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House of Representatives

The House met at 8:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOYER).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 17, 2008.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STENY H. HOYER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Dr. Alan N. Keiran, Chief of Staff, Office of the Senate Chaplain, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, creator of heaven and Earth, as we open this legislative day, we pause to consider the grandeur of Your creative genius. We are struck by the vastness of space and the countless heavenly bodies that light the night sky. Likewise, we observe with awe and wonder Your magnificent handiwork in the advent of springtime, often being moved to worship You for the botanic beauty we are privileged to enjoy. To You alone, O God most high, belong all praise and glory.

We pray for Your grace to guide the Members and former Members of this body on this very special day, as they serve those who have elected them to public office and the Nation we all love.

We also pray for all those who are attending the Pontiff's mass this morning, that they would sense Your presence in life-changing ways. May Your spirit empower people of faith to seek You with all their hearts and minds.

We pause as well to pray for those in harm's way and their families. Be with those wearing the cloth of our Nation in the long watches of the night in places far from home. Bring them solace in times of deep loneliness and hope for a joyous homecoming.

May we all know Your peace that passes understanding, Your hope that sustains us in times of trial, and Your love that fills the deepest recesses of our hearts.

We pray in the Name that is above every name. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. MCNULTY 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.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Thursday April 10, 2008, the House will stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair to receive the former Members of Congress.

Accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 35 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

RECEPTION OF FORMER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

The Speaker pro tempore presided.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. On behalf of the House, I consider it a great honor on behalf of Speaker PELOSI, Leader BOEHNER and myself to welcome not only former colleagues but very good friends. I am particularly pleased to recognize the former Speaker of the House, Bob Michel. I know that's technically not accurate. I tried to get him the votes to get that office, but another person intervened. But we are certainly pleased to recognize and welcome back the distinguished minority leader to the House, a good friend. I, of course, somewhat parochial, particularly want to recognize my good friend, Senator Joe Tydings. When I first ran for the Maryland State Senate, I had a little tiny brochure. On the front page of that brochure were two people—Senator Tydings, who had been elected in 1964 and myself in 1966—both former Presidents of the Young Democrats of Maryland, walking down the street. So to that extent, if you're really upset with my being here, Senator Tydings has some responsibility for that. You can talk to him.

Also, the first Young Democrats convention I attended, the President of the Young Democrats of Maryland was a gentleman named Goodloe Byron. Goodloe E. Byron. He served with me in the State Senate. He came to Congress before me, tragically passed away at an extraordinarily young age, and his wife, as all of you know, succeeded him. A friend of mine for 40 years—she was 7 at the time when we first met—Beverly Byron. It's particularly good to recognize you and to welcome all of you back to the House.

The Chair will now recognize the Honorable Dennis Hertel. It's a particular pleasure for me to recognize Dennis Hertel because, as some of you know, he came to the Congress the same year I came to the Congress. He left the Congress not at the request of the citizens of Michigan but at the request of the citizens who served in the State legislature. They divided his district up not in three ways but in four

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ways, all that had Democratic incumbents. He chose not to take any of them on. They were all relieved by that. You have done well in choosing him as your leader for this year.

The chair is yours.

Mr. HERTEL (presiding). I want to thank Leader HOYER, not only for his very kind remarks today and for taking the time to be with us but the fact that he has always come to help us with our one day of session here as former Members of Congress. It's very, very much appreciated that Leader HOYER with his busy schedule always has time to come forward for us.

Mr. Jim Slattery from Kansas, the President of our Association, cannot be with us today because he has left our position as President of the Former Members Association to become a candidate for the United States Senate in Kansas for the Democratic nomination. And so because he is pursuing that worthy goal, we have Jay Rhodes, who has been our Vice President from Arizona and done such an excellent job. Jay will step up to become President of the Association and take on those duties today.

The Chair recognizes Jay Rhodes of Arizona, the acting President of the Association of Former Members of Congress.

Mr. RHODES. I apologize for a little delay in getting things going. There's been some confusion about the access to the floor of our international guests who have always been welcomed to the floor during this ceremony but for some reason that has not occurred, so they will be in the galleries. I'm sorry about that. That's not the way we wanted things to happen.

Mr. HOYER, thank you very much. And thank you for giving us access to the Chamber. We have a very special event, if you will, which is to honor a very distinguished statesman, the former majority leader of the United States Senate, Senator George Mitchell of Maine. As far as I am concerned, that's the highest rank that you have achieved. You have achieved others, but being the majority leader of the Senate is something to behold and something to beholden to. We are proud that you are a member of our Association, the Former Members of Congress, and we are proud to recognize your service to our country as majority leader. As a peacekeeper. I think you had more success in making peace in Ireland than you have in baseball. But certainly your work in trying to uncover and rectify the use and misuse of performance-enhancing drugs, especially in professional baseball, is something that I know you're proud of and we're proud of. We believe that your work will have taken our national pastime and restored its luster. We are very pleased and happy that you have assisted the country again in a very important effort.

It's a great pleasure for me as the President of this Association to welcome you and to present to you our Distinguished Service Award and to ask you if you would say a few words to our group.

Mr. MITCHELL. Thank you very much, Congressman Rhodes. Thanks to Congressman HOYER and to all of our colleagues here. Let me say that I am grateful to you for the kind words, Congressman Rhodes, and grateful to all of the Members Association for the honor that you have bestowed upon me. I think it's fitting that this ceremony of former Members be held in the House Chamber.

I recall very clearly when I was elected majority leader of the Senate and I attended the first official function with the Speaker. Prior to the function, we met and I said, well, we have to decide who goes first. He said, yes. We can discuss that, he said, but I'd just like to call to your attention that the position of Speaker is mentioned in the Constitution and in the laws of the United States, but nowhere in either the Constitution or any law is there any reference to a majority leader of the United States Senate. He said, but I'm perfectly prepared to discuss who should go first.

I said, well, I think you've made it rather clear. Ever since then, I have deferred to every Speaker and, in fact, every Member of the House I ever met because it made such a powerful impression on me, about the primacy of the House of Representatives in our system of government.

Service in the Congress or in comparable bodies around the world like the Dail in Ireland, where I know there are many here today, and from Canada and other countries is, of course, a high honor and a great privilege. My service in the United States Senate, including my 6 years as Senate majority leader, was one of the highest honors of my life. I was fortunate thereafter to engage in other public service activities, including 5 years in Northern Ireland where I served as chairman of the peace negotiations and of other activities in bringing to a close the conflict in Northern Ireland. But nothing will ever for me exceed the honor of having been a Member of the United States Congress. I know that every former Member here, indeed all former Members, has shared that view. It was not very long ago, of course, that I served. Then as now, there were challenges facing our Nation. Then as now, there were differences between the parties. But I hope that now as then the current Members will rise to the challenge and be able to meet the very important problems and address the issues facing our great country and the world.

In conclusion, I thank everyone here very much. You know, for most human beings, life is in essence a never-ending search for respect. First and most important, self-respect and then the respect of others. There is no one certain route to gaining respect, but I have always felt that the best way was through service to others. And so I think that Members of Congress, despite the fact that in ours, as in every democratic society, there is a lot of criticism, a lot of complaint, nonetheless, I think every Member of Congress has earned and deserves the respect of the people for their dedication and their service to others.

Thank you all very much for this great honor.

Mr. RHODES. Senator, thank you very much for your comments. I think the significance of your comments is the fact that you and Members of the other body do recognize that it is one Congress composed of two separate and equal bodies. We appreciate that portion of your comments as much as anything else.

We do have a scrapbook with remembrances from your former colleagues, both in the House and the Senate, appreciating your service. And, of course, the plaque. Now I will read the plaque since I've got my glasses on. Actually I don't have my glasses on.

Senator, you've got a lot of these. It just says that we recognize your lifetime of service to this body, this body being the Congress, not the Senate, and to our country. And we appreciate it very, very much and we appreciate your being with us this morning.

And so I present to you, A, the scrapbook; and, B, the plaque—I hope that your wall space has room for it—again from a grateful Nation.

Thank you very, very much.

Mr. MITCHELL. I guarantee you my wall space will have room for this, a very prominent place on my wall. Thank you very much, Jay.

Mr. RHODES. Thank you, sir.

Mr. HERTEL. The Chair recognizes the distinguished majority leader, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. RHODES. Do you want to recognize Mr. HOYER or do you want me to recognize Mr. HOYER?

Mr. HERTEL. We can both recognize Mr. HOYER.

Mr. RHODES. Mr. HOYER, you're recognized.

Mr. HOYER. May I use this podium?

Mr. RHODES. You may do whatever you wish, Mr. Majority Leader.

Mr. HOYER. Let me come over here.

I tell a story when I greet, as so many of you have, constituents to the floor of the House. I tell them the story that few Members of the House did I come with a more negative perception of than John Rousselot, as you can imagine. John Rousselot had quite a reputation around the country. And I say that to them for the purpose of saying that I ended up thinking John Rousselot was one of the really delightful human beings with whom I served, notwithstanding our deep disagreements. Some of you who served during his term will recall, as we know, John had a problem with his leg, but he used to delight, as you recall, going over to that rostrum and talking to you us. You remember that, Bob, I am sure, very well. He did it, however, not in a confrontational way but with a twinkle in his eye, as if to say, I'm coming over

here and I'm going to tell you guys what you really ought to be doing. And I really always enjoyed it.

When Jay said, well, I'm not going to speak from that rostrum, I'm going to come over here, it reminded me of that.

Unfortunately, as all of you know through the years now, the aisle has become more a wall than an aisle. A division has grown. I lament, I really do, Bob Michel's loss from the House and from the country's service in this body—he still serves our country as all of you do as well—because he was, with Tip O'Neill, two unifying leaders who tried to bring us together, not agreeing necessarily but disagree in a sense of trying to get together to solve problems with our different perspectives being involved. As all of you know, I have a deep affection for Bob Michel for that reason. But I always come here—before I was majority leader I came here—because I want to thank all of you for the service you have given to our country, the friendship you have given to me and so many others in this body.

Some of you I see on a regular basis. The Historical Society obviously making such a continued contribution. I saw Ben Gilman 2 days ago at a breakfast at which I spoke. But I really wanted to reiterate the welcome of Speaker PELOSI to all of you back to the House.

I also want to recognize our friends, and I'm not sure which one of you are here, from Great Britain, from Ireland. As a matter of fact, I think there are 19 Irish Parliamentarians here. There are a couple from Greece and New Zealand; Great Britain, as I said; and Canada. So we have five nations represented who with the United States have something in common with one of them, Great Britain. And we have much in common with all of us. We welcome you to the House. You are friends and great allies at a time of challenge for the global community, both in terms of economics, in terms of terrorism, in terms of moving our international community towards a more peaceful resolution of its problems.

Senator Mitchell. Did he leave? I'm sorry. I should have said that at the beginning. I was going to invite Senator Mitchell, based upon his experience in Northern Ireland, if he might visit us here and see if he can resolve the differences between the Senate and the House. I thought that might be a very useful contribution to the country. We're having some problems. You may have noticed. The Senate is a strange body, Senator Tydings. We're trying to work with them, but it is very difficult.

In any event, I want to welcome all of you back and thank you for what you have done for our country on both sides of the aisle, as Americans, not as Republicans or as Democrats but as Americans, and say how honored I am to have the opportunity to join with you on this day when you return, to remember what you have done here, but to also remember the friendships that we have made here.

Good luck to you. Thank you very much.

Mr. HERTEL. I want to thank the majority leader. Let me say that it's very appropriate that my Republican friend Mr. Rhodes and I both introduced the majority leader because if there was an award for statesmanship for an incumbent, I think our majority leader would certainly achieve that.

It's something to always follow the model that Tip O'Neill set for us, of being bipartisan in the ways that affect our country. I remember the great affection that Tip O'Neill had for Bob Michel and how they worked together, even though they fought on issues on a daily and weekly basis of importance to our country. I remember Tip O'Neill telling me about the love he had for one of his very best friends, Jerry Ford, the President from Michigan, a Republican, who was as partisan as Tip when he was the minority leader here in the House. What I have seen in the distinguished majority leader is taking from the Speakers that I was honored to serve under, taking the intellectual abilities of Mr. Foley and the partisan aggressiveness of Mr. Wright and the wisdom and the common touch of Tip O'Neill, and that is embodied in our distinguished majority leader. He then carries forth the fact that you can be an active partisan on behalf of your party in your beliefs and at the same time reach over and work with the minority and understand their viewpoint even as you are strong and aggressive on the principles that you believe in. So we thank the distinguished majority leader again for taking the time to be with us and for his leadership on behalf of our country.

The Chair would like to also thank Mr. MCNULTY from New York. Chairman MCNULTY has always been very generous with his time, also, with the former Members and we appreciate his time today with such a busy schedule.

The Clerk will take the roll.

The Clerk called the roll of the former Members of Congress, and the following former Members answered to their names:

FORMER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS PARTICIPATING IN 38TH ANNUAL SPRING MEETING THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2008

Mr. Broyhill of North Carolina
Mr. Buechner of Missouri
Mrs. Byron of Maryland
Mr. DeNardis of Connecticut
Mr. DioGuardi of New York
Mr. Frey of Florida
Mr. Garcia of New York
Mr. Gilman of New York
Mr. Goodling of Pennsylvania
Mr. Hertel of Michigan
Mr. Hockbrueckner of New York
Mr. Hughes of New Jersey
Mrs. Kennelly of Connecticut
Mr. Konnyu of California
Mr. Kramer of Colorado
Mr. Kyros of Maine
Mrs. Long of Louisiana
Mr. McHugh of New York
Mr. Michel of Illinois
Mr. Nichols of Kansas
Mr. Parris of Virginia
Mr. Rhodes of Arizona
Mr. Sarasin of Connecticut
Mr. Shaw of Florida
Mr. Thomas of Georgia
Mr. Zeliff of New Hampshire

Mr. HERTEL. The Chair announces that 26 former Members of Congress have responded to their names.

The Chair recognizes the President of the Association, Mr. Rhodes, the distinguished gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. RHODES. Thank you, Mr. Hertel. For those of you who don't quite understand what the cast of characters is here, you would have expected that our friend Jim Slattery from Kansas would be standing here as President of the Association. Jim made a decision to return to Kansas and to run for the Senate. He also made the decision that that commitment of time and effort would not allow him to devote the time and effort that he had remaining on his term of office as President of the Association, so he did resign. The by-laws really don't say a lot about when an officer resigns to run for office again, but they do say when the President is not here, the Vice President shall act as President. And so I am technically the Vice President and I am here acting as the President. If anybody wants to challenge me, do so now or forever hold your peace. Within the ordinary course of events within the next few days or so, I will be elected to be President, and then you will have no challenge whatsoever. But I am here for Jim and I want to acknowledge Jim's service to the Association, to the Congress and to the country. He has served this Association extremely well. We have made great progress, building on progress that began about 6 years ago, or more, with Matt McHugh and then with Larry LaRocco and then with Jack Buechner. Your association has grown in stature and in numbers and in activities. We're going to outline a lot of that activity here for you today.

It is also a great pleasure for me to welcome to our meeting former Parliamentarians from Canada, from the United Kingdom, from Ireland, from Greece, and from Turkey. We are very, very honored to have you with us. We are very honored to have the kind of association that we have with your respective associations. We hope to continue to have those grow as well. And we will continue to carry out the activities that have made us, I think, a more vibrant and, I think, a more productive portion, quasi-governmental portion of the Government of the United States. We have accomplished a lot and we have a lot more to do.

I look forward very much to a 2-year term as President. I am going to be assisted very ably by Congressman Hertel, who will be the Vice President, and by Congressman Buechner, who has graciously agreed to continue in the post of Past President. I don't think Jack has a vote, but he does have

a role to play because he has been extremely active in the growth of the organization and we need his experience and we need his advice and we appreciate the fact that he is going to continue in that role. That's the last nice thing I'm going to say about you.

But I'm going to introduce you, because I want you to tell the Association what you and we have been doing in the area of democracy building.

Jack, welcome back. It is good to see you.

Mr. BUECHNER. If the gentleman will yield, I am glad to be back. I want to thank everyone for participating in the programs that we've put together on the international end of it. In particular, something new for the association is its participation in the International Election Monitors Institute, the IEMI. It's a joint project of our association with our sister organizations in Ottawa and Brussels. I am pleased that some of our Canadian and European delegates, our colleagues active in the IEMI, have made the trip to D.C. to be with us today. Of course, joining the Prime Minister of Great Britain and also the Pope. What a great time to be in Washington, D.C., for the springtime.

The first goal of our institute is to take former legislators, and I am going to use the term ''legislators'' rather than Parliamentarians or Members of Congress. I happened to see something the other day that ''parliament'' comes from the French word which is basically parle, to talk. Congress comes from the Roman word which is a gathering of enemies. And I thought, I wonder if the Founding Fathers were playing a little joke when they called it a Congress. These legislators we have taken from the EU, from the United States and Canada and we have training sessions in proper election monitoring.

It's easy to think that because you've run for office and held office that you know something about elections. Well, you may know something about a ridings in Calgary or about a congressional district in South Carolina, but that doesn't mean you know what you're doing in Chad, and we're not talking about Florida chads, we're talking about the country of Chad or someplace that is having an ongoing uprising by a minority party or a different tribal distincts. The Orange Revolution taught us a whole lot about what election observations were all about. Sometimes it was just sitting and making sure that the guys in charge—sometimes gals in charge—were not manipulating the vote. So we have been able to put together these training sessions and we've hosted other meetings. We have gotten a 3-year grant from the Canadian International Development Agency. We've sent dozens of U.S., Canadian and European former legislators who have gone through this training and are now well-versed in an actual set of responsibilities and challenges that come with election observation. A part that's very significant is a code of conduct, to make sure that when our representatives are in these different election areas, that they know what they are supposed to be doing and what they are not supposed to be doing. This is an interesting thing, especially for United States politicians going someplace where the microscope is always on whatever it is we do. A mere stumble can sometimes, and I don't mean physically, but a turn of phrase.

One of the things that happens, you should know, is that sometimes the electoral mechanism, somebody in a country will look at one of our representatives and say, well, what do you think we should do? The inclination is, well, I'd throw that ballot out. Or I'd accept that ballot. One of the things we train our representatives to do is to be cool and to step back and to say, it's your election, not our election, and we're just here to make sure that the world knows what goes on here. Now you decide what to do with that ballot. It's a very, very powerful thing.

We have had an international delegation that went to the Morocco elections. We had 52 observers from 19 countries. We deployed to 12 regions in Morocco and visited 375 polling stations. In addition, observers participated in briefings and meetings before election day to ascertain the political and legal climate in which the Moroccan electorate could cast their votes. We saw a well-organized and transparent election on September 7. Moroccan authorities had trained polling officials well and ensured that voters were given the opportunity to cast a secret ballot without undue influence. There were reported irregularities, but the overall impression gathered by IEMI monitors was that the Government of Morocco should be congratulated on a free, fair, and transparent election process.

But one of the problems was participation. An awful lot of people said, you know, even though I've got the first opportunity to vote, I think that the King's going to influence it or the Islamic parties are going to be overrepresented, that they had the same kind of skepticism that we in the West frequently have to encounter, that low turnout of 37 percent, but a high number of protest votes. One vote we saw at the polling station said, I can't vote for any of these idiots, which is sort of the ''none of the above'' with a little more emphasis. But it showed there was an evidence for further political reform necessary in Morocco. Former Parliamentarians can play a crucial role in encouraging widespread engagement in the process. It is IEMI's hope that over the next few years leading up to Morocco's 2012 elections, former legislators will be invited to assist in developing reforms such as civic education or effective political leadership.

In addition to participating in those missions and conducting several training sessions, the IEMI has created a strategic plan which envisions its expansion over the next 5 years. Part of that vision is to become active not just in election observation missions but in democracy building work, now being carried out worldwide by U.S., Canadian and European NGOs. For example, former legislators could play a crucial role in aiding a peaceful transition of government following an election. We could work with newly elected legislators as they begin their work in a representative democracy. We could share our experience when it comes to the nuts and bolts—we all know about the nuts in the legislative branch—but, for example, the work of committees or relying on a professional staff. In many countries, there are no professional personnel to work with the legislators. I recall one of the first things that happened when I was a new member of the Association is we actually helped the Ukrainian Parliament train what were basically law students and political science students, train somebody to work with the Parliament because there was no one there. And in the Russian Duma in the early stages, if you wanted to introduce a bill, you had to actually bring enough paper to print copies for every member of the Duma. That was just one of those little things that starts a democracy rolling, but you have to deal with it. We believe that via the Institute, we are positioning ourselves to play an integral part in democracy building.

Before I yield back the floor, let me recognize Doug Rowland, if you would stand up. Doug is the President of our Canadian counterpart, our neighbor to the north, but is also the President currently of the IEMI. He deserves a round of recognition. Doug, thank you for your efforts and for all the members of the board.

With that, Mr. President, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to report on the IEMI.

Mr. RHODES. Jack, thank you very much.

Jack mentioned that the root meaning of the word ''parliament'' is talk. Jack demonstrates the fact that he really is a parliamentarian, because there's nothing about which he cannot talk at length. I wonder, though, if you know what the root meaning of the word Congress is. If you look up Congress in a dictionary, the first definition is sexual intercourse. Then it gets into what you said it was, which is conversation amongst others. Fortunately, I think that we mostly do the latter, I hope.

Another of our international programs is something that I would like to have our friend Beverly Byron from Maryland report on. We have done quite a number of external programs that Beverly is an expert on and will share her expertise with us, hopefully as a Congressman and not as a Parliamentarian.

Mr. HERTEL. The Chair recognizes the distinguished Congresswoman from Maryland, Beverly Byron.

Mrs. BYRON. I'm afraid to touch that podium after his remarks.

Mr. RHODES. I don't blame you.

Mrs. BYRON. Let me first of all thank our acting temporary President—until this afternoon.

Mr. RHODES. Are you going to challenge me?

Mrs. BYRON. Oh, I don't know. It's early in the day. I've got probably a couple of hours. You can never tell.

Let me say that I have been tasked to talk about a program that I think is one that the acting Members and the former Members have put together and have worked very hard—the Study Groups on Germany, Turkey, Japan and Mexico. I originally thought I was just going to be talking about the German Study Group which I have been interested in and have no problem with the pronunciation on the German names, but I have Turkey, Japan and Mexico. And so bear with me as we go along.

The Association serves as the secretariat for the Congressional Study Groups. Germany is the largest and most active exchange program. It is U.S. Members of Congress and Parliamentarians of Germany. It is a bipartisan organization, much as this one is, and they alternate the Chairs, Democrats and Republicans, on the U.S. side. The German group is celebrating its 25-year anniversary this year. The primary goal of the Study Group is to establish a dialogue between Members of Congress and their counterparts in the Bundestag. The group has a Distinguished Visitors Program where they bring high-ranking German elected officials to the Capitol. Last year, the Study Group on Germany organized events featuring political leaders such as Chancellor Angela Merkel; Dr. Norbert Lammert, President of the German Bundestag; and Minister Sigmar Gabriel, Federal Minister for the Environment. Every year, the Study Group brings approximately eight Members of Congress together with sometimes an equal number, sometimes more, of the German legislators for several days, focusing on discussions with a predetermined agenda. The Parliamentarians usually are joined by several former Members of Congress and former Members of the Bundestag. They also have officials of the two federal governments attending, think-tank and foundation representatives, and members of the German-American corporate community. In 2007, the annual Congress-Bundestag seminar took place in Hamburg, Germany. This year the Study Group is going to be in Utah for its 25th annual seminar and it will be taking place in the current U.S. president of that organization, Rob Bishop's, district. The upcoming program is going to discuss topics such as NATO, relations with China, and renewable energy. Our program this morning is on the energy issue. I think it's one that we all are very much interested in.

We need to thank the Study Group's supporters because it could not operate without financial support. Here comes the advertisement: Craig Kennedy and the German Marshall Fund are extremely active. The Marshall Fund has funded this program for many years. The Business Advisory Council also donates support on the administrative side of the Study Group and current companies such as Airbus, Allianz, BASF, Daimler, Deutsche Telekom, DHL Americas, EDS, Eli Lilly, Fresenius, Lufthansa, RGIT, SAP, Siemens, and Volkswagen, to name but a few.

Modeled after the Congressional Study Group on Germany, the Association has established other Study Groups. The Turkish group in 2005. Turkey as we all know is important for so many reasons: Peace in the greater Middle East, the expansion of the European Union, the transformation of NATO. The Study Group on Turkey brings current Members of Congress together with their legislative peers, government officials and business representatives in Turkey and serves currently as a platform for participants to learn about U.S.-Turkish relations firsthand. Thanks to funding from the Turkish Coalition of America, the Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey and TOBB, the German Marshall Fund also funds some of the work with the Turkish group, and a group of corporate sponsors, the Study Group on Turkey has brought important guests to Capitol Hill. That includes then Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul, who is now President of Turkey; Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Fried; and many delegations of Turkish Parliamentarians.

The Congressional Study Group on Turkey also conducts an annual U.S.-Turkey seminar. In 2007, that conference took place in Ankara and Istanbul. A congressional delegation met as we did when we were Members with high-level representatives, including Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Arinc, as well as Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan. Discussions included Iraq and Turkey's bid to join the EU. This year's seminar will take place in May in Memphis in the district of Representative Steve Cohen. Members of Congress and their counterparts in the Turkish Grand National Assembly will discuss issues such as, once again, energy security, civil society, and the Middle East.

The Association also serves as the secretariat for the Congressional Study Group on Japan. This was founded in 1993 in cooperation with the East-West Center in Hawaii. The Congressional Study Group on Japan is a bipartisan group of 89 Members of the House and Senate. The Japanese Group arranges opportunities for Members of Congress to meet their counterparts in the Japanese Diet in addition to presentations by American and Japanese experts about various aspects of U.S.-Japanese relations. Recently featured guests have included Japanese Ambassador to the United States Ryozo Kato; then Foreign Minister Taro Aso; and Head of the U.S. Delegation to the Six-Party Talks, Ambassador Chris Hill. The Congressional Study Group on Japan is funded by the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission.

