 H. Res. 415: Ms. HARRIS.  
 H. Res. 526: Mr. ENGEL.  
 H. Res. 533: Ms. BORDALLO.  
 H. Res. 723: Mr. BACHUS, Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. KING of New York.  
 H. Res. 759: Ms. SOLIS and Mrs. LOWEY.  
 H. Res. 760: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.  
 H. Res. 800: Mr. SCHIFF and Mrs. MYRICK.  
 H. Res. 848: Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. McNULTY, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.  
 H. Res. 854: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, and Mr. MANZULLO.  
 H. Res. 858: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.  
 H. Res. 860: Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. LANTOS, and Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD.  
 H. Res. 874: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. REHBERG, and Mr. PAUL.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 4973

OFFERED BY: Mr. BURTON OF INDIANA  
 AMENDMENT No. 1: Page 29, after line 2, insert the following new section:

**SEC. 17. NOTIFICATION AND APPEAL OF MAP CHANGES; NOTIFICATION OF ESTABLISHMENT OF FLOOD ELEVATIONS.**

Section 1363 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4104) is amended by striking the section designation and all that follows through the end of subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“SEC. 1363. (a) In establishing projected flood elevations for land use purposes with respect to any community pursuant to section 1361, the Director shall first propose such determinations—

“(1) by providing the chief executive officer of each community affected by the proposed elevations, by certified mail, with a return receipt requested, notice of the elevations, including a copy of the maps for the elevations for such community and a statement explaining the process under this section to appeal for changes in such elevations;

“(2) by causing notice of such elevations to be published in the Federal Register, which notice shall include information sufficient to identify the elevation determinations and the communities affected, information explaining how to obtain copies of the elevations, and a statement explaining the process under this section to appeal for changes in the elevations;

“(3) by publishing the elevations in a prominent local newspaper; and

“(4) by providing written notification, by first class mail, to each owner of real property affected by the proposed elevations of—

“(A) the status of such property, both prior to and after the effective date of the proposed determination, with respect to flood zone and flood insurance requirements under this Act and the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973;

“(B) the process under this section to appeal a flood elevation determination; and

“(C) the mailing address and phone number of a person the owner may contact for more information or to initiate an appeal.”.

H.R. 4973

OFFERED BY: Mr. JINDAL

AMENDMENT No. 2: At the end of the bill, add the following new section (and conform the table of contents accordingly):

**SEC. 20. ELIGIBILITY OF PROPERTY DEMOLITION AND REBUILDING FOR MITIGATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

Section 1366(e)(5)(B) of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4104c(e)(5)(B)) is amended by inserting after “flood risk” the following: “, or the demolition and rebuilding of structures located in such areas to at least Base Flood elevation or any greater elevation required by any local ordinance”.

H.R. 5672

OFFERED BY: Mr. CARDOZA

AMENDMENT No. 1: At the end of the bill (before the short title), add the following:

**TITLE VIII—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS**

SEC. 801. For “OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS—JUSTICE ASSISTANCE” for the Drug Endangered Children grant program, as authorized by section 755 of the USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-177), and the amounts otherwise provided by this Act for “BUREAU OF THE CENSUS—SALARIES AND EXPENSES” (reduced by \$10,000,000) and for “OTHER—SALARIES AND EXPENSES, DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT” (reduced by \$10,000,000) are hereby reduced by, \$20,000,000.

H.R. 5672

OFFERED BY: Mr. CHOCOLA

AMENDMENT No. 2: Page 110, after line 8, insert the following new title:

**TITLE VIII—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS**

SEC. 801. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for travel policies and practices in contravention of Office of Management and Budget circular No. A-126.

H.R. 5672

OFFERED BY: Mr. CHOCOLA

AMENDMENT No. 3: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

**TITLE VIII—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS**

SEC. 801. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for business class or first class airline travel by employees of the Department of State in contravention of 41 CFR 301-10.122 through 301-10.124.

H.R. 5672

OFFERED BY: Ms. DEGETTE

AMENDMENT No. 4: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

**TITLE VIII—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS**

SEC. 801. The amounts otherwise provided by this Act are revised by increasing the amount made available for “OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS JUSTICE ASSISTANCE” (consisting of an additional \$5,000,000 for Internet Crimes Against Children Task Forces, as authorized by Public Law 105-119) and reducing the amount made available under title I for “DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION SALARIES AND EXPENSES”, by \$5,000,000.

H.R. 5672

OFFERED BY: Mr. GARRETT OF NEW JERSEY

AMENDMENT No. 5: Page 110, after line 8, insert the following:

**TITLE VIII—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS**

SEC. 801. 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 from a Federal department or agency at any single conference occurring outside the United States.

H.R. 5672

OFFERED BY: MR. GINGREY

AMENDMENT No. 6: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

**TITLE VIII—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS**

SEC. 801. None of the funds made available in title IV of the Act may be used for negotiating the participation of additional countries under the visa waiver program described in section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1187).

H.R. 5672

OFFERED BY: MR. HEFLEY

AMENDMENT No. 7: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

**TITLE VIII—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS**

SEC. 801. Total appropriations made in this Act are hereby reduced by \$598,390,000.

H.R. 5672

OFFERED BY: MS. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON OF TEXAS

AMENDMENT No. 8: At the end of the bill (before the short title), add the following:

**TITLE VIII—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS**

SEC. 801. The amounts otherwise provided by this Act are revised by reducing the amount made available for "DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND RELATED AGENCY—ADMINISTRATION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS—EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS", and increasing the amount made available for "OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS—JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAMS", by \$9,872,000.