Last but not least we have the Congressional Study Group on Mexico. It is a unique organization in that it serves as a bipartisan forum of legislators and congressional staffers to engage in issue-specific dialogue with Mexican elected officials and government representatives. By being involved in the group, the two countries' political decision-makers receive a comprehensive picture of the issues revolving around U.S.-Mexico relations. We are working closely with the Woodrow Wilson Center on the Mexico project.

These Study Groups are examples of how the Former Members Association can provide an educational service to current Members and working together furthering issues for our Nation. I look forward to being a part of the Study Groups. I think those of you that are not involved in it would get a great deal of satisfaction in having an opportunity to see that we are still continuing as former Members in many of the areas and issues that we have been involved in.

I thank you, the new acting-temporary-prospective President, for the time this morning.

Mr. RHODES. Thank you, Congresswoman Byron, very much not only for your remarks but for your participation. It's very valuable to all of us. As Beverly has said, the value of these Study Groups is bilateral. I think that we and our sitting Members whom we involve in these exchanges learn a lot and I think that the counterparts in the other countries also learn from us, and we learn basically that many of our problems are very, very similar. It's fascinating and it's a great experience.

I next want to have Matt McHugh come forward and report to you on our various student-based exchange programs which we loosely call Congress to Campus. Matt has been intimately involved in the expansion and growth of the Congress to Campus Program which has been dramatic and a very great reward to an awful lot of former Members of Congress and hopefully to some students out there in the world. But from time to time, Matt, I think we learn more than they do. Matt is a longtime, very, very valuable member of the Association and we appreciate very much everything that you do for us.

Mr. MCHUGH. Thanks very much, Jay.

As he indicated, my role this morning is to present our report on the Congress to Campus Program which as many of you know is now run exclusively by our Association in cooperation with the Stennis Center. David Skaggs, who did such a great job for us for some years, is now the Secretary of Education in Colorado. But the transition from his organization, the Council

on Excellence in Government, has been very smooth and successful. As most of you know, the Congress to Campus Program is the Association's flagship program for our members. It sends bipartisan teams of former Members to colleges, universities and high schools across the country to educate the next generation of leaders on the importance of civic engagement. The participating students benefit from the interaction with our Association members whose knowledge and experience, as we know, are a unique resource. But at the same time our members benefit, as Jay has said, through our continued involvement in public service and the ability to engage these young people on issues of importance to them.

During each visit, our bipartisan team conducts classes, meets individually with students and faculty, speaks to campus media, participates in both campus and community forums, and meets with local citizens. Institutions are encouraged to market our visits to the entire campus community, not just to those students who are majoring in political science, history or government. Over the course of 2½ days, hundreds of students are exposed to the former Members' message regarding the significance of public service. There is one more visit scheduled for this academic year, after which we begin recruiting schools for next year. The program has made both domestic and international visits this academic year, including a visit to campuses in the United Kingdom and Canada and, for the first time, two separate visits to campuses in Mexico. By the end of next week, the program will have made 26 campus visits in this academic year. More than 30 members of our Association have made visits this academic year, and I want to take the opportunity to thank all of you who have participated in the program and certainly encourage those of you who have not had the opportunity as yet to do so, it's a great experience for us.

I also want to extend our thanks to the campuses, the faculty and staff members and students who worked so diligently on each of these visits. Without their hard work, these visits would not have been possible. We rely heavily on the universities to take the lead in coordinating logistics relating to each visit and appreciate the time they devote to ensuring their students will receive the benefits of the program.

We have also continued, as I mentioned at the beginning, our relationship with the Stennis Center for Public Service in the administration of the program. Association and Stennis Center staff work very closely together on a day-by-day basis to make the program such a great success. We appreciate both the staff support and the steady financial contribution we get from the Stennis Center each area. We look forward to working with them in the years ahead as well.

I am also pleased to announce that in the next academic year for the first time we will be receiving a financial contribution and some support from the Joyce and Donald Rumsfeld Foundation. The Foundation's generous grant will enable our Association to reach out to more students and more schools, many of whom have not participated in the past. And so on behalf of our members, I want to thank Secretary Rumsfeld for recognizing the importance of our reaching out to the next generation of leaders.

We have also continued working with the People to People Ambassador Program that brings young people to our Nation's capital for a week of events centered on the concepts of character and leadership. These students are far younger than those who participate in the Congress to Campus activities, but they have already demonstrated a commitment to the ideals that the Congress to Campus Program seeks to promote. The Association's involvement in this program allows our members living in the Washington area to speak to these younger students on the importance of public service and to answer any questions they might have. A number of our members, as you know, are working full time still and the People to People engagements allow them to continue their public service in this particular way. The events are typically held in the early morning at suburban locations. Again, I want to thank all of our colleagues who have participated in this program. I want to mention in particular our colleague Orval Hansen of Idaho. I don't know if Orval is here this morning. If not, he deserves recognition, because he has made it to nine of these visits early in the morning to meet with these younger students, seven of those visits in the last month alone. That is enormous dedication, and we are grateful to him in particular.

I want to conclude by again expressing appreciation to all of those who have made the Congress to Campus Program such a great success and by encouraging all of my friends here to participate. As you know, a democracy can prosper only if its citizens are engaged, and as former legislators we have a particular responsibility, I think, to encourage others to do so, particularly our young people.

Thank you very much.

Mr. RHODES. Matt, thank you very much. I just want to echo what Matt says about the Person to Person program. I've participated in one, which started at 6:45 a.m. in far out Bethesda. This is all junior high school kids. At 6:45 they are up and dressed and scrubbed and raring to go. I'm standing there saying, what am I doing out here at 6:45 in the morning? It's worth it.

I want to emphasize what Matt emphasized, which is that the purpose of this kind of activity is not to say to a kid, this is how you prepare yourself to run for Congress, or to run for public office. The purpose is to say to them, a career in public service is a career worth pursuing. Public service encompasses a whole lot of things. Being a teacher, being a fireman, being a policeman, a garbage collector or, like a garbage collector, a Congressman. But the point is to emphasize to the young people that public service is not a career to be shunned, it's a career to be sought.

Matt, your leadership on this is greatly appreciated.

My next project is to try to introduce a real hero for the Association. It's difficult to do because he knows he's a hero and will tell you himself if I don't do it. Lou Frey has served as President of the Association, and for the last 11 years Lou has chaired our annual dinner which, as I think you probably all know, is the lifeblood of the Association. When it became clear, Beverly, that I was going to become President, I called Lou and I said to him, Lou, you've got to do it 2 more years. Lou said, I can't. I'm tired. I'm tired of the whole thing. I don't want to do it.

I said, Lou, please?

And he said, Okay, I'm in for 2 more.

Lou has not only done the dinner, he has started several other projects for us. I would call upon the Honorable Member from the State of Florida, Mr. Frey, to enlighten us as to what he has been doing. We would all like to know.

Mr. FREY. Thank you, Jay. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

I would first like to also acknowledge the tremendous work that your predecessor, Jim Slattery, did. He did an incredible job. He worked incredibly hard. You two worked together to give us great leadership as I'm sure that you and Dennis will do the same. I did start the Statesmanship Dinner 11 years ago and it was a good idea. The only bad one was not figuring out who was going to be the chairman of it. We still haven't done too good a job on that. This was our most successful dinner. We honored all the women who have served in the Congress and were serving in the Congress. Speaker PELOSI was kind enough to come and accept the award. And also Lindy Boggs was the honorary chairman whom we all dearly love. She and Cokie were there. It was a really, really nice event. Beverly Byron did a great deal of work; Nancy Johnson. Incredible group they had to help us raise money. It was the biggest crowd we've ever had, thanks to the efforts of many of the women who served in the Congress. As you know, that is our big fund-raising event and we use it for a lot of different activities.

One of the things that we have found in my State, and I'm sure it isn't true in your State, but basically we are civically illiterate. Forty percent of the adults in Florida cannot tell you the three branches of government. Seventy-three percent of the fourth graders in a multiple choice test can't pick out the Constitution as our leading document. I'm talking about my State. I happen to have seen the statistics, and I would suggest that maybe we're not alone in this area. But in Florida

we don't teach civics. Many States in our country don't teach civics. One of the things that we have been trying to look at as an organization is how do we reach out to the students. How do we reach out to the teachers so that they'll have something to turn to if they're interested in teaching civics. Of course, one of the answers is the Internet. What we did last year is we experimented with programs that the former Members would do on key issues and used the Internet to get it out to high schools and colleges around the country. That worked pretty good. This year we're going to take it to another step. We're going to really put together a library, if you will, for teachers. We're working with the Presidential Classroom teachers, we're going to work with the institute that I have, and the former Members.

Let's take a subject like electoral college. We will have a 50-minute lesson plan for teachers, 30 minutes will be a discussion by the former Members on that issue, 20 minutes for the teachers themselves. We'll put maybe 50 of these together over the next 3 or 4 years so that the teachers all around the country can punch in for free, get that lesson plan, and teach civics. How in the world can you have a country that is as great as ours and the people don't know what they have? Thomas Jefferson said a country that's half ignorant never was and never will be free. We've probably lost a couple of generations. I'm not sure how we'll ever get those back. But we are not going to lose the younger generation. We're going to reach out to them as we're doing in these programs, the stuff that Matt is doing. I think we can make an incredible difference in terms of our young people, not preaching party but preaching what we have and what our country's about. So they'll make a decision. Whatever it will be, we may agree or disagree, but at least it will be a decision based on some facts and on some knowledge.

I want to thank many of you for help with the book we're writing, the second edition of the Former Members book. As you know, the first edition is used in many colleges. The second one, if you haven't sent your final ideas in on your rules of politics, please do. It will go to the publisher in August. We were honored about a month and a half before President Ford died, I had been trying to get him for really a couple of years to do it, he sent us five pages on what his political rules of life were, which will be really interesting. That book will be out certainly in August. We hope that it will add to what teachers can use, not necessarily from an academic style but as a supplement to what really goes on in this wonderful place.

I want you to know that, according to the Washington Post, we're back for an annual ''schmoozefest'' and it will get ''boozy'' tonight. I don't know where the reporter is to listen to all these things that this group is doing. I'm very proud to be part of this. I'm proud of how we continue to put back. This is not really a social organization anymore. It is really an organization of people who have given to the country and now can't give 100 percent but try and give as much as they can back to this country. It is certainly needed. I don't think there's any group of people who have more knowledge, who have more ability and don't have any skin in the game in terms of any personal involvement in what's going on.

I thank each and every one of you for what you're doing. I think it's great. I think, as the President said, there's a lot more we can do, and we will do. Thanks to this organization, a lot of young people and people not only here but with our colleagues, a lot of people around the world are going to have more idea of what's going on and why understanding what we've been given in this great country is really worthwhile.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Mr. RHODES. Lou, thank you.

I'm going to insert something into the script here that wasn't here, but I'm going to ask you to help us as far as the dinner is concerned because one of the greatest conundrums that we face is trying to identify somebody whom we, A, should honor; B, would like to honor; and, C, who will sell tables. If you have any thoughts and suggestions along those lines, we would greatly appreciate hearing them. Quickly.

A couple of other programs that we have going that you should know about. One is a golf tournament. We've had the golf tournament for quite a few years. It brings together sitting Members and former Members. This is generally not bipartisan. We generally pit each other against each other on a partisan basis. But it's fun. But this year we've changed the format slightly and it is going to be a charitable event, and we hope that that will expand it greatly. The charity is a fund for disabled veterans, especially veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan. The tournament is on July 14 at the Army/Navy Club. I encourage you, A, to participate; and, B, to encourage others to participate as well. I think it's a cause that we all would agree is well worthwhile.

I should tell you that the Association sponsors, on a sporadic basis but generally biennially, a study trip for our members abroad. Last fall we took about 40 of our members to Ireland. In retribution, the former members of the Irish Parliament have sent 30 of their members here this week. I don't know if that's because of the way we behaved or misbehaved in Ireland. I did not go. I have talked with many of our friends who did go and the one thing that's unanimous is that they had a good time. The other thing that's unanimous is they don't know exactly what they did that was so much fun, but they had a good time. We appreciate you all being here with us very, very much. And we're coming back.

I want to take a minute to thank Jim Slattery for his service as President of the Association. Jim and I had known each other pretty well when we were both Members, but we got to know each other a lot better over the course of the last couple of years. Jim and I did a Congress to Campus visit together to Baker University in Baldwin, Kansas. It was a very, very rewarding experience. I can't emphasize enough what Matt said to you, that if you haven't done a Congress to Campus, do it. You will profit from it and you will benefit from it. And hopefully somebody else will, too. But you definitely will. You will definitely come away with the feeling that the generation that's coming up is not all bad. There are some good people and there are some very, very enthusiastic and intelligent people who want to contribute. It's well worth the time.

We have a plaque for Jim. It will read just sort of like what I said the plaque for Mr. Mitchell read, which is: Thank you very much. We appreciate your participation, your association and your friendship, and we wish you the best.

Now this is a bipartisan organization and we don't take sides. I will say to you that I wish Jim Slattery physically the best. Not necessarily politically but physically. I know that he misses us and we miss him, and we're very, very supportive of his desire to return to public service.

I want to thank Dennis Hertel and Mike Parker and Jack Buechner for their service to the Association, both current and in the future. And I want to recognize our professional staff. As any bureaucracy as we have grown more successful, we've grown more staff. We currently have five permanent staff, led by Pete Weichlein, whom you all know; but joined by Whitney Novak, who is an Executive Assistant; and Tracy Fine, who is a Program Officer; and Rebecca Zylberman, who is a Senior Program Officer. It must mean she's older than Tracy. I'm not sure what that means. And Sudha David-Wilp who is without peer in terms of what she does for us in putting together the international programs. She is terrific. Once again our great welcome to our visitors from other countries, from other former Parliaments.

Before I do the sad thing, which I really am not enthusiastic about doing, I want to recognize one particular member of our Association, and that's our former Republican leader, Mr. Michel. We appreciate your continued support, your continued activity, your continued love of your country and all that you do for all of us. Thank you for being here with us this morning, Bob.

Now I need to read the list. It seems that this list gets longer and I'm not sure what that means about all of us, but this is the list of those of our Members who have passed in the course of the past year since our last annual meeting. They are:

Robin Beard of Tennessee
Daniel Baugh Brewster of Maryland
Frank Welsh Burke of Kentucky
Julia Carson of Indiana
Donald Clancy of Ohio
Jo Ann Davis of Virginia
Mendel Davis of South Carolina
Bill Dickinson of Alabama
Jennifer Dunn of Washington
John Flynt of Georgia
Paul Gillmor of Ohio
Gilbert Gude of Maryland
Augustus Hawkins of California
Peter Hoagland of Nebraska
William Hungate of Missouri
Henry Hyde of Illinois
Tom Lantos of California
John Mackie of Michigan
Wiley Mayne of Iowa
Thomas Meskill of Connecticut
Howard Metzenbaum of Ohio
Joseph G. Minish of New Jersey
Parren J. Mitchell of Maryland
George Sangmeister of Illinois
Robert Sweeney of Ohio
Craig Thomas of Wyoming
Guy Vander Jagt of Michigan
Charles Vanik of Ohio
Joseph Waggonner of Louisiana
Robert Young of Missouri.

I would like for you to stand up and let's have just a moment of silence for our fallen comrades.

Thank you.

Mr. HOYER mentioned that things aren't as friendly and as engaging as they were when we were here. That's all true. I have thought many times sitting out there where you are about the words that we see in front of us, Justice, Tolerance and Liberty. To the extent that we have liberty, and I believe that we do, and to the extent that we have justice and I believe that we do, we're lacking in tolerance. I would say to all of us that we might take it upon ourselves to talk to our sitting colleagues from time to time and say to them, we wish you guys would get along a little better and work harder on the business of the country rather than on your own reelections and your own egos. I think that probably is almost a duty for us, to remind them that this body doesn't exist for single individuals, it exists for the body and it exists for the institution and it exists to forward the business of the country.

I don't think that that's outside the purview of the charter of the former Members of Congress. That's not lobbying an issue. It's lobbying attitude and it's lobbying getting things done. There's only one way to get into this organization, and that's to get elected. There are only three ways to leave. Two of them are not pleasant. There's nobody sitting here now who took the way out with your boots on, but several of us who left because we were defeated in elections and several of us chose to resign, or retire, but we are former Members of this institution and I think that we ought to assert ourselves with our sitting colleagues when we feel that they are not forwarding the interests of the country as much as we would like for them to do and the country would like for them to do.

Mr. Speaker, that concludes the annual report of the Former Members of Congress. And we did it 5 minutes early.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HERTEL. I want to thank the President for his presentation and his leadership today and commend him, because this is a record time for our association. I think it's because our association has gone from having some retired people that were a bit long-winded to having more and more active people and go right to the point about, as we have seen this morning, reporting on the activities of the Association, how we have reached out to the Nation and the world as far as leadership for democracy and public service.

I want to take a moment just to thank Ken Kramer, a board member, for all his leadership, Ken from Colorado; and Barbara Kennelly for her leadership on the board and with our association across the board; Mr. Zeliff from New Hampshire for all he's done in support of our association. And to go through the list of the people that made the presentations today: Mr. Buechner, who's just done such an excellent job all these years of giving advice and counsel and leading our association. Mr. Matt McHugh from New York who was past President, also who continues to demonstrate and lead in the area of public service, especially for our young people now today. Lou Frey, who has been with us all these years as past President but chairman of our Dinner Committee and without his leadership we would not have the opportunity to do the things we are doing in our country and around the world with the finances that he has helped raise, especially for our Congress to Campus Program where we now reach over 60 campuses per year.

And, finally, to thank Doug Rowland from Canada, the past President there of their parliamentary association that we helped with in their infancy but now he has shown great leadership of the highest order in the IEMI and helping us with training election monitors not only for ourselves but for other former parliamentarians in an international organization with the European Union and the association of former Canadian parliamentarians.

Let me close by just summarizing what Jay, our President, said about our staff. We simply have the best staff in Washington, D.C. I think we can say that in one sentence.

The Chair again wishes to thank all the former Members of the House for their presence here today. Before terminating these proceedings, the Chair would like to invite those former Members who did not respond when the roll was taken to give their names to the Reading Clerks for inclusion in the roll. The Chair wishes to thank the other former Members of the House for their presence here today. Good luck to you all.

The Chair would advise that the House will reconvene at approximately 10:30 a.m. this morning.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, before we adjourn, could we identify and ask our distinguished visiting Parliamentarians to rise and make them a part of our CONGRESSIONAL RECORD today.

Mr. HERTEL. They are in the gallery. We recognize them now, Mr. Gilman, and we thank them all for coming.

Our proceedings are adjourned. Thank you.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 58 minutes a.m.), the House continued in recess.

□ 1032

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. TAUSCHER) at 10 o'clock and 32 minutes a.m.

PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and that all Members and former Members who spoke during the recess have the privilege of revising and extending their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 1-minute requests per side.

A PLAN TO SUPPORT OUR ECONOMY AND OUR INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, JOHN MCCAIN has famously said that he doesn't know much about economic issues. But it's paradoxical that the Republican presidential candidate's idea for helping a troubled economy is to put people out of work and make traffic congestion worse and freight movement harder.

His proposal to stop collecting the gas tax will cut critical funding that keeps commuters, freight and our economy running. And when the trust fund is moving into deficit for the first time in our history he will only make that problem worse.

It will also lead to the loss of over 300,000 highway-related jobs, while there's no evidence that huge oil companies will cut their prices when they get this gas tax ''Holiday''. It is the

worst kind of pandering to mortgage the future to serve current political needs.

Instead, it's time for our presidential candidates to talk about their vision, their plan to support our economy and our infrastructure needs.

OLYMPIC TORCH THUGS

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, with the Olympic torch traveling the world right now, we are seeing the Chinese Government's true repressive colors. Everywhere it stops, it is accompanied by a group of Chinese guards who have been called ''thugs'' in the press.

I am not surprised that Chinese leaders would send secret police along to protect the torch, but I am surprised the United States would be so complicit in putting down dissent that they would allow members of the Chinese secret police into the United States to ensure the security of the relay.

Are we so concerned with appeasing China that we could not ensure the security of the flame ourselves?

The group designated to protect the torch is from the paramilitary People's Armed Police, the same force that helped to violently quash the recent protests in Tibet, now using brute force to ensure that protestors in cities like Paris, London and San Francisco, will not interrupt the ceremonial relay.

Maybe the Chinese need to be reminded that repression and torture are not Olympic sports.

IT'S NOT NEARLY ENOUGH

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, as many as 2.8 million Americans could lose their homes in the next 5 years due to the subprime mortgage crisis, yet the Bush administration refuses to properly address the crisis.

Last month the administration was willing to bail out Bear Stearns, but when they announced their plans to overhaul the regulation of financial institutions, they failed to properly address any of the needs of families who face the loss of their homes in the coming months.

The housing crisis demands bold action, and this House has already responded by passing legislation that would expand affordable mortgage loans opportunities to families at risk of foreclosure.

We've also passed bills that would raise Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac loan limits to increase liquidity in the mortgage market and that would increase the supply of affordable housing. And now we have a plan that would help 1.5 million homeowners afford foreclosure.

Madam Speaker, we hope the administration will join us in supporting these important bills that will provide necessary relief to those families feeling the impact of the housing crisis.

LAST CURTAIN CALL FOR FREE SPEECH IN FRANCE

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, the curtain has dropped on the stage of free speech in Paris, France for actress Brigitte Bardot. The birthplace of enlightenment has now become home to conformity and political correctness, and rigid speech control.

In France, if speech is offensive, a person can be fined and imprisoned. That's what French prosecutors are trying to do to Brigitte Bardot, claiming she incited racial hatred toward the Muslim community.

Bardot wrote comments in a letter to Nicolas Sarkozy that offended Muslims. Bardot, an animal rights activist, denounced a Muslim festival that including slaughtering sheep by saying she was ''fed up with being led by this population which is destroying us, and destroying France.''

Now the French speech control police claim it's a crime to speak ill of Muslims. So much for freedom of speech in progressive France.

Speech control is a throwback to the Dark Ages when no one could say anything bad about the king. Gone is the citizen Voltaire's philosophy of ''I may disapprove of what you say, but I will defend it to the death for you to say it.''

But today French citizens that speak their mind may face the modern day Bastille if they offend Muslims or hurt their feelings. It looks like the last curtain call for actress Brigitte Bardot and free speech in France.

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRATULATING MARK SMITH ON HIS RETIREMENT AS PRESIDENT OF THE IOWA FEDERATION OF LABOR

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

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend and my hero, Mark Smith, and to congratulate Mark on his retirement as President of the Iowa Federation of Labor.

Over the past 34 years, Mark has been a fierce advocate for Iowa's working families. He started as an instructor at the University of Iowa Labor Center in 1974; was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the Iowa Fed in 1979, and served in that position until he was elected President of the Iowa Federation of Labor in 1997.

Mark has dedicated his life to the cause of working men and women in Iowa. Protecting the rights of workers has been a long and difficult struggle, and no one has given more time and energy to the cause than Mark Smith.

Mark is living proof that one person can make an enormous difference in the lives of thousands of individuals. Many of the people he helped never knew what he did for them and never had a chance to thank him personally. I stand here today on their behalf, because I want Mark to know that nameless people here are honoring his lifetime of heroic efforts. His lifetime of service leaves a legacy that challenges future generations of labor leaders to continue his efforts to further the cause of working families.

Mark may have retired from office, but he will never retire from his real passion, speaking out against injustice and pushing people to do more to take care of each other.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER SILVIO BERLUSCONI

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, this week Silvio Berlusconi has been reelected as Prime Minister of Italy. His coalition won a strong majority in the Italian Parliament.

Prime Minister-elect Berlusconi, the conservative leader of the Forza Italia political party and the new People of Freedom party, had been a strong ally of the United States in his previous tenure as Prime Minister. No doubt his reelection will mean a strengthening of our partnership with the people of Italy who have so positively influenced American culture.

Berlusconi's election follows a growing line of European leaders, including Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany and President Nicolas Sarkozy of France, who have run on a platform of greater support for a strong alliance with America. Additional presidents promoting improved friendship with America have recently been elected in Indonesia, Serbia, Liberia, Peru, Korea and Russia.

America has earned admiration of most nations in the world, as identified yesterday by Pope Benedict XVI at the White House as he indicated America is the beacon of liberty and freedom.

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

CHILDREN ARE A PRECIOUS RESOURCE

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, as the co-chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I have worked on issues dealing with child

abuse and mentoring, questions of health care for children.

Today in Texas, a court will undertake one of the most challenging legal cases of child custody ever to have been witnessed in the United States. As a strong opponent of child abuse and misuse of our children and affirmation of how precious they are, I ask the Court to make the right and determined decisions based on individual cases. We should not judge the parental rights based upon our opposition to the views of the Fundamental Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Just as I supported the return of Elian Gonzalez to his parents, I now support the concept that these parents and children should not be divided and separated because of our opposition to some of the legal practices of their parents.

We must respect the first amendment, but also the precious right of children and parents being together. There must not be a biased determination.

The children are still our precious resource, and if no harm has been done by their parents then the courts must act in the best interests of the children.

FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION ACT

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

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, 3 years ago, I authored H.R. 2102, the Free Flow of Information Act, with my colleague RICK BOUCHER from the State of Virginia.

As a conservative who believes in limited government, I believe the only check on government power in real time is a free and independent press. And the Free Flow of Information Act is not about protecting reporters, it's about protecting the public's right to know.

American people should know, Madam Speaker, we're at a unique moment in the history of this legislation. The overwhelming bipartisan House passage of the Free Flow of Information Act has now been joined with Senate action that includes the leadership of Senator RICHARD LUGAR, Senator ARLEN SPECTER, Senator PATRICK LEAHY and others. Senator BARACK OBAMA and Senator HILLARY CLINTON add themselves as cosponsors of the bill this week, and I heartily welcome the strong endorsement of Senator JOHN MCCAIN of this legislation.

I believe there's now a bipartisan majority in both the House and the Senate to support this vital legislation and ensure the vitality of a free and independent press for generations to come.

We just need one vote in the other body. And I believe we'll put a stitch in this tear in the first amendment freedom of the press.

THIS IS THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today because I'm very concerned about statements I've heard from all three Presidential candidates over the last few weeks. We hear constantly, I will do this, I will do that, I will do this, all referring to matters that have to be adopted by the United States Congress. And I would remind them that article I, section 1 of the Constitution says, all legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States.

So while we certainly look to the President as a partner in our policies, we know, as we've seen over the last couple of years, that this President, this White House ignores, the first article of the Constitution.

I would urge all three candidates, whoever is President, whoever he or she may be in 2009, re-read the Constitution, because this is the people's House. The founders' brilliance said that the people will speak as to the laws that they will obey through their representatives in Congress.

I again urge the President, the next President to re-read the Constitution and adhere to article I. Many of us wear this button because we're very concerned that people forget that this is their House.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

(Mr. KUHL of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUHL of New York. Madam Speaker, it seems that every day we read about gas and diesel prices hitting a new record high as the pain at the pump continues to ravish hard-working Americans of their hard-earned money. The once nightmare scenario of $4 a gallon gasoline may soon become an even harsher reality.

While we have sat patiently and waited for Speaker PELOSI's commonsense solution, the cost of gas has soared $1.05 since the Democrats took the gavel. This increase represents more than a 43 percent jump in old prices. Enough is enough.

I'm sure that I'm not the only Member of Congress listening to their constituents worry about the consequences of the majority's inaction on energy legislation. And while our constituents cannot afford to drive to work or take their children to school, Democrats have voted four times to raise energy taxes in the 110th Congress.

Higher energy taxes mean higher gas prices, something that our constituents do not want or need.

It is time for Speaker PELOSI to fulfill her promise to the American people. Instead of voting to increase taxes again, Congress should immediately adopt legislation which will give America lower energy prices without raising taxes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded not to stand in the well or put documents on the podium when another Member is under recognition.

□ 1045

GIVE TAX RELIEF TO THE PEOPLE WHO REALLY NEED IT

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

Mr. HODES. Madam Speaker, while many of us are standing up for tax cuts for working middle class families, there are some on the other side who want to continue to provide tax breaks to millionaires, billionaires, and even to big oil companies earning record profits. For the last 7 years, we've watched these record giveaways to the wealthiest people and corporations turn our budget surpluses into record deficits.

The administration's fiscal mess is so bad that President Bush has borrowed more money from foreign countries than all 42 of his predecessors combined leaving our children in debt to unfriendly foreign leaders. American taxpayers are paying Iraq's bill while we have serious needs at home.

Yesterday, in my home State, New Hampshire, gas prices hit record highs, and nearly 4,300 New Hampshire families may lose their homes to foreclosure. It's time to help middle class families caught in the economic squeeze.

Now, I'm committed to changing the way Washington does business by giving tax relief to the people who truly need it. We can't fix our economy with the same policies that led to the economic slide.

WE NEED TO SEE THE DEMOCRATS' NEW PLAN FOR LOWER GAS PRICES

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

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, April 28, 2006, a press release by Anita Lowe: These skyrocketing gas prices are a reflection of the Republican energy plan. We need a long-term strategy to lower gas prices and meet our energy needs. Yet Republicans passed up a golden opportunity in major energy bills last year. Democrats have a plan to give American families the relief they deserve. Democrats, Madam Speaker, have been in charge for 16 months and gas prices have gone up over $1.25 a gallon.

April 18, 2006, in a press release, then-Minority Leader NANCY PELOSI: But

the Republicans' bills clearly have done nothing to lower gas prices as the price of a barrel of oil has settled above $70 a barrel, the highest price in our history.

Today, Madam Speaker, oil closed at $114 a barrel. Democrats have a plan to lower gas prices taking America in a new direction. We're ready to see this new plan. I don't understand why the Democratic leadership won't bring out the new plan, why there is not an outcry from their membership to see the new plan.

MR. PRESIDENT, REAL PEOPLE NEED YOUR HELP TO REDUCE OIL PRICES

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

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, let's talk about what this House has done already without any participation from our Republican colleagues or from the President of the United States.

We've passed legislation cracking down on those who would take advantage of this situation by price gouging with little to no participation from the other side of the aisle and a President's threatened veto. We've passed legislation cracking down on the multinational oil cartels who would fix prices at much damage to American consumers without little to any help from the other side of the aisle and a threatened Presidential veto. And we've passed legislation rescinding the billions in tax giveaways that the prior Congress gave to the oil companies and turned them around to give them to tax benefits for homeowners and businesses who want to invest in renewable energy without any help from the other side of the aisle and with the President threatening a veto.

Madam Speaker, people are hurting, real people, not oil company executives, and we need both sides of the aisle and the President of the United States working to fix it.

RECOGNIZE WORLD HEMOPHILIA DAY

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I'm pleased to rise today in celebration of World Hemophilia Day in which we recognize the serious challenges of those worldwide who suffer from hemophilia, a day in which we raise awareness to fight for a cure.

Hemophilia is a rare genetic disorder in which the blood doesn't clot causing excessive bleeding and easy bruising. Without proper treatment, it can lead to organ damage, serious joint and muscle problems, and terrible pain. Those with hemophilia often live in a world unknown to others, anxious about even minor injuries or cuts because what is minor for most people can be a major problem for those with hemophilia.

As a physician, I'm confident that with attention, diligence, innovation, and scientific progress, we will improve the lives of those afflicted with this troubling disease and realize a cure.

Madam Speaker, hemophilia is a daunting condition requiring vigilant care, but we see a day where patients need not fear its pain or its consequences. I'm proud to stand today in support of World Hemophilia Day.

WITH ECONOMIC DOWNTURN, IRAQ MONEY CAN BE BETTER SPENT AT HOME

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, as taxpayers filed their income tax this week, many were probably wondering just how much of their individual taxes would be invested in Iraq instead of here in the U.S. at home. Consider that every single second, the Bush administration is spending $4,000 in Iraq. That means that income taxes paid by the average taxpayer would not even cover the cost of one second of this war.

This country is already facing difficult economic times. We cannot afford to continue spending $339 million a day on a war that has no strategy for victory. If we invested one day of this sum in America instead, we could give 2.6 million American children access to medical and dental care, or we could hire more than 2,000 more border patrol agents to protect our borders. And we could send 18,000 more students to college.

Madam Speaker, at a time when Americans are getting squeezed at the pump and the supermarket and are suffering in the housing market, Washington Republicans need to realize that we should prioritize the needs of America over those of Iraq.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PROMISE OF CLEANING UP WASHINGTON?

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I come today to the floor to point out something that's really already been pointed out in the press, and that is, as they say, that the Democrats, unfortunately, have horrifically failed as the majority party getting most anything done. Now, they made promises after promises to help the American people, and maybe it's no surprise that most of those promises have come to naught and have been broken.

This is most evident by the recent Democrat budget. It includes a massive $683 billion tax increase which only further burdens our children, kills jobs, hurts small businesses, and basically just punishes the American family. And worst of all, this budget was created to finance wasteful spending and the special interests here in Washington.

So what happened to all of those promises of cleaning up Washington and cutting spending? Well, it seems they simply got lost in the shuffle of all of their spending taxpayers' dollars.

PASS A CAP-AND-TRADE SYSTEM

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

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, I want to share a little note of optimism we heard yesterday in our Global Warming and Energy Independence Committee. We had a group of venture capitalists and investors come before us, and they told us that they were supremely confident that America can create a clean-energy economy that is based on new types of technology so we can solve our global warming problem and wean ourselves off our addiction of Middle Eastern oil. It was very heartening. But they told us they need one thing to really open up the floodgates of technology. They need a cap-and-trade system to cap carbon dioxide and really spur investment.

The President yesterday gave short shrift to that. He was disappointing. We've got to provide leadership here to get this job done. His message was sort of a ''can't-do'' message for a ''can-do'' people, we Americans. Let's get this job done. Pass a cap-and-trade system. We will have a burst of new economic growth in this country.

MR. CARTER, RECONSIDER YOUR PLANS TO MEET WITH HAMAS

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, on behalf of my constituents in Tennessee's Seventh District, I rise to protest President Jimmy Carter's decision to meet with the leadership of Hamas, a group designated by the U.S. State Department as international terrorists. They see this as an outrageous act, something that is a disgrace to the men and women who have protected this Nation.

Madam Speaker, Islamo-Fascist terrorism is the plague of our time. Every American official, past and present, should stand ready to help destroy it and to eradicate its philosophy of hate. My constituents feel that by meeting with Hamas, Mr. Carter a former President, undermines the critical goal and only goads the enemy further.

I urge Mr. Carter to reconsider his ill-conceived plan, join the rest of us in our collective to eradicate Islamo-Fascist terrorism and to halt any plan to prop up the enemy.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHOULD NOT HAVE RENEWED BLACKWATER'S CONTRACT

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, only a week after the State Department renewed Blackwater's contract, the Bush administration was at it again giving more praise to Blackwater, the private military contractors. Last Friday, Ambassador Crocker said contractors ''like Blackwater are absolutely essential.''

But was it absolutely essential for Blackwater to gun down 17 innocent Iraqis? Was it absolutely essential for a Blackwater employee to kill a guard to the Vice President of Iraq? Was it absolutely essential for a Blackwater helicopter to drop CS gas on a traffic jam in Baghdad?

It has been months, and some in cases years, since these incidents and we still don't have the results of those investigations. Instead, our government has ignored those abuses and renewed Blackwater's contract and then a week later said they are absolutely essential. What kind of country do we live in where it's acceptable for the United States government to praise and reward a company that kills innocent people?

The only thing that is absolutely essential is that we end this State Department's dependence on private military contractors now.

WE NEED CAPABILITY TO CREATE OUR NEW ENERGY

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

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, the nexus between national security, energy, and the environment is one of the most important issues of our time. And on energy, I'm an all-of-the-above Republican. It is wise to conserve, and we need to promote conservation. It is wise to advance energy efficiency technologies. We need to invest. But new capacity, new energy sources are also sorely lacking. We need new national gas supplies in this country. We need refinery capacity. We need our own oil, albeit limited. But we've got to, number one, grow our capability to create energy in our country to be energy independent.

I want to talk about nuclear energy because the cars of the future are going to run off of lithium batteries, some form of electric. We've got to have new capacity. We need nuclear energy in this country to be self-sufficient even on transportation. If we're going to reduce our carbon footprint, don't leave nuclear off the table.

This is a time to come together for new energy technologies, to promote an in-tech agenda, to actually balance the budget again with a robust manufacturing economy. It's pro-American.

DEVELOPING NEW SOURCES OF FUEL

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask for us Americans to consider what is going to be best for the people of this country and stop pandering to the environmental wackos.

We have to develop alternative sources of fuel. We have to tap into our own energy sources. We have to make nuclear energy easier to put in place, to build reactors, and to make it less costly to do so. We need to tap into our own oil sources. If we're going to lower the cost of gasoline, we have to build more refineries. If we're going to lower the cost of diesel fuel, we're going to have to tap into ANWR and off the gulf coast. It's absolutely critical for our economy to do this.

We need to look for alternative sources of energy but we have energy sources here today. Let's go get them.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 5715, into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

ENSURING CONTINUED ACCESS TO STUDENT LOANS ACT OF 2008

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1107 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 5715.

□ 1100

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5715) to ensure continued availability of access to the Federal student loan program for students and families, with Mrs. TAUSCHER (Acting Chairman) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, April 16, 2008, 34 minutes remained in general debate.

The gentleman from California (Mr. MILLER) has 15½ minutes remaining and the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON) has 18½ minutes remaining.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chairman, Members of the House, today we continue the consideration of H.R. 5715, the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008. This is legislation that was reported from the Committee on Education and Labor with unanimous bipartisan support. Once again today, I want to thank my colleagues on the committee on both sides of the aisle and the staff on both sides of the committee for working in a manner which allowed us to report this bill in very short order to the House for its consideration, and on working with the Department of Education, the Secretary of Education, Margaret Spellings, for her cooperation in helping us with this legislation so that we can assure the parents, families, and students of this country that there will be no interruption in their access to student loans.

As the lending season starts to progress now, as students are getting their letters of acceptance, thinking about the next semesters of education and next year's education, as that lending season comes into its fullness, we want to make sure that there is no disruption.

We are concerned about a disruption because of the general disruption that is taking place in the Nation's credit markets, and specifically, concern about whether or not there will be a spillover onto the student loan markets so that students will have difficulty finding those loans.

We have worked with the Department of Education, we have worked with the administration, we have worked with the Republican members of the committee and our own caucus to devise a system of relief that is available to the Secretary and to the administration in the event that that should happen. And really what we're doing is three things: One, we're making sure that the existing law and the existing program for such an emergency, the Lender of Last Resort program, is functioning, that agreements are reached between the Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Treasury, and we've been told by the Secretary of Education that she has informed the members of the committee that that has been done, that the Secretary meet with the guarantee agencies that might stand in the stead of those lenders that cannot make those loans to make sure that there is a smooth transition between them and the universities and colleges, and that that program is in place.

Also, that schools are aware that they can apply to qualify for the Direct Lending program. Many colleges and universities use that today. They may want to consider that so, again, there is smooth transition should the private lending market not be able to come forward with the student loans, they could direct their students to either of those two programs.

And, finally, to try and help the private sector credit markets for student loans, as this bill does, to give standby

authority to the Secretary to purchase those government loans from the traditional lenders in the student loan field so that we might develop some liquidity in that market so that they can then take the money they receive from the Secretary and make a new tranche of student loans. If she purchases those loans, that money could only be used to provide a new set of student loans for the students for the coming year.

And we also raised the loan limit for students, for undergraduates, because we understand that the private student loan market is in very rough shape, and there are some students who use private loans to fill a small gap between the total cost of their education and what they were able to borrow. We think by raising the limit, we will be able to help most of those students in that situation.

So this is an important piece of legislation. It's legislation that we look to be acted upon in the Senate in a very timely fashion and then to be sent to the President, we believe, for his signature. And then we will have completed a series of standby authorities and a series of processes that we should be able to assure families and students that there will be no major interruption in the student lending for the remainder of this year and next year.

With that, I will reserve the balance of my time.

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

Today we are continuing the debate on H.R. 5715, the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008. This bill is a first step to prevent a crisis before it happens in the student loan program, and its consideration has come not a minute too soon. Peak lending season begins in July, and we cannot, we must not, wait until a student is denied a loan to put mechanisms in place to deal with the turmoil in the student loan market.

To date, 60 lenders have suspended their participation in all or part of the FFEL program. This includes 10 nonprofit State loan agencies affecting students in Pennsylvania, Texas, Colorado, Iowa, Indiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Hampshire and Minnesota. These are not minor players exiting the program. Nine out of the top 10 consolidation lenders have stopped offering these loans, while 20 out of the top 100 originators have stopped making Stafford and PLUS loans. These 60 lenders account for 13 percent of the total Stafford and PLUS loan volume and 76 percent of total consolidation loan volume.

In fiscal year 2006, these lenders originated more than $6.5 billion in Stafford and PLUS loans to more than 800,000 students and parents, and more than $55 billion in consolidation loans to more than 1.8 million borrowers.

The bill before us includes necessary reforms to ensure the Department of Education can respond if students have access problems as lending season gets underway. First, it will allow students to receive additional financing that will help them stay in school if they are denied private, nonfederal loans. Second, the bill clarifies aspects of the Lender of Last Resort program, easing participation for students and schools and ensuring funds will be available should they become necessary. Third, the bill ensures that lenders have the authority to provide PLUS loans to struggling parents who are facing difficulties with their home mortgage. And, fourth, the bill grants new flexibility for parents with a new optional grace period that permits parents to defer PLUS loan payments until after the children graduate.

Finally, the bill authorizes the Department of Education to invest in or agree to the future purchase of outstanding loans which could free up capital and allow lenders to make new loans in the upcoming school year.

I want to thank the chairman for moving very rapidly on this situation. That's not our modus operandi around here; generally we wait until we're in the middle of a crisis to fix this. I hope that I'm wrong in thinking that there may be a crisis coming, but I think it is very appropriate to take these positive steps to ease or prevent a problem that could arise very shortly.

I again thank the chairman for his efforts. He has not been well this week, but you wouldn't notice it. He shows up at every meeting, and he has worked very hard. I hope he takes some time over the weekend to get some rest and gets feeling better for next week.

I strongly support this bill, and I encourage my colleagues to vote for it.

Madam Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. If I might, I have one additional speaker, but the speaker is on his way to the floor. If you want to go ahead, then we will have that speaker, and I think we will yield back our time.

Mr. MCKEON. Madam Chairman, I am happy to yield 3 minutes at this time to the gentleman from Pennsylvania, ranking member on our Subcommittee for Healthy Families, Mr. PLATTS.

Mr. PLATTS. I thank the ranking member for yielding me the time.

I rise in support of H.R. 5715, the Ensuring Access to Student Loans Act. While not a complete solution to the current credit crunch that exists in the student loan market, this bill is a very important and strong starting point to ensure that students can continue to obtain affordable loans for their education.

I am especially pleased that the manager's amendment included a provision that I was planning to offer as a standalone amendment to the underlying bill. Specifically, this provision will permit the Secretary of Education to enter into forward purchasing agreements with student loan lenders when purchasing loans through the newly established secondary market. This contractual agreement will provide the necessary confidence for lenders to not only participate in the market, but to continue to originate loans for students.

Some lenders, such as the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency, PHEAA, in my home State, have recently announced that they will not be originating additional loans due to the unstable market conditions. This could result in difficulties for students in Pennsylvania, and elsewhere, in obtaining the loans they need.

It is imperative that Secretary Spellings at the Department of Education continue to work with Congress, as well as Secretary Paulson at the Department of Treasury and Chairman Bernanke at the Federal Reserve Bank, to provide access to capital sources for use in originating and purchasing loans.

Last month, I joined with the majority of my colleagues in the Pennsylvania delegation in sending a letter to Secretaries Spellings and Paulson and Chairman Bernanke requesting that they adopt both a short-term strategy to inject revenue into the student loan market and a long-term strategy to prevent future capital market disruptions.

While H.R. 5715 is a very important step in the right direction, the actions of Secretaries Spellings and Paulson and Chairman Bernanke will continue to be critically important to getting the student loan market fully back on track.

I certainly commend Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member MCKEON for bringing forward this bipartisan piece of legislation—and, as the ranking member said, in such a quick fashion—the committee leadership and staff in getting this bill to the House floor aimed at providing relief to both students and lenders.

Again, I also thank the chairman for including language in his manager's amendment providing for forward purchasing agreements. Allowing these agreements with the Department of Education will help to stabilize market conditions and thereby encourage lenders to originate more loans.

I strongly support this legislation and encourage a ''yes'' vote.

Mr. MCKEON. Madam Chairman, I am happy to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS).

Mr. SHAYS. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I appreciate the work on both sides of the aisle.

Madam Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 5715, the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act, because it is an important legislative step to addressing the liquidity shortage in the student loan market.

I would like to thank Chairman MILLER, Ranking Member MCKEON and the Education and Labor Committee in general for bringing this legislation to the floor today to ensure continued access to student loans in this time of financial strain.

This isn't a Democratic or Republican issue, this is an American issue, and I'm grateful we were able to work together to take this first step to protect our Nation's students.

The fallout of the subprime market and subsequent weakening of the credit market has destabilized what many consider to be sound investments, most notably, student loans. Investors are not hungry to invest, funds have dried up, and lenders have been unable to secure the capital they need to make new loans. All this in the aftermath of reductions in lender subsidies to the Federal Family Education Loan Program that were made in the past 3 years and have created the perfect storm in the student loan market. We should re-examine the effect of these cuts and affect swiftly if we have an over-cut in any area. What's more, lenders have backed out of the program before most students have even gone to secure their loans for next year.

We see the potential for a problem ahead, and I believe it is our job in Congress to find solutions and alternatives now, before we see a repeat of the subprime mortgage market meltdown.

When we considered the Higher Education Reauthorization bill back in February, I offered an amendment expressing a Sense of Congress that the Departments of Education and Treasury explore options within Federal financing institutions to ensure liquidity for the program providers. While I am pleased that Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member MCKEON have included this language in the bill before us today, I wonder if we would be in this situation had we worked to address this situation back in February.

Lenders who have exited the FFEL program account for 13 percent of total student loan volume in the FFEL program. What's worse, we have not entered the period of time when students will call their individual lenders for next year's loans. We need to act quickly to prevent students from being denied loans.

While I believe this bill is a good first step, we need to work with the Treasury Department to open access to Federal financing institutions like the Federal Home Loan Bank or the Federal Financing Bank.

Ultimately, this is a liquidity issue. While I am pleased the bill provides additional Federal assistance to students and their families, I am concerned that we are not getting to the heart of the matter.

□ 1115

It is alarming to think in this period of economic uncertainty we would be willing to provide anything less than the highest quality education to citizens of our Nation. Access to higher education is critical to maintaining our global competitiveness.

And, again, let me thank both the chairman and ranking member.

Mr. MCKEON. Madam Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from California is recognized for 9½ minutes.

Mr. MCKEON. Our economy is struggling, families are dealing with a higher cost of living, rising fuel costs, a struggling mortgage market, and the threat of higher taxes. The cost of a college education continues to rise, only now students and families are wondering whether they'll be able to get the loans they need to pay their tuition bills.

Like most challenges to our economy, there's no easy answer to the difficulties in our student loan programs. We will need a combination of actions, maybe some legislatively, others through regulation, that will increase liquidity and restore confidence among investors and consumers.

This bill is a first step and one that deserves bipartisan support. It signals our commitment to a strong Federal family education loan program and should help ease the minds of students and families, and it does these things without a single cost to the taxpayer.

I want to again thank Chairman MILLER for his leadership and bipartisan cooperation on this legislation. I would also like to recognize Representatives RUBÉN HINOJOSA and RIC KELLER, the chairman and senior Republican on the Higher Education Subcommittee, for their role in making this legislation a reality.

The staff deserves special recognition for their efforts to bring this bill to the floor so quickly. On my staff I would like to thank Amy Jones along with Susan Ross and Sally Stroup; on Chairman MILLER's staff, Gaby Gomez, Julie Radocchia, and Jeff Appel.

Madam Chairman, this bill is a positive first step. It's good for students and families, it's good for taxpayers, and it's good for our economy. I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes.''

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Chairman, I want to thank Mr. MCKEON for mentioning my staff and to Julie Radocchia and also that I failed to mention her birthday yesterday when I recognized her service.

Mr. BACA. Madam Chairman, I rise today to voice my strong support for H.R. 5715, the Ensuring Student Access to Federal Student Loans Act.

Access to education and equality of opportunity are rights that every American deserves.

H.R. 5715 helps to protect these rights—by ensuring the turmoil in the U.S. financial markets does not keep students from accessing the federal loans they need to pay for college.

Because of the current stress in the U.S. credit markets, these protections are necessary now more than ever.

This responsible bill increases the loan limits on federal college loans by $2,000 for undergraduate students, and also increases the total loan limits available to students over the course of their education.

H.R. 5715 also gives parents more time to begin paying off their federal PLUS loans; and helps struggling home owners by making sure that short term delinquencies in mortgage payments don't prohibit eligible parents from taking federal loans; 225 thousand students in the state of California alone use need-based student loans.

It is critical that Congress takes every step necessary to ensure the credit crunch does not prevent even one of them from receiving the education they deserve.

I urge my colleagues to help keep America the land of opportunity, and to cast a vote in favor of H.R. 5715.

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Chairman, I rise today to offer my support for H.R. 5715, the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act. As many of my colleagues are, no doubt, aware, the rupture of the housing bubble in this nation has had a ripple effect across our economy. The student loan industry has not been immune to these economic difficulties. In fact, in recent months, 57 providers of student loans have announced that they will no longer offer loans to students. This legislation is a good effort on the part of Congress to address this situation.

We should delude ourselves by believing that this legislation is a panacea, bringing a complete solution to the circumstances we find ourselves in today. By and large, the lending market will need to take actions of its own to right the tottering ship. These efforts are things that Congress is not, and should not be, in the business of mandating. But this legislation does take steps to protect students and their families by providing assurances that the opportunities to finance a college education are not jeopardized while the lending market is in flux.

Presently, experts in the field are unsure that the situation is, in fact, a ''crisis,'' pointing to a number of additional factors that may have contributed to the narrowing of the market. We will not know for several more months, when requests for student loans reach their peak, just how serious a problem we are facing. That is exactly the reason this legislation is the correct approach. It takes preventive steps to ensure that funding is available to students and their parents, if a crisis does arise. It does not create new mandates, but instead gives the Secretary of Education the authority to address potential problems.

Ensuring access to affordable student loans is of great importance to this nation, to our economy, and to our millions of students in college. I appreciate the efforts of Mr. MCKEON and Mr. MILLER to bring this legislation to the floor in such a timely manner, and hope that this bill will be enough to stave off larger problems down the road.

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Chairman, I want to commend Chairman MILLER for getting out ahead of the student lending issue before it becomes a full-fledged crisis. In March, the Education and Labor Committee heard testimony from the Secretary of Education, Margaret Spellings, and we urged her to take steps then to ensure student lending contingency plans were in place in the event of further troubles. Frankly, I was disappointed to learn that she and her team were only ''monitoring the situation.''

It is imperative that students have uninterrupted access to student loans in the event that the mortgage crisis and credit crunch further ripple through the economy. Just yesterday, Citibank's student lending division announced it was going to stop lending at many

higher education institutions, though they wouldn't name which ones. This is troubling news since Citibank is the second largest originator of federal student loans.

I met with the Connecticut Commissioner of Higher Education and the Director of Financial Aid at the University of Connecticut last month and let me tell you—they are taking this issue seriously. Financial Aid offices across the state are communicating to students and families to finalize their education financing now. I have also personally taken part in getting the word out to my constituents as well.

Thankfully, Connecticut students also have backup from the state's own loan agency, the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority, with $31 million to lend.