H.R. 5672

OFFERED BY: MS. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON OF TEXAS

AMENDMENT No. 9: At the end of the bill (before the short title), add the following:

**TITLE VIII—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS**

SEC. 801. For "OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS—JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAMS" for the Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Block Grant program, as authorized by Part C of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, and the amount otherwise provided by this Act for "BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS—INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING OPERATIONS" is hereby reduced by, \$33,452,000.

H.R. 5672

OFFERED BY: MR. LYNCH

AMENDMENT No. 10: Page 26, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert the following: "(increased by \$30,000,000)".

Page 26, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert the following: "(increased by \$30,000,000)".

Page 39, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert the following: "(reduced by \$15,000,000)".

Page 39, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert the following: "(reduced by \$15,000,000)".

Page 40, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert the following: "(reduced by \$15,000,000)".

H.R. 5672

OFFERED BY: MR. MICA

AMENDMENT No. 11: Page 36, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert the following "(increased by \$15,000,000)".

Page 62, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert the following: "(reduced by \$15,000,000)".

Page 62, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert the following: "(reduced by \$15,000,000)".

H.R. 5672

OFFERED BY: MR. MICA

AMENDMENT No. 12: Page 36, line 8, after the first dollar amount, insert the following: "(increased by \$131,900,000)".

Page 36, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert the following: "(increased by \$131,900,000)".

Page 62, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert the following: "(reduced by \$131,900,000)".

H.R. 5672

OFFERED BY: MR. MICA

AMENDMENT No. 13: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

**TITLE VIII—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS**

SEC. 801. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used in contravention of the Buy American Act (41 U.S.C. 10a et seq.).

H.R. 5672

OFFERED BY: MR. MICA

AMENDMENT No. 14: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

**TITLE VIII—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS**

SEC. 801. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by the United States and Foreign Commercial Service (USFCS) to close any USFCS office in a foreign country unless the Government of the United States has withdrawn all personnel from the United States Embassy, missions, and other United States Government offices in such foreign country.

H.R. 5672

OFFERED BY: MR. MICA

AMENDMENT No. 15: Page 36, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert the following "(increased by \$3,000,000)".

Page 36, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert the following "(increased by \$3,000,000)".

Page 62, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert the following: "(reduced by \$3,000,000)".

Page 62, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert the following: "(reduced by \$3,000,000)".

H.R. 5672

OFFERED BY: MRS. MUSGRAVE

AMENDMENT No. 16: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to carry out section 924(p) of title 18, United States Code.

H.R. 5672

OFFERED BY: MR. PALLONE

AMENDMENT No. 17: Page 50, line 21, insert "(decreased by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)" after "\$52,760,000".

H.R. 5672

OFFERED BY: MR. POE

AMENDMENT No. 18: At the end of the bill, insert after the last section (preceding the short title), the following:

**TITLE VIII—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS**

SEC. 801. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by the Secretary of State to implement a plan under section 7209 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (8 U.S.C. 1185 note) that permits travel into the United States from foreign countries using any document other than a passport to denote citizenship and identity.

H.R. 5672

OFFERED BY: MR. ROGERS OF MICHIGAN

AMENDMENT No. 19: Page 39, line 21, after the first dollar amount insert "(reduced by \$4,700,000)".

Page 39, line 25, after the dollar amount insert "(reduced by \$4,600,000)".

Page 40, line 10, after the dollar amount insert "(reduced by \$4,700,000)".

Page 45, line 16, after the dollar amount insert "(increased by \$14,000,000)".

H.R. 5672

OFFERED BY: MR. STEARNS

AMENDMENT No. 20: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

**TITLE VIII—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS**

SEC. 801. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for the design, renovation, construction, or rental of any headquarters for the United Nations in any location in the United States.

H.R. 5672

OFFERED BY: MR. STEARNS

AMENDMENT No. 21: At the end of the bill (before the short title), add the following:

**TITLE VIII—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS**

SEC. 801. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to carry out any provision of section 203 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 1973aa-1a).

H.R. 5672

OFFERED BY: MR. STEARNS

AMENDMENT No. 22: Page 16, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$500,000)".

Page 67, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$500,000)".

H.R. 5672

OFFERED BY: MR. STEARNS

AMENDMENT No. 23: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

**TITLE VIII—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS**

SEC. 801. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico for new projects located solely in Mexico until Mexico enforces its northern border.

H.R. 5672

OFFERED BY: MR. STEARNS

AMENDMENT No. 24: Page 27, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert the following: "(increased by \$2,000,000)" and conform the aggregate amount set forth on page 26, line 6, accordingly.

Page 86, line 17, after the second dollar amount, insert the following: "(reduced by \$3,000,000)" and conform the aggregate amount set forth on page 86, line 17, accordingly.

H.R. 5672

OFFERED BY: MR. TANCREDO

AMENDMENT No. 25: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

TITLE VIII—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 801. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to enforce any of the

provisions in the Memorandum to all Department and Agency Executive Secretaries dated, February 2, 2001, and entitled "Guidelines on Relations With Taiwan".

H.R. 5672

OFFERED BY: MR. TERRY

AMENDMENT No. 26: Page 23, line 4, after the dollar amount insert "(increased by \$50,000,000)".

Page 23, line 9, after the dollar amount insert "(increased by \$50,000,000)".

Page 55, line 21, after the dollar amount insert "(reduced by \$50,000,000)".