Right now, we don't know how deep the effects will be, but it is prudent that students and their parents are given some relief now. This bill will steer borrowers away from costlier private loans and give parents more time to pay off PLUS loans. And it is crucial that Secretary Spellings has the authority now to advance federal funds if necessary.

The federal government rushed in to bail out Bear Stearns. It is only right that we make sure that the federal government is ready to assist millions of students and families if the need arises.

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 5715, the ''Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008.''

This legislation will go a long way in helping to ensure the continued availability of Federal student loans. But it is only a first step and more needs to be done so that any student anywhere in America can attend the college of his or her choice.

Today, 80 percent of all Federal student loans are made through the Federal Family Education Loan Program—commonly known as FFELP. According to the U.S. Department of Education, 6.8 million college students and their families will borrow nearly $60 billion from State, non-profit and private lenders who participate in the Federal student loan program.

Ninety-five percent of all student loans made in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and nearly all student loans made at schools in my district are made through the FFEL program. Unfortunately, earlier this year, the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency—which was the second largest provider of Federal student loans in Pennsylvania last year—was forced to stop making Federal student loans. PHEAA's exit, along with others, from Pennsylvania's student loan market, means that nearly one-third of all borrowers in the Commonwealth must find new lenders for the upcoming academic year.

In responding to the student loan credit crunch, the Administration has said that there are 2,000 lenders. That was true, but over the past few weeks, 52 lenders, including 23 of the top 100 lenders have simply stopped making Federal student loans. This represents over 13 percent of all FFELP loans made last year.

Nineteen lenders have stopped making private education loans.

In just the days since the Education and Labor Committee approved this bill and sent it to the floor, five major participants in the FFEL program have either stopped making Federal student loans altogether or have announced plans to dramatically scale back their ability to offer Federal student loans.

In responding to the student loan credit crunch, some have said, we can make the State guaranty agencies ''Lenders of Last Resort,'' but this system has never been implemented, let alone tested.

Others have said that if lenders stop making loans, students and schools can switch to Direct Lending. Yet Secretary Spellings recently testified that Direct Lending can only accommodate about one-third of the FFELP loan volume. If that is true, what will happen to the 4.5 million students who may find themselves unable to get a Federal student loan?

And still others have said that no students have been denied college loans yet so there is no need to act.

I think most of my colleagues agree that the best time to prepare for a hurricane is before the storm hits.

That is why the stated purpose of H.R. 5715 is to ensure continued, uninterrupted access to Federal student loans. One of its provisions would authorize the Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Treasury, to purchase student loans if there is not enough loan capital to meet the needs of students and their families.

While I am pleased that the manager's amendment includes a provision that will provide borrowers with a continuity of loan servicers, and thereby keep default rates down, I am concerned that the provision authorizing the Secretary to purchase loans does not provide enough information or certainty to the marketplace to help increase access to college. Without this information, lenders may be financially unable to make new loans to new students this fall.

During the consideration of this legislation by the Rules Committee, I offered an amendment that, had it been approved, would have defined the terms under which the Secretary of Education could exercise her temporary authority to both purchase student loans and maintain a continuity of servicing in order to minimize any disruption for students and schools.

As this bill makes it way through the legislative process I hope that we will incorporate this language to define the terms under which the Secretary can exercise her temporary authority to purchase student loans more clearly than what is before us today.

Madam Chairman, I am supporting this important legislation today, but our work is not done. While we may not be in a student loan crisis today and we certainly do not want to be alarmist, the responsible thing for Congress to do is to give the Administration all of the tools necessary to head off a student loan crisis. If I am wrong about the direction of the student loan market, and we incorporate my amendment, we will have a very strong back-up plan for a rainy day. If I am right and we do nothing, millions of students could be unable to go to college.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 5715, The Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008.

I would also like to thank Chairman MILLER of the Education and Labor Committee and Chairman HINOJOSA of the Subcommittee on Higher Education, Lifelong Learning and Competitiveness for their work on this important piece of legislation.

Getting a college education has never been more important, and this bill will help ensure that students will still have access to the Federal loans they need to pay for college in the coming months.

In recent months, uncertainty in the U.S. credit markets has made it difficult for some lenders in the federally guaranteed student loan program to secure the capital needed to finance college loans. Because of this, some lenders have scaled back their lending activity.

While no student or college has reported any problems accessing Federal student aid to date, it is important that the Federal Government take steps to ensure that students will continue to have access to funds regardless of what happens in the U.S. credit markets.

A viable Federal Family Education Loan Program is extremely important in my home state of Texas. The FFELP participants provide nearly two-thirds of the student financial aid awarded annually to Texas postsecondary education students and parents contrasted to only 56 percent nationally.

Our students can now breathe a sigh of relief knowing that there will be liquidity and continued, uninterrupted access to Federal loans thanks to this bill.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 5715, ''Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008'', introduced by Representative GEORGE MILLER of California. I want to thank the Committee on Education and Labor for its efforts in this important area.

Every generation sets out to improve upon the previous generation. We teach how children that if they focus, are responsible, and work hard they can be anything. Yet we have provided a false truth for the majority of our children. Rising tuitions in higher education even at our community colleges are keeping a lot of our youth from attending college. For those that are able to attend, they are burdened by extensive loans just to buy books, attend class, and maintain housing.

Families are sending their children to school, trying to qualify for parent loans and wondering how they are going to make the payments when they are struggling to pay their mortgage and facing their own issues with possible unemployment.

In my home State of Texas, families are struggling to assist children with their education while they face an unemployment rate of 4.3 percent across the State. As of the end of last year, Texas was ranked as having the 20th highest unemployment rate (out of the 50 States). And we are not alone as States grapple with unemployment and a falling housing market.

H.R. 5715, Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act, provides much needed support to our families in a time when they most need it by specifically addressing the needs of parents, students, and even lenders. The Student loans Act would:

Increase unsubsidized loan limits for students: This bill will increase unsubsidized loan limits by $2,000 for each year of undergraduate and graduate school. It also increases the aggregate loan limits to $31,000 for dependent undergraduates and $57,500 for independent undergraduate students.

Delayed repayment of parent PLUS loans: Currently PLUS loan borrowers—parents—go into repayment 60 days after disbursement of the loan. This bill would give families an option

of not entering repayment for up to 6 months after a student leaves school.

PLUS loan eligibility for struggling homeowners: Under current law, parents with an adverse credit history are ineligible to receive a parent PLUS loan, except under extenuating circumstances. In light of the current housing market, the bill temporarily qualifies up to 180-day delinquency on home mortgages as an extenuating circumstance, therefore making it more possible for parents struggling with the current housing market to secure loans for their children.

Lender of Last Resort flexibility: The bill makes clear in statute that the Secretary of Education has the mandatory authority to advance Federal funds to Guaranty Agencies in the case that they do not have sufficient capital. Further, the bill allows a Guaranty Agency to designate a school (rather than an individual student) as a ''lender of last resort school,'' in accordance with guidelines set by the Secretary.

Authority for the Secretary of Education to purchase FFEL loan assets: The bill gives the Secretary the temporary authority, upon a determination that there is inadequate availability to meet demand for loans, to purchase loans from FFEL lenders. Such purchases could only be made in the case they are revenue-neutral or beneficial to the Federal Government.

Federal Institutions' participation: The bill includes a Sense of the Congress that the Federal Financial Institutions and entities (including the Federal Financing Bank, the Federal Home Loan Banks, and the Federal Reserve) should consider using, in consultation with the Secretaries of Education and the Treasury, available authorities, if needed, to assist in ensuring continued student loan access.

I urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 5715, Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act. Let's support education by allowing for greater flexibility, eligibility, and participation for students and their families.

Mr. KIND. Madam Chairman, I rise today in support of the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008, a bill to continue the promise Congress made in 1965 to provide all Americans, regardless of culture or socioeconomic status, greater opportunities to further their education. This bill recognizes the shared benefits to both individual Americans and to the country as a whole of ensuring future generations have the tools necessary to be successful in a vastly competitive 21st century workforce.

The opportunity for children to attend institutions of higher education is essential in preparing our future leaders. While the number of students with the academic knowledge, talent, and desire to attend and succeed in college has substantially increased over time, the necessary financial assistance has regrettably not kept pace. We must reverse this trend and uphold the Federal Government's commitment to America's schools and to all of our children.

The recent instability in financial markets has hurt more than just homeowners, and many individuals and their families are finding it difficult to secure student loans to attend college. The ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act assists future and current students by increasing unsubsidized loan limits for undergraduate and graduate students, giving parent borrowers more time before they begin paying off their Federal Plus loans and encouraging Federal financial institutions' participation in ensuring continued student loan access.

As a former member of the Education and Labor Committee, a representative of 12 institutions of higher education located in the Third Congressional District of Wisconsin, and a father of 2 school-aged boys, I recognize the importance of increased access to post-secondary education and ensuring that everyone who wishes to attend college can afford to do so. The ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act is a step in the right direction, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this important piece of legislation.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 5715, the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008. Everyone deserves access to the best possible opportunities, which include a college education. No student should be denied a college education because he or she can't afford it. That's why we must continue to find ways to increase student access to financial aid to ensure that students and their families have every possible opportunity to acquire a college education.

We can't let the current credit crisis limit any student's opportunities to receive a college education. This bill would give the Secretary of Education the tools to help schools in need find a lender and give students access to the money they need to attend school. To keep America competitive in the global market, we must continue to ensure that every student receives access to the best possible college education.

This bill serves as a preventative measure and goes a long way towards averting any possible crisis in July or August when our Nation's students and their families are looking for ways to pay for the next school year. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5715.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment printed in part A of House Report 110–590 is adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the 5-minute rule and shall be considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 5715

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008''.

SEC. 2. INCREASING UNSUBSIDIZED STAFFORD LOAN LIMITS FOR UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Subsection (d) of section 428H of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1078–8(d)) is amended to read as follows:

''(d) LOAN LIMITS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2), (3), and (4), the annual and aggregate limits for loans under this section shall be the same as those established under section 428(b)(1), less any amount received by such student pursuant to the subsidized loan program established under section 428.

''(2) LIMITS FOR GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS.—

''(A) ANNUAL LIMITS.—The maximum annual amount of loans under this section a graduate or professional student may borrow in any academic year (as defined in section 481(a)(2)) or its equivalent shall be the amount determined under paragraph (1), plus—

''(i) in the case of such a student who is a graduate or professional student attending an eligible institution, $14,000; and

''(ii) in the case of a graduate student enrolled in coursework specified in sections 484(b)(3)(B) and 484(b)(4)(B), $7,000;

except in cases where the Secretary determines, that a higher amount is warranted in order to carry out the purpose of this part with respect to students engaged in specialized training requiring exceptionally high costs of education, but the annual insurable limit per student shall not be deemed to be exceeded by a line of credit under which actual payments by the lender to the borrower will not be made in any years in excess of the annual limit.

''(B) AGGREGATE LIMIT.—The maximum aggregate amount of loans under this section a student described in subparagraph (A) may borrow shall be the amount described in paragraph (1), adjusted to reflect the increased annual limits described in subparagraph (A), as prescribed by the Secretary by regulation.

''(3) LIMITS FOR UNDERGRADUATE DEPENDENT STUDENTS.—

''(A) ANNUAL LIMITS.—The maximum annual amount of loans under this section an undergraduate dependent student (except an undergraduate dependent student whose parents are unable to borrow under section 428B or the Federal Direct PLUS Loan Program) may borrow in any academic year (as defined in section 481(a)(2)) or its equivalent shall be the sum of the amount determined under paragraph (1), plus $2,000.

''(B) AGGREGATE LIMITS.—The maximum aggregate amount of loans under this section a student described in subparagraph (A) may borrow shall be $31,000.

''(4) LIMITS FOR UNDERGRADUATE INDEPENDENT STUDENTS.—

''(A) ANNUAL LIMITS.—The maximum annual amount of loans under this section an undergraduate independent student, or an undergraduate dependent student whose parents are unable to borrow under section 428B or the Federal Direct PLUS Loan Program, may borrow in any academic year (as defined in section 481(a)(2)) or its equivalent shall be the sum of the amount determined under paragraph (1), plus—

''(i) in the case of such a student attending an eligible institution who has not completed such student's first 2 years of undergraduate study—

''(I) $6,000, if such student is enrolled in a program whose length is at least one academic year in length; or

''(II) if such student is enrolled in a program of undergraduate education which is less than one academic year, the maximum annual loan amount that such student may receive may not exceed the amount that bears the same ratio to the amount specified in clause (i) as the length of such program measured in semester, trimester, quarter, or clock hours bears to one academic year;

''(ii) in the case of such a student at an eligible institution who has successfully completed such first and second years but has not successfully completed the remainder of a program of undergraduate education—

''(I) $7,000; or

''(II) if such student is enrolled in a program of undergraduate education, the remainder of which is less than one academic

year, the maximum annual loan amount that such student may receive may not exceed the amount that bears the same ratio to the amount specified in subclause (I) as such remainder measured in semester, trimester, quarter, or clock hours bears to one academic year; and

''(iii) in the case of such a student enrolled in coursework specified in sections 484(b)(3)(B) and 484(b)(4)(B), $6,000 for coursework necessary for enrollment in an undergraduate degree or certificate program.

''(B) AGGREGATE LIMITS.—The maximum aggregate amount of loans under this section a student described in subparagraph (A) may borrow shall be $57,500.

''(5) CAPITALIZED INTEREST.—Interest capitalized shall not be deemed to exceed a maximum aggregate amount determined under subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2), (3), or (4).''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall be effective for loans issued on or after July 1, 2008.

SEC. 3. GRACE PERIOD FOR PARENT PLUS LOANS.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Section 428B(d) (20 U.S.C. 1078–2(d)) is amended by amending paragraphs (1) and (2) to read as follows:

''(1) COMMENCEMENT OF REPAYMENT.—Repayment of principal on loans made under this section shall—

''(A) commence not later than—

''(i) 60 days after the date such loan is disbursed by the lender, except as provided in clause (ii); and

''(ii) if agreed upon by a parent borrower, the day after 6 months after the date the student for whom the loan is borrowed ceases to carry at least one-half the normal full-time academic workload (as determined by the institution); and

''(B) be subject to deferral during any period during which the graduate or professional student or the parent meets the conditions required for a deferral under section 427(a)(2)(C) or 428(b)(1)(M).

''(2) CAPITALIZATION OF INTEREST.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Interest on loans made under this section—

''(i) which accrues prior to the beginning of repayment under paragraph (1)(A)(i), shall be added to the principal amount of the loan; and

''(ii) which accrues prior to the beginning of repayment under paragraph (1)(A)(ii) or during a period in which payments of principal are deferred pursuant to paragraph (1)(B) shall, if agreed upon by the borrower and the lender—

''(I) be paid monthly or quarterly; or

''(II) be added to the principal amount of the loan not more frequently than quarterly by the lender.

''(B) INSURABLE LIMITS.—Capitalization of interest under this paragraph shall not be deemed to exceed the annual insurable limit on account of the borrower.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 428(b)(7)(C) (20 U.S.C. 1078(b)(7)(C)) is amended by striking '', 428B,''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall be effective for loans issued on or after July 1, 2008.

SEC. 4. SPECIAL RULES FOR PLUS LOANS.

Section 428B(a)(3) is amended to read as follows:

''(3) SPECIAL RULES.—

''(A) PARENT BORROWERS.—Whenever necessary to carry out the provisions of this section, the terms 'student' and 'borrower' as used in this part shall include a parent borrower under this section.

''(B) EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES.—For loans made on or after July 1, 2008, and before July 1, 2009, a lender may determine that a borrower meets the extenuating circumstances requirement described in regulations promulgated by the Secretary to carry out this section or section 455 if the borrower is 180 or fewer days delinquent on their home mortgage payments.''.

SEC. 5. LENDER-OF-LAST-RESORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 428(j) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1078(j)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence of paragraph (1), by striking ''students eligible to receive interest benefits paid on their behalf under subsection (a) of this section who are otherwise unable to obtain loans under this part'' and inserting ''students and parents who are otherwise unable to obtain loans under this part (except for consolidation loans under section 428C) or who attend an institution of higher education in the State that is designated under paragraph (4)'';

(2) in paragraph (2)(B), by inserting '', in the case of students and parents applying for loans under this subsection because of an inability to otherwise obtain loans under this part (except for consolidation loans under section 428C),'' after ''lender, nor'';

(3) in paragraph (3)(C)—

(A) in the first sentence, by inserting ''or designates an institution of higher education for participation in the program under this subsection under paragraph (4),'' after ''under this part''; and

(B) in the third sentence, by inserting ''or to eligible borrowers who attend an institution in the State that is designated under paragraph (4)'' after ''problems''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) INSTITUTION-WIDE STUDENT QUALIFICATION.—Upon the request of an institution of higher education and pursuant to standards developed by the Secretary, the guaranty agency designated for a State shall designate such institution for participation in the lender-of-last-resort program under this paragraph. If the guaranty agency designates an institution under this paragraph, such agency shall make loans, in the same manner as such loans are made under paragraph (1), to students and parent borrowers of the designated institution, regardless of whether the students or parent borrowers are otherwise unable to obtain loans under this part (other than a consolidation loan under section 428C).''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 6. MANDATORY ADVANCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 421(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1071(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by striking ''programs, and'' and inserting ''programs,'';

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking ''agencies.'' and inserting ''agencies, and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) there is authorized to be appropriated, and there are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, such sums as may be necessary for the purpose of carrying out section 422(c)(7).''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 7. TEMPORARY AUTHORITY TO PURCHASE STUDENT LOANS.

(a) SPENDING AUTHORITY.—

(1) AUTHORITY GRANTED.—The first sentence of section 451(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087a(a)) is amended—

(A) by inserting ''(1)'' after ''as may be necessary''; and

(B) by inserting before the period at the end of such sentence the following: ''; and (2) for purchasing loans under section 459A''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 451(a) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1087a(a)) is further amended by striking ''Such loans shall'' and inserting ''Loans made under this part shall''.

(b) TEMPORARY AUTHORITY.—Part D of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087a et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 459 the following new section:

''SEC. 459A. TEMPORARY AUTHORITY TO PURCHASE STUDENT LOANS.

''(a) AUTHORITY TO PURCHASE.—

''(1) AUTHORITY; DETERMINATION REQUIRED.—Upon a determination by the Secretary that there is an inadequate availability of loan capital to meet the demand for loans under sections 428, 428B, or 428H, whether as a result of inadequate liquidity for such loans or for other reasons, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, is authorized to purchase from any eligible lender, as defined by section 435(d)(1), loans originated under sections 428, 428B, or 428H on or after October 1, 2003, on such terms as the Secretary, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget jointly determine are in the best interest of the United States, except that any purchase under this section shall not result in any net cost to the Federal Government, as determined jointly by the Secretary, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

''(2) REGULATIONS REQUIRED.—The Secretary, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall jointly promulgate emergency regulations and publish such emergency regulations promptly in the Federal Register concerning the purchases authorized by paragraph (1).

''(3) METHODOLOGY AND FACTORS; JUSTIFICATION REQUIRED.—Such regulations shall outline the methodology and factors that the Secretary, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall consider in evaluating the price at which to purchase loans under sections 428, 428B, or 428H, and shall include a justification of how the use of such methodology and consideration of such factors used to determine purchase price will ensure that loan purchases do not result in any net cost to the Federal Government.

''(b) PROCEEDS.—The Secretary shall require, as a condition of any purchase under subsection (a), that the funds paid by the Secretary to any eligible lender under this section shall be used in a manner consistent with ensuring continued participation of such lender in the Federal student loan programs authorized under part B of this title.

''(c) EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY.—The Secretary's authority to purchase loans under this section shall expire on July 1, 2009.''.

(c) CONTRACTING AUTHORITY.—Section 456(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087f(b)) is amended by inserting ''or purchased'' after ''loans made'' each place it appears in paragraphs (2) and (3).

SEC. 8. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is a sense of Congress that, at a time when our economy is fragile and higher education and retraining opportunities are more important than ever—

(1) the Federal financial institutions, such as the Federal Financing Bank and Federal Reserve, and federally chartered private entities such as the Federal Home Loan Banks and others, should consider, in consultation with the Secretary of Treasury and the Secretary of Education, using available authorities in a timely manner, if needed, to assist in ensuring that students and families can access Federal student loans for academic

year 2008–2009, and if needed in the subsequent academic year, in a manner that results in no increased costs to taxpayers; and

(2) any action taken as a result of such consideration should in no way limit or delay the Secretary of Education's authority to operate the lender-of-last-resort provisions of section 428(j) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (as amended by this Act), nor the authority to purchase Federal Family Education Loan Program loans, as authorized by section 459A of such Act (as added by this Act).

The Acting CHAIRMAN. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part B of the report. Each further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent of the amendment, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

PART B AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. GEORGE MILLER OF CALIFORNIA

The Acting CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part B of House Report 110–590.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Part B amendment No. 1 offered by Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California:

In section 2 of the bill—

(1) redesignate subsection (b) as subsection (c); and

(2) after subsection (a) insert the following new subsection:

(b) STUDENT ELIGIBILITY.—Loan limit increases authorized by the amendments made by this section shall be available only to students who meet the requirements of section 484(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1091(a)).

In section 428H(d) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended by section 2(a) of the bill—

(1) in clause (i) of paragraph (2)(A), strike ''$14,000'' and insert ''$12,000''; and

(2) in subclause (II) of paragraph (4)(A)(i), strike ''clause (i)'' and insert ''subclause (I)''.

In section 3 of the bill—

(1) in subsection (a), insert ''of the Higher Education Act of 1965'' after ''428B(d)''; and

(2) in subsection (b), insert ''of such Act'' after ''428(b)(7)(C)''.

In section 4 of the bill, insert ''of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1078-2(a)(3))'' after ''428B(a)(3)''.

In section 428B(a)(3) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended by section 4 of the bill, strike subparagraph (B) and insert the following:

''(B)(i) EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES.—For loans made on or after July 1, 2008, and before July 1, 2009, a lender may determine that extenuating circumstances exist under the regulations promulgated pursuant to paragraph (1)(A) if an applicant for a loan under this section is delinquent for 180 days or less on their home mortgage payments and is not more than 89 days delinquent on the repayment of any other debt.

''(ii) MASTER CALENDAR INAPPLICABLE.—Section 482 shall not apply to determinations made under clause (i).''.

In section 5(a) of the bill—

(1) in paragraph (1), strike ''students and parents'' and insert ''eligible students and parents'';

(2) in paragraph (3)(A), strike the comma after ''paragraph (4)''; and

(3) in paragraph (4), strike paragraph (4) of section 428(j) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 added by such paragraph of the bill and insert the following:

''(4) INSTITUTION-WIDE STUDENT QUALIFICATION.—Upon the request of an institution of higher education and pursuant to standards developed by the Secretary, the Secretary shall designate such institution for participation in the lender-of-last-resort program under this paragraph. If the Secretary designates an institution under this paragraph, the guaranty agency designated for the State in which the institution is located shall make loans, in the same manner as such loans are made under paragraph (1), to students and parent borrowers of the designated institution, regardless of whether the students or parent borrowers are otherwise unable to obtain loans under this part (other than a consolidation loan under section 428C).

''(5) STANDARDS DEVELOPED BY THE SECRETARY.—In developing standards with respect to paragraph (4), the Secretary may require—

''(A) an institution of higher education to demonstrate that, despite due diligence on the part of the institution, the institution has been unable to secure the commitment of lenders willing to make loans to a significant number of students attending the institution;

''(B) that, prior to making a request under such paragraph for designation for participation in the lender-of-last-resort program, an institution of higher education shall demonstrate that the institution has met a minimum threshold, as determined by the Secretary, for the number or percentage of students at such institution who have received rejections from eligible lenders for loans under this part; and

''(C) any other standards and guidelines the Secretary determines to be appropriate.''.

In section 459A of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as added by section 7 of the bill—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), insert '', or enter into forward commitments to purchase,'' after ''is authorized to purchase'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) strike ''shall be used'' and all that follows through the period and insert the following: ''shall be used (1) to ensure continued participation of such lender in the Federal student loan programs authorized under part B of this title, and (2) to originate new Federal loans to students, as authorized under part B of this title.'';

(3) redesignate subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(4) after subsection (b), insert the following new subsection:

''(c) MAINTAINING SERVICING ARRANGEMENTS.—The Secretary may, if agreed upon by an eligible lender selling loans under this section, contract with such lender for the servicing of the loans purchased, provided that—

''(1) the cost of such servicing arrangement does not exceed the cost the Federal Government would otherwise incur for the servicing of loans purchased, as determined under subsection (a); and

''(2) such servicing arrangement is in the best interest of the borrowers whose loans are purchased.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 1107, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Chairman, I rise in support of the manager's amendment to H.R. 5715, the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008. The amendment was done on a bipartisan basis with the input of the senior Republican member, Mr. MCKEON. The manager's amendment we are considering here today makes various technical changes to the legislation and additional substantive changes to ensure continued access to Federal student loans.

Specifically, the amendment makes the following changes: It targets loan limit increases to undergraduate students and families. It clarifies that only eligible students as defined under section 435(a) may qualify for these loans as with all other Federal student aid. It clarifies that at the discretion of the Secretary, a loan may continue to be serviced by the current lender. And in regard to school-wide Lender of Last Resort eligibility, it specifies that the Secretary of Education shall determine whether a school qualifies and provides criteria for the Secretary to consider in making the determination. It specifies that funds received by lenders from loan sales will be used to originate new loans. And it clarifies that, at the discretion of the Secretary, a loan purchased by the Secretary may continue to be serviced by the current lender.

Now more than ever, families deserve every assurance that we are doing all that we can to make sure that they will continue to be able to access the low-cost loans they need to pay for college, regardless of what happens in the credit markets. I am confident that our efforts, coupled with the proper planning by the Federal Government, will provide them with that guarantee.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Madam Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCKEON. Madam Chairman, I claim time in opposition, but I will not be opposing the amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

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

I want to thank Chairman MILLER for his work on this amendment. Like the underlying bill, this amendment was developed on a bipartisan basis to respond to some of the very specific challenges facing our student loan program. Although many of the challenges in this amendment are technical in nature, they will help to perfect the bill and ensure it has the impact we intend.

For instance, the purpose of this bill has never been to force a shift from the FFEL program to the Direct Loan program. That's why the amendment clarifies that if the Secretary of Education does purchase outstanding

loans, she can keep those loans with their existing servicing arrangements. This will ensure a seamless transition for students while having the intended effect of freeing up capital to make new loans.

The amendment also ensures the bill will have no cost to taxpayers. From the outset Chairman MILLER and I agreed that it was important to move a bill that made meaningful reforms without driving up spending. H.R. 5715 does exactly that.

With regard to the Lender of Last Resort program, the amendment clarifies some of the steps that must be taken in order to designate school-wide participation in this program. These reforms will be enhanced even further by the amendment that will be offered shortly by Representative PETRI.

I appreciate Chairman MILLER's willingness to include language proposed by Representative PLATTS that adds greater clarity and flexibility within the Secretary's ability to purchase loans. Although it was always our intent that this new, temporary authority would include the concept of a ''forward purchase agreement,'' this amendment makes it explicit that the Secretary can enter into agreements to purchase loans in the future. The amendment also clarifies that lenders must reinvest the proceeds from the sale of loans to the Secretary back into making new loans to students.

Once again, I want to thank Chairman MILLER for his work on this amendment and on the bill as a whole.

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chairman announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

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

PART B AMENDMENT NO. 2, AS MODIFIED, OFFERED BY MR. PETRI

The Acting CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part B of House Report 110–590.

Mr. PETRI. Madam Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Part B amendment No. 2 offered by Mr. PETRI:

At the end of section 5 of the bill, add the following new subsection:

(c) REVIEW OF INDUCEMENTS LIMITATIONS.—Within 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Education shall review, and as necessary revise, the Department of Education's regulations concerning prohibited guaranty agency inducements to eligible lenders (34 CFR 682.401(a)) to ensure that such agency's do not engage in improper inducements in the expansion of operations of the lender-of-last-resort program as authorized by the amendments made by this section. The Secretary shall submit a report on the review and revision required by this subsection to the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate within 180 days after such date of enactment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 1107, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. PETRI. Madam Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be modified by the text that I have placed at the desk.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will report the modification.

The Clerk read as follows:

Modification to part B amendment No. 2 offered by Mr. PETRI:

At the end of section 5 of the bill, add the following new subsection:

(c) REVIEW OF INDUCEMENTS LIMITATIONS.—Within 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Education shall review, and as necessary revise, the Department of Education's regulations concerning prohibited guaranty agency inducements to eligible lenders (34 CFR 682.401(e)) to ensure that such agency's do not engage in improper inducements in the expansion of operations of the lender-of-last-resort program as authorized by the amendments made by this section. The Secretary shall submit a report on the review and revision required by this subsection to the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate within 180 days after such date of enactment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN (during the reading). Without objection, the reading of the modification is dispensed with.

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the amendment is modified.

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Wisconsin is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PETRI. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

Under current law, Federal Family Education Loan Program guaranty agencies are obligated to serve as lenders of last resort to borrowers who have been denied a Federal student loan by two lenders. The legislation we are considering today puts in place measures that will permit an entire higher education institution, rather than just individuals, to participate in the Lender of Last Resort program and also clarifies the Secretary of Education's authority to advance mandatory funds to guaranty agencies to serve as the lender of last resort.

The amendment I am offering today would simply require the Secretary of Education to review and revise as necessary the regulations concerning prohibited guaranty agency inducements to ensure that such agencies do not engage in improper inducements as lenders of last resort.

Currently, guaranty agencies are provided flexibility from the general lender prohibitions regarding inducements and exempted from others when they act as lenders of last resort. While this flexibility may be necessary, the bill before us would expand the role of guaranty agencies acting as lenders of last resort. And it's prudent to take another look at these regulations to be sure that students and taxpayers continue to be protected.

I ask my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on this amendment.

Madam Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, although I do not expect to oppose the amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Chairman, I commend Mr. PETRI for this amendment. He addresses an oversight in the legislation in making sure that the Secretary has the ability to review and revise the regulations concerning prohibited guaranty agency inducements to ensure that agencies do not engage in improper inducements. We don't think this is a problem, but we had a problem in the past in the rest of the program, and we passed on a bipartisan basis, the Student Loan Sunshine Act, and I think this amendment is an important part of keeping the integrity of that act and the continuity within the student loan program so that all participants in that program understand that we cannot condone even an appearance of improper relationships. When students and families are borrowing money and making sacrifices for that money, we want to make sure that they get the best deal available and they get the best facts available to them.

I thank the gentleman for offering the amendment.

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

Mr. PETRI. Madam Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON).

Mr. MCKEON. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Chairman, I rise in support of this commonsense amendment.

The Lender of Last Resort program was never intended to serve as a bailout for our student loan system as a whole. Rather, it was developed as a backstop for individual students on a case-by-case basis to be able to access a student loan if they encountered some rare circumstance in which they could not borrow through the standard channels.

I, for one, hope that the broad-based Lender of Last Resort authority in this bill will never be used. After all, the goal of this legislation is to prevent such a crisis within the loan program before it occurs. But I appreciate the steps being taken to ensure that if the Lender of Last Resort program ever needs to be deployed on a larger scale, we will have the infrastructure and processes in place to allow it.

However, because the program was simply never intended to be used on a school-wide basis, we should ensure that in implementing this authority, we are not unintentionally subverting current regulations. We also want to ensure that a guaranty agency is not unnecessarily punished for stepping in as a lender if needed. That is why this amendment requests that the Secretary review the regulations with the Lender of Last Resort program in mind. This program should be implemented in a manner that will be effective, efficient, and in the best interest of students.

I want to thank Representative PETRI for offering this amendment, which requires the Secretary to ensure that regulations are updated to reflect the new responsibilities that would be given to guaranty agencies operating as a lender of last resort for entire schools rather than individual students.

□ 1130

This amendment is consistent with our longstanding support for greater sunshine, transparency and consumer protections.

I support this amendment, and I urge its passage.

Mr. PETRI. I yield back my time.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI), as modified.

The amendment, as modified, was agreed to.

PART B AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. CASTLE

The Acting CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part B of House Report 110–590.

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Part B amendment No. 3 offered by Mr. CASTLE:

At the end of the bill, add the following new section:

SEC. 9. GAO STUDY ON IMPACT OF INCREASED LOAN LIMITS.

(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Comptroller General shall conduct a study to evaluate the impact of the increase in Federal loan limits provided for in section 2 of this Act and section 8005 of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 with respect to the impact on—

(1) tuition, fees, and room and board at institutions of higher education; and

(2) private loan borrowing by students and parents for attendance at institutions of higher education.

(b) STUDY COMPONENTS.—The study required under subsection (a) shall be conducted for each major sector of institutions of higher education over a 5-year time period. The report shall specifically analyze the following:

(1) Whether, on average, tuition, fees, and room and board increase, decrease, or remain unchanged in each such sector after the increases in Federal loan limits take effect.

(2) Whether the amount of private educational loans taken out by students (and their parents) at institutions in each such sector to pay tuition, fees, and room and board increase, decrease, or remain unchanged.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall provide an interim report to the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate including the initial results of the study conducted under this section. The Comptroller General shall follow up with such Committees after the third year and the fifth year after such date of enactment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 1107, the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware.

Mr. CASTLE. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The amendment I have offered with Representative WELCH today is meant to complement the underlying legislation and help us better utilize the Federal student loan program. I am supportive of H.R. 5715, which I believe will help prevent instability in the student loan market and ensure students have access to funds for higher education. This amendment doesn't alter the base bill but can help us learn more about rising costs.

As you know, the committee has actively worked to identify causes of rising college costs while tuition rates continue to increase more rapidly than household incomes. This rate of increase continues to prove to be overly burdensome for both students and families as they save and borrow to pay for higher education.

Adding another layer of complexity is the existing slump in credit markets. For this reason, several lending institutions have recently announced that soaring lending costs have caused them to decrease availability of new loans to American students.

Today, I am pleased Congress has the opportunity to vote on this bipartisan legislation to protect students and families by ensuring disruptions in the financial markets do not prevent students from pursuing their higher education goals.

I believe this legislation can help restore investor confidence in the marketplace, provide additional flexibility for parents through a new, optional grace period for PLUS loan payments until after their children graduate, as well as ensure that parents struggling with mortgage payments are not automatically denied credit through PLUS loans.

Also, this bill expands loan availability through higher unsubsidized Stafford loan limits. This provision, along with a provision passed under the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 which increased loan limits on federally subsidized loans, enables students to receive more Federal funding, reducing reliance on higher cost private loans.

Although I strongly support these provisions, I believe we have an opportunity here to determine what impact, if any, these changes have on tuition, fees, and room and board costs and private loan borrowing by students and parents.

The amendment I am offering today does just this. The amendment will provide for a review and evaluation by the Government Accountability Office, GAO, of these two aspects of higher education.

Specifically, the GAO study will examine institutions of higher education over a 5-year time period to look at whether tuition, fees, and room and board increase, decrease, or remain neutral after the increases in loan limits take effect, as well as whether the amount of private educational loans taken out by students and their families to pay tuition, fees, and room and board increase, decrease, or remain neutral.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense amendment to shine some light on possible causes of the rising cost of higher education and also urge support for the base bill to maintain access to the Federal student loan program.

I thank Mr. WELCH for working with me on this amendment and for speaking in favor of this bill yesterday before the House. And we would just like to say that I just think it is so important that we deal with the costs of higher education as well as the financing of higher education. Hopefully, by this add-on, we will be able to do at least a little bit of that.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Chairman, I rise to claim the time in opposition, although I do not expect to oppose the amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Chairman, Members of the House, this is an important amendment.

This committee, on a bipartisan basis, has struggled with trying to get a good handle, if you will, an understandable handle on the cost of education and the reasons for the increases in the cost of education, as we watched the cost spiral up in higher education much faster than the general inflation index. And it is a rising concern in families. As their budgets compete with fuel, food and mortgage payments, this obviously becomes a very serious matter.

Congressman MCKEON and Congressman CASTLE have been on this watch

for many years in this committee trying to help us come to grips with this problem and trying to carry on a positive conversation with the universities and colleges so that we can better define those costs that they control, the costs that they don't control, and certainly the actions of the States in their support for the public institutions. I think this amendment is very helpful.

Congressman WELCH has spoken to me about this during our deliberations of the higher education bill and of the college loan reduction bill that we passed last year.

This is an issue that continues to nag at us. I think providing some good guidance to GAO, with their expertise, we have an opportunity to really take a good look at a cross-section of institutions, what is properly driving the increases in cost and what maybe is improperly driving the increase in cost, and those things that can possibly be brought under control and be reduced by cooperative actions between the institutions, the States, and the Federal Government.

So I strongly support this amendment, and I want to thank Congressman CASTLE and Congressman WELCH for offering this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Chairwoman, I want to thank Chairman MILLER for his kind words.

I think that all of us, including Mr. MCKEON, on whom I will call in a moment, would all agree that we need to educate our young people as well as we can, and they need to be able to afford it. And anything we can do to help in that area is something that we should be doing.

I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON) whatever time he may consume.

Mr. MCKEON. Madam Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his longstanding commitment to addressing the rising costs of college.

This amendment gets to the heart of the concern that many of us have harbored for a long time. It takes a hard look at whether or not an increase in Federal aid will lead to an increase in college tuition. Everyone recognizes that Federal student aid is a good investment. Pell Grants, together with campus-based aid programs, Federal student loans and other higher education benefits help make a college education accessible to every American student.

With enactment of the Higher Education Act in 1965, these financial aid programs truly did make college more affordable. But beginning in the eighties and in the decades since, college tuition has skyrocketed. Despite our best efforts to keep pace by investing in student aid, college is becoming less affordable for many families. Tuition goes up, so we increase financial aid. But when we increase financial aid, tuition goes up. It's a vicious cycle. And we are losing ground.

Unfortunately, this pattern has even led some of us to question whether an investment in financial aid is a wise one. After all, if we're driving tuition increases by, for instance, increasing loan limits, we may be doing more harm than good.

I think there's agreement that this bill will help borrowers by increasing unsubsidized borrowing limits. Particularly for borrowers who are unable to access higher-cost credit-based private loans, this additional Federal loan availability may be the difference between enrolling or not. But as we increase that type of financial aid, we need to very seriously review the consequences of that action. That's why this amendment calls on the Government Accountability Office to determine how the increase in borrowing limits impacts tuition.

I thank Representative CASTLE along with Representative WELCH for their leadership on this issue. It's a good amendment. It improves the bill. I urge a ''yes'' vote.

Mr. CASTLE. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE).

The amendment was agreed to.

PART B AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MS. CASTOR

The Acting CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in part B of House Report 110–590.

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Part B amendment No. 4 offered by Ms. CASTOR:

In section 428B(a)(3)(B) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended by section 4 of the bill, insert ''or on medical bill payments'' after ''home mortgage payments''.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 1107, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Chairman, this amendment ensures that hardworking families who are feeling the strain of skyrocketing health care costs can still afford to send their children to college. The amendment applies to the Federal parent PLUS loans. PLUS loans are the non-need-based, federally guaranteed, low-interest loans available to parents for their children's undergraduate tuition, room and board and other expenses.

Our neighbors are really getting squeezed these days. They are socked with the rising cost of housing and health care. And many families are very concerned that a college education may be out of reach for their children due to these rising costs.

This amendment allows parents to continue to access low-interest PLUS loans even if they have fallen behind on medical bills only up to 180 days. This extenuating circumstance exemption is identical to the one already provided in the bill for mortgage payment delinquencies.

Housing and health care are the primary sources of financial hardship for families. Late mortgage payments and uncollected copayments for doctors' visits are among the primary reasons for bad debt. But these short-term and temporary extenuating circumstances should not bar parents from assisting their children with attending college.

By adding this amendment to section 4, special rules for PLUS loans, we ensure that hardworking families feeling the strain in this economy of skyrocketing health care costs can still afford to send their children to college.

I would like to thank Chairman MILLER, Ranking Member MCKEON, all of the members on the Education and Labor Committee and the professional staff for their work.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. CASTOR. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I just want to thank the gentlewoman from Florida for introducing this amendment. She had talked to me about this early on, and it was an oversight. But she has raised the issue that for families that have engaged in serious medical encounters, the question of what the real bill is becomes a matter of serious negotiations that can take over a period of time.

You get your bill. It says you owe $65,000. And then it says, but the real cost was $45,000, and somebody will pay $20,000, and you owe whatever is in between. And then you find out that is really not true, that was the initial billing, and you back over a period of months. Those negotiations, because of an unexpected serious medical encounter within a family, should not bar, in these times, those individuals from being able to access student loans. It doesn't mean they've lost their incomes. It doesn't mean any of that at that point.

I think it is a very important addition to this legislation as we are trying to weave together a support system for families that must rely on loans for the education of their children.

I want to thank you very much for offering this amendment.

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCKEON. I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed, Madam Chairman.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the gentleman from California is recognized 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. MCKEON. I rise in support of the gentlelady's amendment, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The purpose of this bill is to address the unique challenges facing students and families in this time of economic

uncertainty. That is why the bill takes steps to ensure parents are not automatically denied a PLUS loan simply because they're struggling with the same mortgage troubles facing so many other families in the country.

This amendment is consistent with the spirit of our bill because it recognizes that families also may be grappling with medical bills. And as the chairman explained, sometimes you are hit with a bill, and that shows up as a liability which would put you out of reach of getting another loan, and, in fact, you may not have that liability. And until that is clarified, you are held in abeyance. And students can't wait.

So this is a very important amendment that the gentlelady has presented. I thank Representative CASTOR for her amendment. It makes the bill better.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. CASTOR. I would like to thank, again, the gentlemen from California for their work on this legislation and their work on behalf of students and parents across this country.

I urge adoption of the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Chairman, I move that the committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. CASTOR) having assumed the chair, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Acting Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5715) to ensure continued availability of access to the Federal student loan program for students and families, had come to no resolution thereon.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 46 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1321

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CROWLEY) at 1 o'clock and 21 minutes p.m.

ENSURING CONTINUED ACCESS TO STUDENT LOANS ACT OF 2008

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1107 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 5715.

□ 1322

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5715) to ensure continued availability of access to the Federal student loan program for students and families, with Mr. BLUMENAUER (Acting Chairman) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, amendment No. 4 printed in part B of House Report 110–590 offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. GEORGE MILLER OF CALIFORNIA.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 413, noes 0, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 203]

AYES—413

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Bordallo
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Carter
Castle
Castor
Chabot
Chandler
Christensen
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foster
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Norton
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Tsongas
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—23

Berkley
Bishop (GA)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Butterfield
Cole (OK)
Faleomavaega
Fortuño
Hulshof
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Marchant
Markey
Pallone
Peterson (PA)
Rush
Scott (GA)
Shadegg
Towns
Wilson (NM)
Wynn
Young (AK)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIRMAN

The Acting CHAIRMAN. There are 2 minutes left in this vote.

□ 1345

Messrs. LINDER, GINGREY and TANCREDO changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. COLE. Madam Chairman, on Thursday, April 17, 2008, I missed the first vote in a series of two votes. I missed rollcall vote No. 203.

Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote No. 203: ''aye'' (On agreeing to the Miller, George amendment to H.R. 5715).

The Acting CHAIRMAN. There being no further amendments, under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEINER) having assumed the chair, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Acting Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5715) to ensure continued availability of access to the Federal student loan program for students and families, pursuant to House Resolution 1107, he reported the bill, as amended by that resolution, back to the House with sundry further amendments adopted by the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any further amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The amendments were agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 383, nays 27, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 204]

YEAS—383

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Alexander
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (SC)
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Carter
Castle
Castor
Chabot
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Edwards
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foster
Frank (MA)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (NY)
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pearce
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Space
Speier
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Wexler
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (FL)

NAYS—27

Akin
Barrett (SC)
Brady (TX)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cubin
Deal (GA)
Duncan
Flake
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Gingrey
Hensarling
Herger
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
King (IA)
Kingston
Lamborn
McHenry
Miller (FL)
Paul
Pence
Poe
Price (GA)
Tancredo
Westmoreland

NOT VOTING—21

Berkley
Bishop (GA)
Broun (GA)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Butterfield
Hulshof
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
McHugh
Pallone
Peterson (PA)
Rush
Shadegg
Spratt
Wilson (NM)
Wynn
Young (AK)

□ 1409

Mr. AKIN changed his vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall No. 204. At this time, I wish to note that had I been present, I would have voted ''yea.''

Stated for:

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 204, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted ''nay.''

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, on April 17, 2008, I missed votes.

Listed below are the votes I missed and how I would have voted had I been present.

Miller of California Amendment to H.R. 5715, rollcall No. 203, I would have voted ''aye.''

Final Passage of H.R. 5715, rollcall No. 204, the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008, I would have voted ''yea.''

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, in the engrossment of the bill H.R. 5715, the Clerk be authorized to correct the table of contents, section numbers, punctuation, citations, and cross references and to make such other technical and conforming

changes as may be appropriate to reflect the actions of the House.

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

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Reserving my right to object, I am just not fully aware of this. I understand that a very important vote that was taken yesterday has been negated and that there is some objection to correcting the situation, which was a clerical error, apparently, by unanimous consent on our side.

I am just wondering where that stands in comparison to the unanimous consent objections that were being expected of us today.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I withdraw my unanimous consent request.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The request is withdrawn.

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 bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 5813. An act to amend Public Law 110–196 to provide for a temporary extension of programs authorized by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 beyond April 18, 2008.

ON THE PASSING OF LOU COSTANTINO

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

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, ladies and gentlemen of the House, we have some extraordinary people who work for us. At times this is a very stressful job. They remain even-tempered. They remain gentle and kind and good humored. We have lost one of those just recently. Maybe you did not know his name, but you saw him, usually through the center door, or sometimes other doors. His name was Lou Costantino.

As a member of the House security team for over 28 years, Lou Costantino has been a fixture at the House Chamber's front door and was beloved by Members and staff who were greeted by him every day. I never failed to come through that door that he did not have a kind and gentle world.

He was a ''purveyor of pork,'' if you will. He loved sausage, and he allowed some of us to share in that sausage.

I am very sad to report to all of you that Lou died of a heart attack last Saturday. He was young, 71 years of age. Many of you will remember Lou for the homemade sausage he made for his friends and colleagues every day.

We will miss Lou. He made this institution a better place.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

I would ask you therefore to join me in a moment of silence in remembrance of a part of this institution who will be sorely missed, Lou Costantino.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, before I yield to my friend from Maryland, I would like to join him in his comments regarding Lou Costantino, who served us well and ably for a long time.

Lou Costantino was always proud of his job, he was proud of his family and proud of our country. To his wife, Doris; his daughter, Edie; and to his son, Louis, Jr., who we got relatively regular reports on, I am sure that the sympathy of the House goes out to them.

Madam Speaker, I yield to my friend from Maryland, the majority leader, for information about next week's schedule.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank him for his words about Lou Costantino. All of us will miss Lou. He was a wonderful, good, human being who loved this institution and showed great affection to all of our Members.

On Monday, the House is not in session. On Tuesday, the House will meet at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business. On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for legislative business. On Friday, no votes are expected in the House.

We will consider several bills under suspension of the rules, including an important bill from the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, H.R. 5712, Close the Contractor Fraud Loophole Act. A final list of suspension bills will be announced by the close of business tomorrow.

In addition, Mr. Whip, we will consider H.R. 5819, a bill to improve the Small Business Innovation Research Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program, and H.R. 2830, the Coast Guard authorization bill.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank the gentleman for that.

I have a couple of inquiries about other legislation. The 1974 Budget Act set a budget deadline of April 15. I am well aware that the Congress has seldom met that deadline, I think maybe four times. The latest three were in 1999, 2001 and 2003. But with that deadline in mind, I wonder if the gentleman has any sense when a budget might be on the floor.

I would yield.

□ 1415

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

My hope is sooner rather than later. However, as the gentleman knows, we are having, as is so often the case, difficulty reaching agreement with the Senate, mainly because the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee has a very close vote structure there, as you know, and so he is trying to figure out the votes in the Senate on a budget.

As is too often the case, one of the issues is whether we pay for things that we are doing. The House feels strongly about that issue, and I think the chairman of the Budget Committee in the Senate feels strongly about that issue, but he is not sure that he can get the votes. That is the discussion. There is some discrepancy, not much, between the figures, and we are hopeful that we can get a budget conference committee done. As soon as a conference committee is done, we will report it to the floor. If that is next week, it will be on the floor next week.

I am in regular communication with Mr. SPRATT, the chairman of the Budget Committee, and he is working at it.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank the gentleman for that information. Of course it is a challenge, but it is a challenge that we need to meet in some way usually before we can move with the appropriations process. But on appropriations on the supplemental, there were conflicting reports this week that there might be a supplemental for Afghanistan and another supplemental for Iraq, and then there were reports that no, the committee would report out one supplemental bill. I am wondering if the gentleman knows whether there will be one or two bills, and are we still anticipating a markup of that bill next week and then floor action following next week?

I yield.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I still anticipate that. With reference to the gentleman's question regarding the number of bills, based upon the comments of Mr. MURTHA, I have not talked to him personally but that have been reported, it is my understanding that he is thinking of one bill, not both an Afghanistan and an Iraq.

The problem is while there is, I think, pretty universal support for the effort in Afghanistan as being critical to our fight on terrorism, there is more disagreement on the Iraq component and what we ought to be doing there. But the way the budget is structured, it would be very difficult to consider them discretely, Afghanistan and Iraq. So it is my understanding that Mr. MURTHA has recommended and intends to pursue it as one bill.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank the gentleman for that. That bill needs to be out of the way, along with the budget, before we can get on with the other appropriating process. And thinking about that appropriations calendar, I know that the majority leader was quoted last week as saying that it is likely we won't have a lame duck session, a post-election session this year. I wonder if you can comment on that a little more. I know privately we have discussed this, but I saw you in print suggesting that we might not be back after the election. I am wondering what your thoughts are on that.

Mr. HOYER. Those are my thoughts; my thoughts and my hope. I think that lame duck sessions, in my experience, have not been particularly productive, particularly when you are going to have a change of administration. Whether it is Senator MCCAIN, Senator CLINTON or Senator OBAMA, we are going to have a change of administration. I expressed it as a hope, and we are going to work toward not having a lame duck session.

Let me go back and answer your question. I think we had a week delay on the supplemental, and I think the week of May 5 is the week we are looking at for the supplemental. As you know, I said the last week in April, the first week in May. That is the first full week in May, so I guess I am still accurate. We are on for that week hopefully on the supplemental, which will be timely in accomplishing the objective of getting dollars in time before the depletion of the funds that have already been appropriated.

With respect to the appropriations process, obviously I will be discussing with Mr. OBEY and with Mr. SPRATT, if we fail to pass a budget, we have to give the Appropriations Committee a figure to mark to. My thought would be that we will do as we have done in years past, deem that the House budget will be the numbers to which they will mark. But we have not made that decision at this point in time.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank the gentleman for that.

On the idea on a congressional year that will end before the election, I know last week we voted in an unusual way to put off the vote on the Colombia trade agreement, and I suppose that could mean to put it off indefinitely. Without a lame duck session, and that is one of the times when it was thought that we might get back to those trade bills. I'm not aware of any real discussion that has gone on this week on this Colombia agreement. I hope we are continuing to look for a way to get that important bill done.

I yield to my friend.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

The Speaker has focused on, as I think she has been quoted in the press as saying, we are still looking at TAA and discussing that with the administration. TAA, trade adjustment assistance, we think that is very important. There have been some positive discussions and indications from the administration. In addition, I know the Speaker has been discussing additional items with the leadership in the House and with Mr. REID, and I think as well with the White House. So I think discussions are ongoing. The Speaker has made it very clear that the action taken from her perception, certainly from my perception, was not the death knell of Colombia. I know that some have interpreted it that way, but I don't think that the Speaker or I interpreted it that way.

Mr. BLUNT. I hope we are continuing that.

Also, we are now entering the third month since the expiration of the Protect America Act. I know you and I were in a meeting a week or 10 days ago on this, and I still don't see any scheduled discussion of legislation on the floor that brings us back to that whole issue of foreign intelligence surveillance, and I hope we are moving toward a conclusion of that important issue.

I would yield.

Mr. HOYER. As you know because we have had an opportunity to discuss it, I have essentially been coordinating this issue on our side with Mr. REYES and Mr. CONYERS, and also working with Mr. ROCKEFELLER. And you and I had a meeting with Senator BOND, the ranking member on the Republican side.

I am hopeful that we can have a proposition passed through the House and hopefully by the Senate by the Memorial Day break. That is my time frame. I am working toward that. I have meetings tomorrow with respect to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. I am going to have meetings this afternoon, and I had meetings yesterday. I am giving it a lot of attention, with others as well. As you know, we met briefly. I would reiterate to you that when I have some better fix on where I think the Senate is willing to go or where we are willing to go and where we can reach agreement, I want to discuss it with you because I am hopeful that we can work together to try to make that happen.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank the gentleman. I think every day matters in this regard, and certainly going home for another work period at home without a conclusion here would be the wrong thing for us to do. I hope we can meet your goal and hopefully meet it earlier than the last day or two that we are here before the Memorial Day break.

Mr. HOYER. If the gentleman would yield, I share that hope. Again, I share the conviction, which I have expressed on numerous occasions, that the law that currently exists to my understanding, and when I say currently exists, and the authorizations that were given under the Protect America Act, are in place and in fact are continuing to provide opportunities to intercept those communications that the administration and the intelligence community feel are necessary to focus on. Having said that, we are trying, I'm trying to move ahead as quickly as we can come to agreement.

Mr. BLUNT. I want to say in response that I am not quite as confident, and maybe you're not confident either, that law doesn't meet all of the circumstances that occur. And even if it does, that law reaches an anniversary of those particular orders August 1. Again, coming back after Memorial Day, we are suddenly under a situation where even those things that we currently believe are covered, we will begin to have a problem in them expiring. And certainly the things that are not covered, there is no easy way in my view, which may be different than yours, there is no easy way to begin to listen to a new set of conversations that we just determined need to be listened to. That is what that whole debate is about. We don't need to have that debate here. But I have pledged to do everything that I can to bring this to a conclusion.

Mr. HOYER. If the gentleman would yield, I want to thank the gentleman because I believe he is absolutely sincere in that effort. He and I have had an opportunity to have discussions. We are going to continue those over the coming days, and hopefully we can get this done sooner rather than later. The chairman of the Judiciary Committee and the chairman of the Intelligence Committee have both expressed that objective.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank the gentleman.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

HOUSING CRISIS

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

Mr. HALL of New York. Madam Speaker, we are in a housing crisis in the United States, yet the Bush administration seems determined to ignore it.

Losing your home has a deep economic and emotional impact that can last for years. When the mortgage crisis broadens as wide as it has, entire communities, not just individuals, face dire consequences for the future.

In the Hudson Valley of New York, we have been especially hard hit. Over the last 3 months, foreclosures in Westchester County were up almost 40 percent from last year, and they've more than tripled since 2005. Putnam County, also in my district, has the single highest foreclosure rate of any county in New York State.

This crisis demands bold action. This Congress has already expanded the Federal loan limits to make Federal protections available to more home buyers, now we need to extend these Federal guarantees to more homeowners in need. This Congress will not only protect institutions like Bear Stearns, but will also protect American families who remain at great risk.

□ 1430

WELCOMING POPE BENEDICT XVI

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to welcome Pope Benedict XVI to our Nation's Capital as part of his official papal visit to the United States. During this 6-day trip to Washington, D.C. and New York City, the Holy Father, who serves as a wondrous example of faith and leadership, will help Catholics and all Christians renew their faith by delivering mass to tens of thousands of people.

I was honored to have the opportunity to attend mass with the Holy Father at the new Nationals Stadium here in D.C. this morning. And, Madam Speaker, it was truly a blessed event.

Despite his relatively short tenure, Pope Benedict XVI has emerged as a vocal and effective leader for Catholics throughout the world. Over the past 3 years, His Holiness has stressed the need for a return to fundamental Christian values in response to what many see as the world's sloping trend toward secularism.

As Pope, he has focused on the importance and sanctity of human life, especially the life of the unborn, an issue that's very important to me, both as a member of the Catholic Church and as a Member of Congress. But every American, regardless of party affiliation or religious belief can find hope in his message of freedom and justice for all people.

Madam Speaker, as a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Marietta, Georgia, I humbly welcome Pope Benedict XVI to the United States as he continues to spread his message of faith, love and service in Christ.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION'S MIDDLE EAST POLICIES

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to bring to the House's attention a potentially, very dangerous new turn in the administration's policies in the Middle East. In recent weeks the administration has been stirring up the pot on Iran again, and that has caused many Americans to worry that the administration is getting ready to launch another attack in the region, this time in Tehran.

In fact, there's more than enough evidence to show that the administration may be laying the groundwork for military action. In an interview last month, the President said that the Iranians, and I quote him, he said, ''the Iranians have declared they want to have a nuclear weapon to destroy people.''

That would be troubling, Madam Speaker, if it were true. But the Iranians haven't said anything of the kind. It is shocking to me that our Commander-in-Chief would make unsubstantiated and misleading statements about a subject as important and as serious as nuclear weapons.

Another troubling sign came last month when Admiral William Fallon retired. Admiral Fallon was a bulwark against the Iran hawks in the administration, and his departure raised fears that he was, first, forced to retire, and that next, the rush to war was on.

And several weeks ago, Vice President CHENEY said that he has ''high confidence'' that the Iranians have an ongoing nuclear enrichment program. Of course, the most recent national intelligence estimate reported that the Iranians stopped working on a suspected nuclear weapons program 4 years ago.

And finally, General Petraeus told Congress last week that Iranian-backed special groups now pose the greatest long-term threat in Iraq.

For years, the administration told us that the main enemy was al Qaeda or Sunni insurgents, or Shiite militia. Now they tell us, forget them; it's Iran. In my mind, this raises legitimate concerns that the administration may be inventing new excuses to stay in Iraq by trying to convince the American people to support war against Iran.

Madam Speaker, I too am concerned about Iran. The Iranians should stay out of Iraq. They should not develop nuclear weapons. No country should develop nuclear weapons. But if we want Iran to behave well, we must stop threatening to attack them. Instead, our first line of defense must be engagement and aggressive diplomacy.

The absolutely essential first step in that process must be the redeployment of our troops out of Iraq. How can we expect Iraq's neighbors to cooperate in stabilizing the region while we insist on an open-ended foreign occupation with 140,000 troops and tens of thousands of military contractors?

Ending the occupation will allow us to launch a broad initiative to bring the nations in the region to the table, to address the relevant, the political, the economic and the security issues.

And Madam Speaker, when it comes to Iran's nuclear challenge, we must retake the high moral ground in the United States of America. When we turn our backs on nuclear nonproliferation, abandon the comprehensive test ban treaty and develop new nuclear weapons of our own, under what circumstances can we tell another nation to abandon their nuclear dreams?

The American people do not want a wider conflict in the Middle East. They want our leaders to spend every waking moment working to bring peace to the region. This is not the time for heated rhetoric, for bullying and new threats. It is time to try the one thing we haven't tried, diplomacy.

SERGEANT SHAUN PAUL TOUSHA: HULL, TEXAS HERO

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today the small town of Hull Texas, population 1,800, is mourning the loss of a native son who grew up to be a mighty warrior for the United States Army. He gave up everything he had to protect everyone else's freedom.

Army Sergeant Shaun Paul Tousha was killed in Baghdad, Iraq on April 9, 2008 when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle.

Madam Speaker, the IED is the way our cowardly enemy fights this war. And in my Congressional district area, Shaun Paul is the 26th area resident that has been killed in Iraq or Afghanistan during these wars.

He was a man from small town Texas who had a playful heart, and he made a big impression on everybody that knew him growing up. He died as a war hero at the age of 30, and he will forever be recognized as how he lived, that being a loving husband, a caring father and a great friend to all those people in rural America.

Shaun Paul Tousha was born February 11, 1978 in Silsbee, Texas. He grew up in the town of Hull, Texas, and he was the son of the late Tommy Gene and Roberta Tousha. He was a husband to Christy Tousha, and loving father of the two children, Colton and Maycee.

As a teenager, Shaun played football, like most Texas rural boys do. He played at Hull-Daisetta High School. And he also liked to ride horses. And being a cowboy, he enjoyed bull riding.

His stepmother, Doris Tousha, was very proud of Shaun. She described him as outgoing and an individual who had a lot of friends. He was always cutting up, acting silly, and made friends easily. He liked to joke around, and his personality drew people toward him. She said that he may have been a handful growing up, but she was proud of the way he turned out.

And after graduating from Hull-Daisetta High School in May of 1996, Shaun got a job at a wire company in Dayton, Texas. He worked there for several years before he heard his Nation's call and joined the United States Army at the age of 22 in February of 2000.

His father, Tommy Gene Tousha, was extremely proud of his son's decision to serve in the Army, and even went with him to the local recruiting station when he joined up.

Madam Speaker, General Patton once said ''we should live for something, rather than to die for nothing.'' Shaun sought to live his life in duty to this country.

Shaun attended basic training in Ft. Benning, Georgia and later was stationed at Ft. Hood, Texas. He was assigned as a Generator Equipment Repairman in the 1st Battalion, 66th Armored Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, in Ft. Hood, Texas.

General Patton reminded us that ''wars may be fought with weapons but they are won by men.'' Shaun was a skillful soldier, and he and his comrades in arms are the ones with the boots on the ground that are winning this war. Shaun realized this, and during his first tour of duty in Iraq he decided to re-enlist in the United States Army and make the military his career. He served three tours of duty in Iraq.

When Shaun's father died in 2002, he helped his stepmother, Doris, through many difficult times. He took care of his family back home in America.

Doris said that she was impressed at Shaun's emotional strength during that painful ordeal of the family father's death. Doris said that she was proud that the Army really helped him become a mature individual.

George Washington once said that ''discipline is the soul of the Army.'' And with Shaun's character, background and career in the Army, Shaun was able to overcome even the most trying circumstances because of that discipline.

One of Shaun's best friends, Johnny Fregia, described him as a ''good ol' boy that died for his country.'' They became friends when they worked together in Dayton, Texas. Shaun was Johnny's helper, and he kept work interesting for Johnny with his humor, ever-present smile and his constant good mood. They enjoyed even shooting pool after work, and Johnny said that Shaun was pretty good at it.

Johnny described the high caliber of character and love for their country that his friend Shaun had and the rest of our military men and women possess.

Johnny went ahead and said, ''freedom ain't free. And sometimes we take it for granted. There's a price to pay, and those guys like Shaun are willing to pay for it. They are willing to lose everything they've got to keep this country free.''

Madam Speaker, this is a recent photograph of Shaun Paul Tousha right before he died. Shaun Tousha paid the ultimate price with his life, the price for freedom in our country.

Aristotle once wrote that ''we make war so that we may live in peace.'' Shaun served in order that we may have freedom and have real peace in this country.

Americans, even in this chamber, cry peace, peace. But Madam Speaker, there can be no peace as long as there are people who are trying to kill Americans somewhere in the world. And Shaun Paul tried to protect us from that threat.

He had a heart as big as Texas, and we are proud of Sergeant Shaun Tousha. The light of his life has been extinguished, buy Shaun's joyful spirit will burn bright forever in the hearts and minds of his friends, his fellow soldiers, and the Texans that loved him.

And that's just the way it is.

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.)

□ 1445

HONORING THE LIFE OF LOU COSTANTINO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I thank you, Madam Speaker, and I thank you for your leadership.

As I begin my special order this afternoon, I want to pay tribute to two great Americans. One is a friend to us all. We know him well as Lou Costantino. We thank him so very much, and we really know him as Lou. We thank him for his friendship. We thank him for his warmth. We thank him for taking care of this place, this House.

Lou, you see, was one of the distinguished men and women who stand outside of the house chamber, works with the Sergeant of Arms, is in conjunction with the Clerk's Office. But really, Lou is part of our family.

He attended and was concerned about all of our guests that would come. He was concerned about the Members. He was equally concerned and passionate about America.

I consider him a great patriot, a great American. He loved this work because he was serving America.

Lou lost his battle just this past weekend, but we are reminded that Lou was with us last week. How truly valiant Lou is in life and in death, and I stand here today to offer my deepest sympathy to his wife, Doris; his daughter, Edie; his son, Lewis, Jr.; and to all of his family members. May he rest in peace and may God bless him.

I also take note to acknowledge the happy celebration of the birthday of Maya Angelou, poet laureate, teacher, mentor, resident of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, the author of the 1993 inaugural poem that suggested that those of us who live in the great land must come from underneath the rocks and shout out and be seen for justice. She also wrote the language or the words to a book, ''I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings,'' to talk about what it's like to be isolated, to be contained, to be inhibited as a child growing up in the deep south.

Maya Angelou can be considered a great American, certainly a great poet, certainly a great mentor of men and women, college students, as she taught me at Yale University. I am honored today to be able to say ''thank you'' to Maya Angelou.

I now move, Madam Speaker, to something that has been continuing in this Nation, and very quickly I call upon the Secretary of State and the United States of America to reengage more actively in the negotiations between the Israelis and the Palestinians. I now believe fully that the only way that we will have success in recognizing and achieving peace in the Middle East is not through preemptive attacks, but through concern, negotiation, and firmness.

We must tell the negotiators what America wants to see and provide them the support. We must insist that we will continue to be a friend of Israel, we will never step away from her, and we stand by Israel's right to exist as a freedom-loving democratic people.

Let's say to the Palestinians if they are to move their people beyond the refugee camps, then they, too, must fight for democracy and two distinct separate states. The two-state theory must be put in action, but we can no longer stand by as an objective bystander. We must be engaged, we must roll up our sleeves, we must recognize that we are very much a part of the peace process in the Middle East.

I remember very well when the President came in and he said, That's their business. My good friends on the other side of the aisle got up and joined him, That's their business. It's our business.

And before the lights go out on this administration, it would do well for us in the name of Prime Minister Sharon, who began this process, to get engaged and to make sure that we can have peace in the Middle East, to have an ally in Israel, safe and secure, and to say to the Palestinian people that you can have good health, you can have housing, you can have education.

I think, Madam Speaker, that this is a challenge that the Secretary of State should accept; this is a challenge for the President to accept. America can do no less.

I did not say ''battle.'' I said ''engage,'' and be able to be part of the negotiation for peace. There is nothing wrong for being considered a peace-loving Nation that promotes peace.

May God bless this Nation and bless our soldiers, wherever they may be, as they stand on the front lines around the world asking us to promote our ideals and our values, and that is peacemakers.

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

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

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

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

WHERE IS THE LEADERSHIP?

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I note as I come to the well here that it's now 2:49 p.m. on a Thursday afternoon, a time when across this Nation the folks who worked the day shift are getting ready to complete their work; the folks who are working the afternoon or evening shift are getting ready to head off to work or on their way to work; and the folks who work the midnight shift across the Nation are probably just rubbing their eyes as they wake up and begin their day or bedding down as they begin their rest before they get back at it again this evening.

Where is the House of Representatives? Well, Madam Speaker, you look around the House of Representatives and they've gone home. They've all gone home. Now, why is that important? Well it's important, Madam Speaker, because I think it demonstrates another day demonstrating the crisis of leadership that we have in this House of Representatives.

Madam Speaker, I come to the well today at this time to document that we are now 62 days into a unilateral disarmament of the United States of America as it relates to folks who want to do us harm all across this world, 62 days in which we have not had in place the Protect America Act, 62 days in which we have not had in place the appropriate rules and protections for communication companies to allow our United States Government to listen and intercept electronic communication between a foreign individual in a foreign land who wishes to do America harm and another foreign individual in a foreign land who wishes to do us harm.

Did you get that, Madam Speaker? Non-U.S. citizen, not on U.S. soil, talking or communicating through electronic communication to another non-U.S. citizen, not on U.S. soil, about how to injure Americans either on the battlefield or here in our homeland.

It's called the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. The bill was the Protect America Act. Sixty-two days ago, the leadership in this House of Representatives allowed that to expire. And why? For some reason, they believed that lawyers ought to be able to represent that foreign individual in a foreign land who want to do us harm with the same protections that you and I enjoy as American citizens.

Madam Speaker, when I go home to the Sixth District of Georgia and I tell people about this, they shake their head and say, what on earth is going on? Where is the leadership? And I agree. Where is the leadership?

Madam Speaker, there is a crisis of leadership in this House of Representatives, whether it is on the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, or the Protect America Act, to allow our intelligence community the tools that they need to keep us protected. Whether it's on not doing anything positive about the price of gasoline all across this Nation, the only thing this House has done, this leadership has done is to increase the cost of domestic production of oil by increasing taxes. And who pays those ultimately? You got it, Madam Speaker. Americans.

Whether it is allowing the free and fair trade agreement with Colombia to not come to the floor, to change the rules so that it can't come to the floor so that we kick in the teeth the only real friend that we have in South America, one of the few friends we have in South America, a democratically elected government; or whether it is, again, not allowing our intelligence community to listen to a terrorist on foreign soil, talking to another terrorist on foreign soil so that we know what the bad guys are going to do before they do it.

Madam Speaker, that's a crisis of leadership.

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

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

REMARKING ON THE POPE'S VISIT AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

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

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to also welcome Pope Benedict XVI to the United States and to Washington, D.C., and congratulate him for delivering an important message on the role that faith plays in the lives of every believer.

Over the years, the Vatican has been a strong voice for religious freedom, for human rights, and was an invaluable partner in defeating Communism during the Cold War. The Catholic Church has long been a source of charity and benevolence helping some of the world's most vulnerable people in some of the world's most dangerous places.

However, as President Bush welcomes Benedict XVI to Washington this week, Americans might be surprised to know that the Pope isn't here just to minister to his flock. He's here to lobby for amnesty for illegal aliens. According to news reports, the Pope met with President Bush yesterday to add his voice to the open border lobby by encouraging the President to give the 20 to 30 million illegal aliens in this country a free pass to stay here.

Now, I'm not taking issue with the Pope's moral authority. I respect his views on the threats of Islam, the sanctity of human life. But I don't think it's in his job description to engage in American political activities.

Worse yet, the Pope chided America, insinuating that immigrants are subject to ''violence'' and prevented from leading ''dignified lives.'' Madam Speaker, I would like to know what part of our American lax immigration policy is ''violent.'' I fail to see how accepting more refugees than any other Nation while providing free health care, free education, free housing and free social service benefits to millions of illegal aliens in this country is in any way degrading to them or undignified.

I would like to remind the Pope that America has long been dedicated to the principle of the rule of law, and there is absolutely nothing inhumane about American immigration statutes or the robust but civilized enforcement of it.

But perhaps the Pontiff has made these comments with a motive more broad than simply spreading the gospel. It's no secret that the Catholic Church has been having difficulty maintaining its membership levels and a growing number of religions are competing for parishioners.

Indeed, the Wall Street Journal recently reported that the ''Catholic Church has long been losing members and as much as a third of the native-born Catholic population is diminished. Meanwhile it has gained members among foreign-born (mostly Hispanic) residents.''

Madam Speaker, it's possible and unfortunate that the Pope's immigration comments may have had as much to do with spreading the gospel as it does recruiting new members to the Church.

I regret that the Pope used some of his time with the President to engage in faith-based marketing trying to attract new parishioners instead of preaching amnesty for illegal aliens to try and enlarge the size of the global Catholic congregation. I would urge the Pope to subscribe to the wisdom of one of his cardinals, Cardinal Biffi. A few years ago, the cardinal told The Times of London, ''Countries can choose to let in whoever they want. There is no such thing as a right of invasion.''

Madam Speaker, the United States already has a legal immigration system unparalleled in its generosity. In the meantime, we assist illegal aliens, and those affected by them, by reimbursing hospitals for costly illegal emergency room hospital visits, providing free public education to illegal alien children. I would challenge the Pope to name any other country on Earth that demonstrates this kind of compassion on such a large scale.

I hope, Madam Speaker, that the American people will welcome the Pope with open hearts and open arms but that they will reject his demand to replace our efforts to achieve genuine border security with a faith-based immigration system.

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.)C

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

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

ADJOURNMENT FROM FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2008, TO TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns tomorrow, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22, for morning-hour debate.

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

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

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

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 5715, ENSURING CONTINUED ACCESS TO STUDENT LOANS ACT OF 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections in the engrossment of H.R. 5715 to include corrections in spelling, punctuation, section numbering, and cross-referencing, and insertion of appropriate headings.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1500

THOMAS JEFFERSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, this Sunday was the 265th birthday of Thomas Jefferson, one of our Nation's greatest Founding Fathers, and someone who we, I think, as a Nation do not pay enough attention to.

His birthday, unfortunately, went largely unnoticed. And I'm going to take this time on the floor today, Madam Speaker, to honor this great good man, recognize his genius and the application of his core principles as solutions to the core problems our Nation faces today, and in conclusion, to read his first Inaugural Address which was given in this Capitol on March 4, 1801 as a reminder of his genius and as a guideline to really lay out a path for the solutions that we really need as a Nation today.

The financial hole the United States finds itself in today is absolutely unprecedented. The Comptroller of the United States, David Walker, who just left office a few weeks ago, audited the books of the United States and concluded that we, as a Nation, are in a $54 trillion hole, that every living American would have to write a check for $175,000 in order to pay off the existing obligations of the Federal Government. That includes the $11 trillion national debt to pay off the obligations of Medicare, Social Security and Medicaid. All those existing obligations of all the Federal programs already on the books are so massive, with the retirement of the baby boomers, with the profligate Thelma-and-Louise spending of this Democrat Congress, existing financial obligations are so severe that we would, every one of us, have to write a check today for $175,000 just to pay off those existing obligations even if Congress didn't create a single new Federal program. It's an extraordinary number, one that is absolutely terrifying and that not enough Americans know about.

If we, as a Nation, would just adhere to the principles of Jeffersonian republicanism, if we would remember Mr. Jefferson's vision, his genius, his adherence to the core principles of republicanism, with a small ''r'' as he called them, we, as a Nation, can dig our way out of that financial hole, we as a Nation can return to the prosperity and freedom that the Nation has always enjoyed, the level of freedom that our founders enjoyed.

It's disturbing to me, as a Member of Congress, to see the ease with which programs like the funding for anyone in the world who has tuberculosis, AIDS or malaria, under a bill that this House passed last week, anyone in the world in a third world nation that has malaria, TB or AIDS is entitled, at U.S. taxpayer expense, to $1,200 a year worth of medication. Now, that bill passed at a time when we're in this $54 trillion hole, when we have an $11 trillion national debt, when every one of us owe $175,000 a piece. It's just unbelievable to me and utterly irresponsible, the continued expansion of the Federal Government, the continued creation of Federal programs like this by this Thelma-and-Louise Democrat Congress. To grow the Federal Government at a time of record debt and deficit is absolutely intolerable, and it just has to stop.

Mr. Jefferson's birthday is an appropriate time to remember the core principles that not only really created the Nation, but would serve us well, as a Congress, today to help dig out of that financial hole, to make sure that we live within our means.

Thomas Jefferson often said that if we, as a Nation, would only apply core Republican principles to any problem, the knot will always untie itself. He was absolutely right about that. Mr. Jefferson believed that we should trust the good hearts and the good judgment of individual Americans to make the right decision. Never entrust the solution to a problem to the Federal Government except as an absolute last resort. Washington, D.C. will usually foul it up. And Mr. Jefferson understood that. And it was not because there aren't good people here. The Nation's capital is full of wonderful, good people dedicated to representing their districts to the best of their ability and based on their core principles as they see them. We bring in, in District Seven, 25 young people, one junior from each of the high schools in my district, I have set up a program as a nonprofit 501(c)(3), the Bill Archer Student Intern Program, to bring one young person from each of the high schools in my district for a full week, all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. so they can see firsthand that the Nation's capital is full of people who have good hearts, they're doing the best they can to represent their districts from their perspective.

The young people in my district who participate in this program meet Members of Congress, they meet Members of the Senate, they meet administration officials, cabinet members, they meet judges on the Supreme Court, and they have an opportunity to see firsthand, Mr. Speaker, that the government is truly made up of good people doing the best they can. And it is just human nature that when decisions, as Mr. Jefferson said, are removed to Washington, D.C. where the people can't see them, can't not only see what's going on, but a real voice in what's going on, when those decisions are removed to Washington they become, by nature, less responsive, less effective in solving the problems of the American people.

This government has grown so far beyond what the founders intended that I'm not sure Mr. Jefferson would recognize the Federal Government today. And I know he would be as alarmed as I am, as my colleague, my good friend, Congressman ROSCOE BARTLETT, who will follow me, is with the continued growth of this government.

As fiscally conservative as I am, Mr. Speaker, I've found in the time that I've been here I've become even more fiscally conservative as I see the record growth of this government, as I read David Walker's report. And I encourage everyone out there to take the time,

Mr. Speaker, to go to gao.gov and look at the Fiscal Wake Up Tour and carefully look at what David Walker has audited and certified as the immense scope and size of the financial hole that the United States finds itself in; $54 trillion hole that gets $3 to $4 trillion deeper every year.

Comptroller Walker says that the United States has about 5 to 10 years to get our financial house in order. That's an extremely important piece of information. We have, according to the Comptroller, 10 years tops, probably 5 years, to get our financial House in order, to begin to get control over these entitlement programs, to begin to get on a path to a balanced budget.

We need a constitutional amendment, ultimately, Mr. Speaker, to get the budget of the United States balanced. We have it in Texas, it works beautifully. We also have a ''speed governor'' in Texas in our State constitution, it's something we need here at the Federal level, where the growth in government cannot exceed natural growth in the economy, that there is essentially a speed governor on spending that prevents the legislative body from spending more money than is brought in by natural growth in the economy, it works well in Texas, along with a balanced budget amendment to the United States Constitution, would do a lot to get us back on the path that Comptroller Walker points out that we must do within the next 5 to 10 years, or else.

Comptroller Walker has certified that by 2020, 12 years—young people listening here today, Mr. Speaker, if you're 18 years old, by the year 2020, when you're 30 years old, Medicare is bankrupt. Social Security is on the brink of bankruptcy.

Treasury bonds, the safest investment in the world, according to the Comptroller, according to Moody's and Standard and Poor's, who have already formally notified the Treasury that they're beginning the process of downgrading U.S. Treasury bonds, Treasury bonds by the year 2020 will be graded as junk bonds if we do not stop growing the government and stop spending money on anything but the bare essentials. In our personal lives, Mr. Speaker, if we have run up too much debt, if we have a second mortgage on the home, if our credit cards are tapped out, in our personal lives we would all know what to do, you would quit spending money on anything except the bare essentials to keep a roof over your family's head, to pay the bills, to put groceries on the table, other than that, you would just quit spending money. But the Federal Government has the ability not only to print money, but to issue more Treasury bonds. And the money that we spend here in Congress that is beyond our means is paid for by debt passed on to our kids. It's just intolerable.

The Chinese, the foreign investors buy our Treasury bonds today and support this profligate spending, but it is not supportable, it cannot be sustained, and we simply must stop spending money that our kids cannot afford to pay. It's inexcusable, it's intolerable.

And it's important, on the 265th birthday of Thomas Jefferson, to remember the core principles that Mr. Jefferson lived his life by, that he governed this Nation by as our third President, to remember the genius of this great, good man and try to apply those principles to these massive problems we have today; to, first of all, live within our means; to restrict not only the size and power and cost of the Federal Government, but to roll it back within the boundaries that the founders originally intended, the narrow scope of responsibility as laid out in the Constitution so beautifully by our founders.

The whole idea of the Federal Government was that it would only have those powers expressly delegated to it in the Constitution, that, as the 10th Amendment says so well, that all power not specifically delegated to the Federal Government by the Constitution would be reserved to the States and the people.

I came out of the State legislature in Texas. And the idea behind the State constitutions, I think my friend, Congressman BARTLETT, served in the Maryland State legislature, the State constitutions give the State legislatures all power that State constitutions set aside for the legislatures. It's a broad grant of authority.

The Federal Government is delegated responsibility in a very narrow way by the Federal Constitution. And over the years, with the terrible War Between the States, the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, the Reconstruction Congress, The New Deal, the growth of the Federal Government with the rapid expansion of power under The New Deal, Congress passing laws in areas where they really don't have any business, as a result, the Federal Government has grown so far beyond anything that the founders envisioned that we today face, as David Walker has told us, a $54 trillion liability that equals $175,000 for every living American.

This obligation, Mr. Speaker, is so massive that if we were to confiscate all the private property of the United States and sell it off at auction, David Walker estimates that would only pay for about 90 percent of this $54 trillion obligation.

It's a terrifying number. And the number that we often see for the national debt of about $11 trillion working out to about $45,000 a person, that's not the real number, folks. The real number is you, Mr. Speaker, I, every living American has to write a check for $175,000 today to pay off that $54 trillion liability that we are now descending on a path like Argentina, the dollar becoming like the peso.

We, as a Nation, our Treasury bills, the safest investment in the history of the world, becoming junk bonds. It's intolerable, it's inexcusable. And it's a result of profligate spending by this Congress over far too many years. It's why I, as the congressman from District Seven, voted against the farm bill. No Child Left Behind is a violation of the 10th Amendment, spending money we didn't have. I voted against this AIDS in Africa program. I voted against the Medicare Prescription Drug bill. I voted against, frankly, every single one of the major spending initiatives that have been proposed since I got here in 2001 in recognition that I just simply will do everything in my power not to pass on this massive debt and deficit to my daughter and to her kids. It is just inexcusable and unacceptable.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to honor Mr. Jefferson and to read into the RECORD his magnificent first Inaugural Address, his great advice for the Nation today, for this Congress, for the Nation, for the executive branch, for all of us to just take a moment and contemplate carefully the genius of Thomas Jefferson, the wisdom of his core philosophy of republicanism, with a small ''r,'' that was focused on the preservation of individual liberty and trusting individual Americans to control that which they could see with their own eye, as he often liked to say, shifting power away from Washington and back in the hands of locally elected officials and individual Americans.

Mr. Jefferson also spent much of his time fighting the expansion of power of the judiciary.

□ 1515

John Marshall, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court at that time when he was President, and Mr. Jefferson locked horns repeatedly. And one of my favorite Jefferson quotes when it came to the judiciary was Mr. Jefferson often said that ''The judiciary advances on noiseless steps like gravity, never yielding what they have gained.''

And that is so true, Mr. Speaker. Not only has the Congress, passing laws we have no business passing that belong within the jurisdiction and control of State and local governments, not only has the Congress expanded the size, power, and cost to the Federal Government, but an aggressive judiciary has repeatedly expanded the scope of its power and responsibility.

Also, after the election of 1800 when the Republicans and he, as the leader of the Republican Party, took over the executive branch and won a majority in the United States House and in the United States Senate, Mr. Jefferson said that the Federalists, those who wanted to concentrate all power in Washington, had ''retreated to the bunkers of the judiciary and turned their guns on the people of the United States.''

And in so many ways, those judges that Mr. Jefferson was so concerned about have over time gradually expanded the scope of their power where in, for example, the State of Missouri,

Mr. Speaker, a Federal judge in Missouri actually ordered a tax increase to pay for public education. Unbelievable, that a judge would take it upon himself to tax the people of Missouri to pay for public education. He ordered the State of Missouri to issue $100 million in bonds, raised property taxes, raised taxes on the people of Missouri to pay for improvements that that Federal judge believed in his ivory tower, in his wisdom as Zeus up on Mount Olympus, that the people of the city of St. Louis needed to improve their schools. And this judge had the idea that here's how we're going to do it and you're going to pay taxes to pay for it.

Time after time after time, when power is concentrated where the people can't see it, where they can't touch it, where it's in the hands of people that are unelected, unaccountable, and invisible to the public, bad decisions are made, Mr. Speaker. The Constitution suffers, this Nation suffers, and I think as a result of drifting too far from the core principles of Jeffersonian Republicanism, the Nation finds itself where it is today, in a $54 trillion hole where we are on a glide path to become like Argentina, where our treasury bills are junk, where our dollar is not valued, and we essentially could be within a decade on the brink of national bankruptcy. It's unacceptable. We can stop it just like a hurricane can be dealt with, Mr. Speaker. If we see the hurricane coming and know about it, we can deal with it.

It's important to remember that the people of Britain won the Battle of Britain because Winston Churchill was honest with them and told them how dangerous the Nazis were, how severe the threat was to their freedom, that the British people could indeed lose their island and fall under Hitler's control. But the people of Britain had to be told the truth. And Winston Churchill told them the truth. And I think we, as elected officials, owe our constituents the truth about the size and scope of the $54 trillion liability that has been created over the last 60 years of Democrat and Republican Congresses. Passing that liability on to our children and grandchildren is outrageous, it's unacceptable, it's immoral, it's fundamentally wrong. And I hope we will, all of us, as Members of Congress, take guidance from the genius, the wisdom of Thomas Jefferson as he addressed the Nation in his first inaugural address on March 4, 1801, after coming through a bitter election where the House of Representatives had to make the final decision as to who was to be President.

He, as leader of the Republican Party, was running against John Adams, the leader of the Federalist Party, the second President. They had become fast friends in Paris. Thomas Jefferson and John Adams and Abigail Adams had become just inseparable friends during their time together in Paris, in Europe. They had become friends, of course, during the time of the writing of the Declaration of Independence. It was John Adams who put Thomas Jefferson on the committee and insisted that Mr. Jefferson write the Declaration of Independence and John Adams who continued to support and encourage Thomas Jefferson. They were fast personal friends.

But in the election of 1800, they had a falling out because of their fundamental difference of opinion about the direction the Nation should go. Mr. Adams believed in a strong, powerful central government and the concentration of authority in Washington, D.C. Mr. Jefferson believed firmly in the preservation of our constitutional separation of powers and the preservation of the rights of the States and the people as the best and most responsible guardians of liberty. And that fundamental difference of opinion about where true power should lie led to their running against each other for President.

Aaron Burr was running also. And in the election of 1800, the electoral college wound up being deadlocked. It was a tie between Aaron Burr and Thomas Jefferson, and the House of Representatives had to make the final decision. Each State being given one vote, there was a deadlock, and I think it was 37 ballots that had to be cast before Mr. Jefferson was finally selected as President.

So they had come through a bitter election. The Nation had gone right to the brink of war with France. It was a bitter, bitter struggle over whether or not the Nation should go to war with France. John Adams signed the Alien and Sedition Acts. And by signing the Alien and Sedition Acts, the Federalists, led by John Adams, had essentially made it illegal for anyone to speak out against the President, to speak out in a way that would hold out the President or the Congress to ridicule, violating, of course, obviously, the first amendment, freedom of speech. And that, of course, also deepened the separation between Mr. Jefferson and Mr. Adams.

That election was especially bitter. So this inaugural address was given at a time of deep passionate differences between Federalists and Republicans. And that part of his speech, I think, is also very applicable today.

Mr. Speaker, you and I are good friends. We, all of us, work together in this House as best we can to advance the needs of the Nation. There are personal friendships, certainly among, for example, the Texas delegation. One of my very best friends in Congress, my good friend HENRY CUELLAR, and my good friend CIRO RODRIGUEZ, who represents the border counties, we were elected together in 1986 in the Texas legislature. We remain devoted friends, and all of us in the Texas delegation put Texas first. When it comes to the needs of our State, party labels don't matter. We're Texans first and do what we can to help the State of Texas. And I know that's true of other State delegations. It's especially true in Texas.

And in the inaugural address that Mr. Jefferson gave in 1801, he was speaking of the need to bring the Nation together and to not let party labels or party fights get in the way of doing the right thing for the Nation. So part of what you will hear Mr. Jefferson say to the Nation, I think, is especially appropriate today, that we do all that we can to put those partisan distinctions aside.

But as I read his inaugural address and as you hear his words, it's also important for the majority here to remember Mr. Jefferson's admonition that, although the will of the majority is in all cases to prevail, that will to be rightful must be reasonable and protect the rights of the minority. Because this majority, this Thelma and Louise Democrat majority in this Congress that's driving America right off a financial cliff, this Thelma and Louise Democrat majority doesn't often hold public hearings on bills. They drop bills out here on the floor without public hearings. There's no opportunity for amendment. There's very little opportunity for debate, just fundamentally destroying the whole purpose of this great deliberative body. And denying the minority our right to offer amendment, our right to be heard in this debate, is, as you will hear Mr. Jefferson say, oppression, a violation of the most fundamental principles of this great American Republic. We see it occur on a daily basis, and it's a tragic and terrible thing that the Thelma and Louise Democrat majority has imposed on this House, on this Nation, in denying the Republican minority our opportunity to offer amendments and be heard. So in that sense too, Mr. Jefferson's words have special meaning today.

I have probably read about 60 percent of Mr. Jefferson's works. He is my hero. Mr. Jefferson is my role model in all that I do. In representing District Seven, I do my very best, Mr. Speaker, to apply core Jeffersonian principles, and on every issue I have found no matter what the problem is, no matter what the issue is, Mr. Jefferson was right. If you apply core Republican principles, the knot always unties itself. I have yet to encounter a problem that Jeffersonian Republican principles won't solve. So, Mr. Speaker, I want to now read into the RECORD Thomas Jefferson's first inaugural address on March 4, 1801, at the conclusion of which I will yield back the remainder of my hour and turn it over to my good friend and colleague Roscoe Bartlett, a fellow dedicated conservative who is committed to the core principles of our Constitution. Mr. BARTLETT is someone I admire deeply, a fellow Jeffersonian.

And before reading Mr. Jefferson's inaugural address, his greatest speech perhaps, I think, and in the opinion of scholars, they believe Mr. Jefferson's first inaugural address is his greatest, let me also point out, Mr. Speaker, something else important. This good man, at the end of his life, wrote on his

tombstone three things. If you visit Monticello and visit Mr. Jefferson's grave, it says on his tombstone that he was the author of the American independence, the author of the Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom, and the father of the University of Virginia. Mr. Jefferson listed those three things because in his mind those were his three greatest achievements. He wanted to list on his tombstone those things that he had done for the American people rather than those things that they had done for him. All the offices that he had held, the incredible array of honors that had been his throughout his life. In fact, Mr. Speaker, there was a wonderful letter that Mr. Jefferson wrote towards the end of his life in February of 1826. He died, of course, on July 4, 1826, 50 years to the minute after he presented the Declaration of Independence to the Continental Congress. Mr. Jefferson held on, although he was unconscious. He knew that he was close to the 4th. He actually breathed his last at about 1 p.m. on July 4, 1826, at almost the exact moment that 50 years earlier the committee, Mr. Adams, Dr. Franklin, and Mr. Jefferson, had presented the Declaration to the Continental Congress.

Mr. Jefferson had, about 4 months earlier, wrote a letter justifying lotteries, because he couldn't balance his checkbook and Monticello was going to have to be sold to pay off his creditors, which broke his heart. And someone had come up with the idea of having a lottery to help pay for the debts that he had incurred. And, of course, a lottery, being gambling, it really worried Mr. Jefferson. And he wrote a long justification for this lottery that would sell tickets to save Monticello. And I recommend it to people to take a look at because in this long justification, called Thoughts on Lotteries and it's dated, I think, February of 1826, Mr. Jefferson lays out all of the great accomplishments in his life. After going through all the good things that lotteries have done in the past, he says that for no other reason people buy a lottery ticket, they should perhaps remember his services to the Nation, and he lists all that he had done with his incredible life: Secretary of State, Minister to France, Vice President, President of the United States, the author of the Declaration of Independence, this incredible list of accomplishments in his life.

□ 1530

And most revealingly, Mr. Speaker, Thomas Jefferson says at the end of it all, listing all of those accomplishments, Mr. Jefferson says, ''Of all these things that I have done with my life, the most important thing that I have ever done was to be a partisan Republican, to head the Republican party.''

Because Mr. Jefferson said ''it was the Republicans that I, as the leader of the Republicans in the Senate, and Albert Gallatin, as the leader of the Republicans in the House, that essentially saved the Republic, that held on to the core principles of the Constitution at the time under the Alien and Sedition Act when the Adams administration was furiously concentrating power in the hands of the Federal Government, that the Republicans in the Congress, the Republicans in the State legislature, and the phalanx of the State legislatures,'' as Mr. Jefferson said, ''it was the Republican party that truly saved the Republic,'' and that being partisan, being the leader of the Republican party, in Mr. Jefferson's mind, was his greatest accomplishment because it led to the election of 1800 and the salvation of the Nation.

Mr. Jefferson always thought of the election of 1800 as the revolution of 1800, and by electing a Republican majority to the House in 1800, a Republican majority to the Senate, a Republican President, Republicans had been elected in State legislatures across the Nation, that Mr. Jefferson believed that that election was decisive and allowed the core principles of the Constitution to be salvaged and to be preserved for future generations.

And with that in mind, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Jefferson stood up in the old Senate Chamber, just across the Rotunda, there is a plaque that people can see today in the old Senate Chamber. Mr. Jefferson was known for giving speeches. And he had a very soft voice. He was a little hard to hear. Eloquent and magnificent writer that he was, he was a little hard to hear in public speeches. And he stood up in the Senate Chamber. There was a lot of strong emotion in the room, a lot of anger. John Adams did not even attend the inauguration. He was so angry.

And as a quick side note, if you have not seen or not watched the magnificent HBO series on John Adams, you should. Having not subscribed to HBO before, we did subscribe for a couple of months just for the sole purpose of seeing that magnificent production of David McCullough's biography of John Adams that Tom Hanks is responsible for, and a great, good thing that Tom Hanks has done for the Nation in bringing David McCullough's book to the Nation. It is a magnificent series, and I recommend it to you.

And you will see in there that John Adams was so upset by his defeat that he didn't even attend the inauguration of Thomas Jefferson. And Mr. Jefferson therefore stood up and gave this speech in a very, very tense atmosphere in the old Senate Chamber. There were a lot of angry people in the room. The Nation, frankly, at one point, when the 34 ballots were being cast in that deadlock, there was even discussion of the militia in Virginia going to the old armory there in Williamsburg and taking out weapons, a militia marching on Washington to ensure Mr. Jefferson's election because of this deadlock.

So tensions were high. Partisan feelings were strong. Yet Mr. Jefferson stood up and gave his inaugural address, his greatest speech at a time when the Nation truly could have been split apart. New England even talked about leaving the Union.

In that atmosphere, Mr. Jefferson stood up on March 4, 1801, and gave the following speech.

''Called upon to undertake the duties of the first executive office of our country, I avail myself of the presence of that portion of my fellow-citizens which is here assembled to express my grateful thanks for the favor with which they have pleased to look toward me, to declare a sincere consciousness that the task is above my talents, and that I approach it with those anxious and awful presentiments which the greatness of the charge and the weakness of my powers so justly inspire.

''A rising Nation, spread over a wide and fruitful land, traversing all the seas with the rich productions of their industry, engaged in commerce with nations who feel power and forget right, advancing rapidly to destinies beyond the reach of mortal eye—when I contemplate these transcendent objects, and see the honor, the happiness, and the hopes of this beloved country committed to the issue and auspices of this day, I shrink from the contemplation, and humble myself before the magnitude of the undertaking.

''Utterly, indeed, should I despair did not the presence of many whom I see remind me that in the other high authorities provided by our Constitution I shall find resources of wisdom, of virtue and of zeal on which to rely under all difficulties. To you, then, gentlemen, who are charged with the sovereign functions of legislation, and to those associated with you, I look with encouragement for that guidance and support which may enable us to steer with safety the vessel in which we are all embarked amidst the conflicting elements of a troubled world.

''During the contest of opinion through which we have passed the animation of discussions and of exertions has sometimes worn an aspect which might impose on strangers unused to think freely and to speak and to write what they think, but this being now decided by the voice of the Nation, announced according to the rules of the Constitution, all will, of course, arrange themselves under the will of the law, and unite in common efforts for the common good:

''All, too, will bear in mind this sacred principle, that though the will of the majority is in all cases to prevail, that will, to be rightful must be reasonable; that the minority possess their equal rights, which equal law must protect, and to violate will be oppression.

''Let us, then, fellow-citizens, unite with one heart and one mind. Let us restore to social intercourse that harmony and affection without which liberty and even life itself are but dreary things. And let us reflect that having banished from our land that religious intolerance under which mankind so long bled and suffered, we have yet

gained little if we countenance a political intolerance as despotic, as wicked, and capable of as bitter and bloody persecutions.

''During the throes and convulsions of the ancient world, during the agonizing spasms of infuriated man, seeking through blood and slaughter his long-lost liberty, it was not wonderful that the agitation of the billows should reach even this distant and peaceful shore; that this should be felt and feared by some and less by others, and should divide opinions as to measures of safety.

''But every difference of opinion is not a difference of principle. We have called by different names brethren of the same principle. We are all Republicans, we are all Federalists. If there be any among us who would wish to dissolve this Union or to change its Republican form, let them stand undisturbed as monuments of the safety with which error of opinion may be tolerated where reason is left free to combat it. I know, indeed, that some honest men fear that a Republican government cannot be strong, that this government is not strong enough; but would the honest patriot in the full tide of successful experiment, abandon a government which has so far kept us free and firm on the theoretic and visionary fear that this government, the world's best hope, may by possibility want energy to preserve itself? I trust not. On the contrary, I believe this, the strongest government on Earth. I believe it is the only one where every man, at the call of the law, would fly to the standard of the law, and would meet invasions of the public order as his own personal concern. Sometimes it is said that man cannot be trusted with the government of himself. Can he, then, be trusted with the government of others? Or have we found angels in the form of kings to govern him? Let history answer this question.

''Let us, then, with courage and confidence pursue our own Federal and Republican principles, our attachment to union and representative government. Kindly separated by nature and a wide ocean from the exterminating havoc of one-quarter of the globe; too high-minded to endure the degradations of others; possessing a chosen country, with room enough for our descendants to the thousandth and thousandth generation; entertaining a due sense of our equal right to the use of our own faculties, to the acquisitions of our own industry, to honor and confidence from our fellow-citizens, resulting not from birth, but from our actions and their sense of them; enlightened by a benign religion, professed, indeed, and practiced in various forms, yet all of them inculcating honesty, truth, temperance, gratitude and the love of man; acknowledging and adoring an overruling Providence, which by all its dispensations proves that it delights in the happiness of man here and his greater happiness hereafter—with all these blessings, what more is necessary to make us a happy and prosperous people? Still one thing more, fellow-citizens—a wise and frugal government, which shall restrain men from injuring one another, shall leave them otherwise free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement, and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned. This is the sum of good government, and this is necessary to close the circle of our felicities.

''About to enter, fellow-citizens, on the exercise of duties which comprehend everything dear and valuable to you, it is proper you should understand what I deem the essential principles of our government, and consequently those which ought to shape its administration. I will compress them within the narrowest compass they will bear, stating the general principle, but not all its limitations.

''Equal and exact justice to all men, of whatever state or persuasion, religious or political;

''Peace, commerce and honest friendship with all nations, entangling alliances with none;

''The support of the State governments in all their rights, as the most competent administrations of our domestic concerns and the surest bulwarks against anti-Republican tendencies;

''The preservation of the general government in its whole constitutional vigor, as the sheet anchor of our peace at home and safety abroad;

''A jealous care of the right of election by the people—a mild and safe corrective of abuses which are lopped by the sword of revolution where peaceable remedies were unprovided;

''Absolute acquiescence in the decisions of the majority, the vital principle of Republics, from which there is no appeal but to force, the vital principle and immediate parent of despotism;

''A well-disciplined militia, our best reliance in peace and for the first moments of war till regulars may relieve them;

''The supremacy of the civil over the military authority;

''Economy in the public expense, that labor may be lightly burdened;

''The honest payment of our debts and sacred preservation of the public faith;

''Encouragement of agriculture, and of commerce as its handmaid;

''The diffusion of information and arraignment of all abuses at the bar of public reason;

''Freedom of religion;

''Freedom of the press;

''And freedom of person under the proceedings of habeas corpus, and trial by juries impartially selected.

''These principles form the bright constellation which has gone before us and guided our steps through an age of revolution and reformation. The wisdom of our sages and blood of our heroes have been devoted to their attainment. They should be the creed of our political faith, the text of civic instruction, the touchstone by which to try the services of those we trust; and should we wander from them in moments of error or of alarm, let us hasten to retrace our steps and to regain the road with alone leads to peace, liberty and safety.

□ 1545

''I repair, then, fellow-citizens, to the post you have assigned me. With experience enough in subordinate offices to have seen the difficulty of this the greatest of all, I have learnt to expect that it will rarely fall to the lot of imperfect man to retire from this station with the reputation and with the favor which bring him into it.

''Without pretensions to that high confidence you reposed in our first and greatest revolutionary character, whose preeminent services had entitled him to first place in his country's love and destined for him the fairest page in the volume of faithful history, I ask so much confidence only as may give firmness and effect to the legal administration of your affairs.

''I shall often go wrong through defect of judgment. When right, I shall often be thought wrong by those whose positions will not command a view of the whole ground. I ask your indulgence for my own errors, which will never be intentional, and your support against the errors of others, who may condemn what they would not if seen in all its parts. The approbation implied by your suffrage is a great consolation to me for the past, and my future solicitude will be to retain the good opinion of those who have bestowed it in advance, to conciliate that of others by doing them all the good in my power, and to be instrumental to the happiness and freedom of all.

''Relying, then, on the patronage of your good will, I advance with obedience to the work, ready to retire from it whenever you become sensible how much better choice it is in your power to make. And may that Infinite Power which rules the destiny of the universe lead our councils to what is best, and give them a favorable issue for your peace and prosperity.''

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Jefferson's first inaugural address holds so much wisdom for us today at the start of the 21st century, just as it did at the start of the 19th century, as surely his core principles are the touchstone by which I measure my work on behalf of the people of District 7. And in reading his magnificent speech today, I want to honor this great, good man, to celebrate his 265th birthday, to recognize Thomas Jefferson's genius, his contribution to this Nation, and to recommit myself in the service of the people of District 7 to the core principles of Jeffersonian Republicanism, through which I have absolutely no doubt we will dig ourselves out of this immense fiscal hole we find ourselves in and restore the hope that Mr. Jefferson had for the future.

After all, this is the greatest country ever created in the history of the world, and I have no doubt that the future is limitless for us as Americans.

I am proud to yield back the balance of my time and turn the floor over to my good friend, my colleague, someone I admire immensely, a fellow Jeffersonian, ROSCOE BARTLETT of Maryland.

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.

PEAK OIL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ALTMIRE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BARTLETT) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, if Thomas Jefferson could be resurrected today, he would be surprised by many things that he found. As my good friend from Texas just indicated, he would be enormously surprised by the size of our Federal Government, because he had envisioned a country in which we had a very limited Federal Government.

But there is something else that I remember about Thomas Jefferson that would really surprise him today. What he wanted for his new country was a largely agrarian society, with just enough cities to provide the manufacturing necessary to sustain an agricultural economy. He wanted this, he said, because he didn't want his new country to be blighted by the decadence of cities, as were the countries of Europe and the British Isles that they came from. He really, really would be quite surprised if he could be resurrected and come to our country today, wouldn't he, where far, far more than half of our people live in cities far larger than any he could have imagined at that time.

Mr. Speaker, this, I believe, is the 42nd time that I have come here to the floor to talk about energy and primarily about oil. The first time I came here was a little over 3 years ago. Oil was just over $50 a barrel then, and I was talking about a history that, had we paid attention to it, would have told us that today, or sometime roughly near this, we would be here with oil at $115 a barrel, that is what it touched in Asia overnight, and with gasoline at the pump out there averaging somewhere near $3.50 a gallon.

It was absolutely inevitable that we would be here. It was predicted that we would be here. And with all of these warnings, we really should have been doing something about that, and why we weren't is a very interesting subject.

There were two speeches given on energy in the last century that I think will be increasingly recognized, one of them as the most important speech given, and the other one the most insightful speech given.

I have here a quote from what I think was perhaps the most insightful speech given on energy. It was a speech given by Admiral Hyman Rickover, the father of our nuclear submarine, to a group of physicians in St. Paul, Minnesota, on the 14th day of May, 1957.

He says, ''In the 8,000 years from the beginning of history to the year 2000 A.D.,'' he was looking ahead, ''world population will have grown from 10 million to 4 billion.'' He really missed that, didn't he? It is nearly 7 billion. He really had a pretty good concept of what energy was doing for us, but he had underestimated the contribution that energy would make to the growth of our population, because we are now somewhere near 7 billion people, with 90 percent of that growth, more than 90 percent, taking place during the last 5 percent of that period, in 400 years. It took the first 3,000 years of recorded history to accomplish the first doubling of population, 100 years for the first doubling, but the next doubling will require only 50 years. And, of course, it required less than that, because we are now far more than doubled.

The next chart kind of depicts what Hyman Rickover was talking about. What this shows is the last part of that 8,000 years of recorded history. We have here only about 400 years of it. But if you went back the rest of the 8,000 years, the graph would look about the same. The production of energy was down there so near zero that it looked like it was on the zero line.

Here we see the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. It began with wood, of course. That is the brown line there. Then we discovered coal and we produced considerably more energy. Then we discovered gas and oil, and, boy, it shot up. Now, if I had a curve of the growth in population, it would just track almost precisely this curve in the increase in energy available.

This is an interesting curve, and I would like to spend just a moment looking at it. It is a very steep curve. Now, we can make this curve much less steep if we spread out the abscissa and compress the ordinate, and a little later we will have some curves that are that way. But you can still see the essentials of what this curve shows you.

Here is the oil price spike hikes of the seventies. You will see it resulted in a worldwide recession that actually reduced the use of oil. And now, after recovery from that recession, with a great deal more respect for efficiency, we are now increasing our use of energy at a very much lesser slope.

Now, in this chart where we have such a compressed abscissa, that is not as evident. It will be later. Later when we come to that I will point to the fact that this very steep curve, were it to have continued, we would be off the top of the chart and we would be in considerably more trouble relative to energy than we are today.

The next chart is another quote from this great speech that Hyman Rickover gave a little over 50 years ago. ''There is nothing that man can do to rebuild exhausted fossil fuel reserves.'' When they are gone, they are gone. You can't recycle energy. When it is used, it is gone. They were created by solar energy a very long time ago, he says 50 million years ago. It took eons to grow to their present volume.

In the face of the basic fact that fossil fuel reserves are finite, the exact length of time—I want you to listen to this statement, so insightful—the exact length of time these reserves will last is important in only one respect. The longer they last, the more time that we have to invent ways of living off renewable or substitute energy sources and to adjust our economy to the vast changes which we can expect from such a shift.

Fifty-one years ago. Tremendous advice. He recognized this. And he says we were living in a golden age. Exactly how long this golden age lasted would be only important in one regard. The longer it lasted, the more time we would have to shift to alternative sources of fuel, because fossil fuels, oil, gas and coal, are not infinite. They are finite. They will run out. The only question was not if, it was when will they run out. He said the longer they lasted, the more time we would have to invent ways of living off renewable or substitute energy sources.

The world has done essentially none of that in the 51 years since he made that statement and gave that counsel. We have behaved in our use of fossil fuels as if they were in fact infinite, as if they would always be there. Tomorrow there will be another huge find, and we can just go on using as much energy as we wish for as long as we wish.

The next chart is another quote from Hyman Rickover. ''Whether this golden age will continue depends entirely upon our ability to keep energy supplies in balance with the needs of our growing population.'' And oil is $115 a barrel and gas is $3.50 a gallon at the pump because we have not been able to keep energy supplies in balance with the needs of our growing population and our growing economies in this country and around the world, and we now have an imbalance between supply and demand. The demand is greater than the supply, and whenever that happens, of course, the price goes up, and the price has gone up.

The next chart is a quote from one of four studies that have been paid for by your government and have been pretty much ignored by your government. All four of these studies have said essentially the same thing, that peaking of oil is either present or imminent, with potentially devastating consequences, and we really need to be doing something about that.

The Corps of Engineers was one of those studies, the second one, in September of 2005. An earlier one, the Hirsch Report, was in February of 2005.

Then last year there were two more reports, one by the Government Accountability Office, and the other by the National Petroleum Council.

Oil, they said, is the most important form of energy in the world today. Historically, no other energy source equals oil's intrinsic qualities of extractability, transportability, versatility and cost. It has been really cheap. One barrel of oil represents the work output of 12 people working all year, 25,000 man-hours of effort.

When I first saw that statistic, I said, gee, that can't be true. Then I thought about it, how far that gallon of gas, still cheaper than water in the grocery store, carries my Prius; about 47–48 miles.

□ 1600

I know I could pull my Prius 47, 48 miles with a come-along and using guardrails and trees and so forth. How long would it take me to pull my Prius 47 miles?

Certainly it is true that historically no other energy resource equals oil's qualities. Its quality of energy and the quantity of energy in these fossil fuels, particularly, oil is just incredible. That's one of the big challenges we face in finding alternatives for these fossil fuels is something that has the quality and the quantity of the energy in these fossil fuels.

The next chart is a cartoon that asked the question ''Just why is gas so expensive?'' You can see here a tiny little supply and a huge demand, and that, of course, is why oil is so expensive. It's because the demand exceeds the supply.

This problem is an even more demanding problem than just a supply and demand, because as the next chart shows us, the major supplies of oil come, as the President said in one of his State of the Union messages from countries that don't even like us, this is a chart which shows what the world would look like if the size of the country was relative to how much oil it had in the ground.

You see here that Saudi Arabia dominates the landscape. Saudi Arabia represents about 22 percent of all the reserves of oil in the world, and you see how large the reserves are in countries like Iraq and tiny little Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. You almost have to have a magnifying glass to see them, they are so small. Look how huge they are relative to oil, then Iran huge. Russia, just a couple of days ago, Russia had indicated that had they had reached a maximum capacity for producing oil.

The United States, we have 2 percent of the known reserves of oil in the world. We use a fourth of the world's oil. What I really would like to focus on is the size of India and China over their more than a third of the world's population, and they have less oil than we have, and we have only 2 percent of the known reserves of oil in the world.

The next chart has this in some numbers, and these numbers inspired 30 of our prominent Americans, Jim Woolsey, McFarland, Boyden Gray and 27 others to write several years ago a letter to the President saying, Mr. President, the fact that we have only 2 percent of the world's oil reserves, and we used 25 percent of the world's oil and import almost two-thirds of what we use is an almost totally unacceptable national security risk, and we really have got to do something about that. That's true that this represents a huge national security risk.

This was recognized in our next chart by the Secretary of State in a comment that she made before a Senate committee just a bit over 2 years, April 5, 2006. ''We do have to do something about the energy problem—I can tell you that nothing has really taken me aback more as Secretary of State than the politics of the way energy is. I will use the word 'warping' diplomacy around the world. We have simply got to do something about the warping now of diplomatic effort by the all-out rush for energy supply.'' In that all-out rush, China is scouring the world and buying up oil reserves wherever they can find them.

The next chart looks again at the geopolitical picture. Why is oil just so expensive? Many people believe that OPEC is gouging us. Others believe that our oil companies are gouging us.

The truth, of course, is that the price of oil is determined by the relationship between the supply of oil and the demand for oil.

Our large companies and the countries that are producing oil just happen to be happy recipients of this confluence of events which demands more oil than is available and so the price is up.

What this chart looks at is the top 10 of the oil and gas companies on the basis of how much oil they have. You see that 98 percent of these top 10 are all countries, they are not companies.

Most of the oil in the world is not owned by companies, it's own by countries. LUKOIL, which is kind of an independent oil company in Russia, is only 2 percent at the top of this bar.

The bar here looks at the top 10 oil and gas companies on the basis of production. Now, we have huge oil companies. ExxonMobil, the largest one in the world, Royal Dutch/Shell, BP, collectively, they produce only 22 percent of the oil, and these state-owned fields produce only 78 percent of the oil.

The next chart I mentioned, China's interest in scouring the world and looking for oil, wherever you see a dollar sign on this chart, we have bought some oil. Here I see a dollar sign here, I see a dollar sign, not very many of them. When you see this little Chinese symbol kind of a sign here that's where China has bought oil.

Here is one, they tried to buy Unocal in our country. You see their symbol all over the world. They are aggressively buying oil all over the world.

In today's world it really doesn't make any difference who owns the oil, the person who has the dollars. It's an auction, a bidding process. The person who has the dollars buys the oil.

Why would China be buying up oil if they simply come with the dollars and you buy all the oil they need on the world market? Well, it's hard to get inside another person's head, but it may just be that they are looking to the day when they will not be able to share their oil with the world.

Now, all the oil in all the world is shared with all of the world. It's all a huge auction pool and everybody contributes and everybody buys. That happy day may end.

The next chart. If you had only one chart to look at to inform yourself about where we are and what the challenge is, I think this would be the chart. This chart shows bars that represent the amount of oil that we discovered year by year. You see that we had huge, huge discoveries back in the 1960s and 1970s.

Then from about the 1980s, I am really starting about the 1970s on, we progressively found, choppy up and down, but less and less and less oil. That's in spite of ever-better techniques for finding oil.

The solid black line here represents the oil that we have used. Here is the 1970s, and notice the reduction in use there as a result of a worldwide recession brought on by the oil price spike hikes then.

Now, this is an expansion of the abscissa—and I indicated earlier we would have a chart where there is a huge difference in slope. Remember we had that red one just going straight up. If we could compress this abscissa we could make that one go almost straight up.

But notice how much less the slope is after the recession of the 1970s. That's because the world woke up and said, gee, oil is expensive, isn't it, and we can do better, and let's be more efficient.

The air conditioner you have today may be two or three more times more efficient, as is your refrigerator. We now have fluorescent lights, and they are very much more efficient than incandescent lights. So this lesser slope of the curve represents increased efficiency. Were it not for that, notice where we would be on the curve now, we would be off the top of the chart now, wouldn't we, if this kept going.

By the way, I want to just make one observation about exponential growth. This is, of course, exponential growth. Albert Einstein was asked, Dr. Einstein, what will be the next big force we find after nuclear energy? His response, the most powerful force in the universe is the power of compound interest.

Just 2 percent growth, that's so anemic, that our market doesn't like it. It really kind of teeters, it stutters a little and doesn't grow with 2 percent growth. Things tend to be pessimistic, but 2 percent growth doubles in 35 years, it's 4 times bigger in 70 years,

it's 9 times bigger in 105 years and it's 16 times bigger in 140 years, just 2 percent growth, compound growth. So if this compound growth had continued, this will be off the top of the page.

That was kind of a trauma going through the 1970, but we really should look back on it and say how lucky we were that we had a wake-up call because look what happened? We got much more efficient, and so now we are in much less trouble than we would have been had we not had this chalk, and we would have continued along this curve.

The next chart, the next chart is one from the U.S. Corps of Engineers. In general, all nonrenewable resources follow a natural supply curve, production increases rapidly, slows, reaches a peak and then declines at a rapid pace similar to its initial increase.

The major question for petroleum is not whether production will peak, this is one of the four studies your government paid for and is now ignoring. It's not whether the production will peak but when. Oil is not infinite in its supply, it is finite. There is only so much.

One day we will reach our maximum capabilities for producing oil. There are many estimates of recoverable petroleum reserves giving rise to many estimates of when peak oil will occur and how high the peak will be. A careful review of all the estimates leads to the conclusion that world oil production may peak within a few short years, after which it will decline.

Once peak oil curves, then the historic patterns of world oil demand and price cycles will cease. They might have gone on to explain what that's going to do to our economy.

The next slide—and I have to go back more than 50 years to put this in context—on the 8th day of March in 1956, the most important speech, what I think will certainly recognize will be the most important speech of the last century was given, and this speech was given by a Shell Oil Company scientist, M. King Hubbert, to a group of physicians in St. Paul, Minnesota.

At that time, the United States was king of oil. We were producing more oil, consuming more oil and shipping more oil than any country in the world. What M. King Hubbert told them was that in 16 short years, 14 short years, you are going to reach your maximum production of oil. He made that prediction in 1956. And sure enough in 1970, the yellow symbols here we reached our maximum production.

Now, the actual maximum production was a little bit higher, it was the green squares there, and they tended to be a little bit higher going down the slope on the other side of Hubbert's peak. Some would have you believe the difference between M. King Hubbert's predictions the gold triangles and the oil that we actually pump indicate that he didn't really know what he was talking about.

Well, it did peak in 1970, and it did go down after that. If you aren't a statistician, I think the average person would look at that and say, gee, he really got it pretty right didn't he.

Now the red squares there on the other side represent the total amount of oil that we pump, because he had only predicted the lower 48, and we added huge amounts of oil from Alaska, a fourth of our total production for the last several years, and from the Gulf of Mexico. Even with those hugely large extra supplies, there was still just a blip in the slope down the other side of Hubbert's peak.

Now the same person that predicted that the United States would be peaking in 1970. In 1979, he predicted that the world would be peaking about now.

We have kind of blown, not kind of, we have blown the last 28 years, because by 1980, here we are in 1980, we looked back and, boy, M. King Hubbert was right about the United States. We did peak in 1970. In spite of drilling more oil wells than all the rest of the world put together, we have not been able to make a liar out of M. King Hubbert.

Today we produce about half of the oil we produced in 1970. In the lower 48 we produce way less than half of the oil that we produced then.

□ 1615

Now in 1979 he predicted that the world would be peaking about now.

The next chart has data from two entities in our world that are pretty good at tracking how much oil we pump and use. By the way, we use all we pump. There are no big reservoirs of oil waiting to be used. I would caution that I don't think these entities have the same fidelity in predicting how much more we will find in the future, but they do a very good job of tracking what we've used. This is the EIA and the IEA. The IEA is the International Energy Agency. You hear them referred to. They are the ones that are tracking what is going on in Iran with their nuclear thing. And the EIA is the Energy Information Administration and is a part of our own Department of Energy. Both of those have oil production plateauing; one of them for about 3 years, and the other for about a year and a half.

What happens when demand keeps going up and supply stagnates? This price curve shows you what happens. We had a comfortable dip here in prices less than a year ago, but now they are skyrocketing, and $115 is off the top of the chart. We need to make a new chart to show where 115.

The question I ask myself and audiences is: If M. King Hubbert was right about the United States, which is a microcosm of the world, we did peak in 1970, and it is clear every year after that we have less and less oil, why wouldn't the United States be a microcosm of the world, and he predicted the world would be peaking about now, why wouldn't we have done something about that? Why have we continued to behave as if gas and oil and coal were forever, that they would never run out? What we want to do now is to rush out to our public lands to offshore, to ANWR, and to drill. I asked them, if you can drill ANWR tomorrow, what will you do the day after tomorrow? And there will be a day after tomorrow.

I think about that. I have 10 kids and 16 grandkids and 2 great-grandkids. They are going to be here the day after tomorrow. We are leaving them a huge debt. Check my voting record, it is not my fault. We are leaving them a huge debt, and I asked them, Wouldn't it be nice if we left them a little oil. And they smile, and the next thing they are asking, Would you vote to drill in ANWR. No, I won't. Or on our public lands or offshore until you commit to me that you will use every bit of energy you get from those sites to invest in alternative energy because we have now run out of surplus energy. If we had any surplus oil, it wouldn't be $115 a barrel today, would it. So I will vote to drill there when I have a commitment that we will use all of the energy we get there and invest it in the development of alternatives.

The next chart is a detailed chart of our production and decline. Here is what M. King Hubbert predicted of Texas and the rest of the United States. And then we have learned to get some gas from natural gas liquids, a huge find in Alaska, a big find in the Gulf of Mexico, just a blip in the slide down the other side of Hubbert's peak.

The next chart shows some projections of what we will find in the future. Although with really good techniques and a lot of energy, we have gone out there, a lot of incentives, we have looked for the last remaining oil deposits and we have found less and less and less as time goes on. What this curve does is smooth out the big bars we saw before. Here we are at this point. They were projecting how much more we were going to find. We don't have time, but there is a really interesting metamorphosis that took place here.

The USGS, in trying to predict how much more oil we would find, has several computer models. They put different data into those models, and they get different results out. They have run many simulations, and they put all of those simulations on a chart and they get the mean of the simulations. They think that they are putting in good data and so they should be getting out good data. They take the mean of those, and they say this is the most probable amount of oil we will find.

Somehow that ''F'' for frequency, maybe it was a bad font, but somehow it showed up as a ''P'' or probability when it got to EIA. And then they make some bizarre applications of statistics.

They say that the 50 percent probability, the green one here, which they say is the mean, and of course 50 percent probability is not a mean, it is 50 percent probability. They say the 50 percent probability is more likely than

the 95 percent probability. Of course that defies logic in that it obviously is not more probable because the actual data points have been following, as you expect they would follow, the 95 percent probability.

I will say again: These two agencies, the IEA and the EIA do a really good job of tracking what we produce and use. I would be careful about accepting their prognostications of what we are going to find.

The next chart is one from the first big study that I mentioned, one of the four that your government paid for and it is largely ignoring. This is called the Hirsch Report done by SAIC, a huge, international, very prestigious, scientific engineering organization.

I have highlighted this phrase because it is so shocking. ''The world has never faced a problem like this. There is no precedent in history to guide us.''

We have never faced a problem like this. You cannot go back in history and find any problem that will help you decide how you are going to get through this. The world has never faced a problem like this.

The next chart. They say that the peaking of world oil production presents the United States and the world with an unprecedented risk management problem. They say that the economic, social and political cost will be unprecedented. Wow, strong words. The world has never faced a problem like this, unprecedented risk management problem. Nothing like it in history. Nothing to guide you. The economic, social and political cost will be unprecedented.

The next chart is a schematic. This shows what we have been talking about, a 2 percent rate of growth, doubles in 35 years. The yellow there is 35 years. I think we are about here. Notice the shortfall occurs a little before peaking, although the IEA and the EIA both have oil peaking, so we may be about at that point.

Most people when they look at that chart say we have to fill that yellow space because we have to have all of the liquid fuels that we would like to use. I will submit, Mr. Speaker, that it is exceedingly unlikely that we will be able to fill that blank to make up for the deficit between what we would like to use and what will be available. Filling the gap, I think, is not feasible. And what Hyman Rickover cautioned 50 years ago, 51 years ago now, we should note today, and that is we need to plan in an orderly fashion to move from fossil fuels to sustainable renewables because geology will demand it. We will move when the oil is not there, when the gas is not there, and when the coal is not there. Then we will have moved to alternatives. Whether that is a bumpy ride or a really bumpy ride will depend on what we do now and in the immediate future.

The next chart is a really interesting one because it shows us again this rapidly accelerating use of oil, then the recession of the 1970s, and a lesser slope after that. This chart assumes that we may find as much more oil as all the recoverable oil we now know exists. Most experts believe that roughly, at the end of the day, there will have been roughly two trillion barrels of oil pumped. We have pumped about a trillion barrels now. Most experts believe we have another trillion barrels to pump. This assumes that we are going to have a total of three trillion barrels.

Now if we have one trillion barrels remaining of the two original, we have pumped one and if there is a total of three, that means that they are presuming that we are going to find another trillion barrels of oil. If we do that, by their own calculations it will simply move the peak out from around 2000 or a little after 2000 to 2016. That is not very far. That is the effect of exponential growth.

During the Carter years, every decade we used as much oil as had been used in all of previous history. That is a stunning statistic. Thank goodness for those oil price spike shocks and the efficiency that resulted from that or else we would be in a really troubled world today.

What that means is if you use as much each decade as you use in all of previous history, when you have used half of the world's oil, which is where we are, then you would have 10 years of oil remaining. We have slowed down so if you do those calculations, the 88 million barrels a day, a trillion barrels remaining, that comes out to roughly 30 years. It is not going to be 30 years of constant production and then fall off the cliff because it is going to be harder and harder to get, more and more expensive, and getting less and less each year no matter what we do.

The next chart is a quote, very recent quote, January 22 of this year, by the CEO of Shell Oil, Royal Dutch Shell. ''By the year 2100, the world's energy system will be radically different from today's. The world's current predicament limits our maneuvering room. We are experiencing a step change in the growth rate of energy demand and Shell estimates after 2015, supplies of easy-to-access oil and gas will no longer keep up with demand.'' That may have already happened, as we noted from that former chart and as we see with gas over $10 and oil over $115 a barrel.

''As a result'' he says, ''society has no choice but to add other energy sources.''

Have you noticed society doing that at any aggressive clip?

The next chart, and I want to spend some meaningful amount of time looking at what are those alternatives. We are very much like the young couple whose grandparents have died and left them a big inheritance. The young couple has now established a really lavish life style. They are living it up. Eighty-five percent of all the money they spend comes from their grandparents' inheritance—coal, petroleum, natural gas—and only 15 percent of it comes from their income. Now they look at how old they are, they look at their grandparents' inheritance, and see it is going to run out before they retire. They have to spend less or make more. That's exactly where we are.

Eighty-five percent of all of the energy we use is the equivalent of our grandparents' inheritance. We inherited it. It is there in the ground, coal, oil and gas. And only 15 percent of the energy we use is something else.

Now this 85 percent is going away. We have reached the maximum production, and if the world is going to follow the model of the United States, no matter what we do, the production in the world is going to be less and less, harder and harder to get, more and more expensive. That has happened in our country. And in spite of drilling more oil wells than all of the rest of the world together, and in spite of having the best oil people in all of the world, we have not been able to make M. King Hubbert out to be a liar because we still today, with all of that technology, with 530,000 producing oil wells, we still are producing only about half of the oil that we produced in 1970.

□ 1630

Well, what are the alternatives? What will we be using at the end of this magnificent age of oil?

And Hyman Rickover didn't know how long it would last. They were about 100 years into the age of oil. Oil had not peaked then. It wouldn't peak for another 50 years, 51 years or so, so he had no idea how long it lasted. But he said how long it lasted was important in only one regard; that the longer it lasted, the more time we would have to plan a rational transition from oil to other sustainable renewable sources of fuel.

Well, here we are today, and what have we done?

The President said in one of his State of the Union addresses that we are hooked on oil. We are indeed. And I think that rushing out there to drill in public lands, to drill in ANWR, to drill offshore is exactly the equivalent of giving a dope addict another fix. As the President says, we really, really do have to wean ourselves from these fossil fuels.

By the way, there are three groups out there that want to do this for very different reasons. One of those groups is the national security group that I mentioned that is really concerned that we have only 2 percent of the oil, and use 25 percent of the oil, and import almost two-thirds of what we use. Our second largest importer now is Saudi Arabia. It was Mexico. They've fallen back. That really places us in a very precarious position.

The President has indicated that we really must transition from these fossil fuels to renewables. What will they be?

And here we have a brief listing, and I think that this subtends about all of the possible renewables. By the way, we get more than the non fossil fuel energy nuclear power. 8 percent of the 15

percent is nuclear. We get about 20 percent of our electricity from nuclear. It's down just a little. Now 19 something, roughly 20.

The French get about 75, 80 percent. But we still produce more nuclear than France because we have a whole lot bigger economy than France has. We're the largest nuclear power producers in the world. That could and probably should grow. Only 7 percent in other renewables.

The things that I'm very fond of are solar and wind. I have a place off-grid, and I have solar panels and I have wind machines and batteries for storage, and so I'm a huge fan of solar and wind.

But these were 1 percent of 7 percent in 2000. They're really growing, growing maybe 30, 40 percent a year. That's huge growth. So they're four or five times bigger. .28 percent, big deal because this is only .07 percent. So these things that will be important sources of energy in the future are now very small, growing; rapidly, but still very small.

Wood, this is the paper industry and the timber industry wisely using what would otherwise be a waste product, and there's not a huge potential for growth there without doing what North Korea, has done, for instance. They're just cutting down their forests.

Waste energy, that's very popular. And there's a great facility up here in Northern Montgomery County. I've been by. I would be proud to have it by my church. It looks really nice. The waste comes in in big containers and in railroad cars and I don't even see it. And they handle it very well. I didn't even smell it when I was there.

But I want to caution that this huge waste stream is the result, largely the result of profligate use of fossil fuels. Look at it. Almost everything in that waste stream was the result of using oil, gas or coal. It's a really great idea now. Recycle what you can, burn what's left, better than burying it in the ground somewhere. But that's not a silver bullet, not a solution to our problem because in an energy-deficient world, this is really going to shrink because the energy just isn't going to be there to create all this waste.

Conventional hydro. Huge. We've tapped out on that in our country. We've probably dammed up some rivers we shouldn't have dammed up. But some people believe we could get as much from micro hydro. There's some really good small pelt wheels and turbines and so forth.

Alcohol fuel. 1 percent back then. Now, we've had a huge push for alcohol fuel.

There have been two big bubbles that have broken, two big hopes. One of them was the hydrogen economy. You don't hear very many people talking about it anymore. I think it's probably sunk in that hydrogen is not free for the having. There's no place you can go, like you can go for coal or gas or oil and drill a hole and get hydrogen.

You get hydrogen by using one energy source, using another energy source to create the hydrogen. You split water, or you use electricity, or you get it from natural gas. But you will always use more energy getting the hydrogen than you will get out of the hydrogen. That's the second law of thermodynamics. And if we can violate that law, why we can set aside the law of gravity, and then we won't have the kind of problems that we have today with energy, will we? That's an inviolate law that won't change.

So why are we talking about hydrogen if you will never get as much energy out of the hydrogen as it took to make the hydrogen? For two reasons. One, when you finally burn it, the product you get is the oxide of hydrogen. It's burned hydrogen. We call it water. When you look at water, it's burned hydrogen is what it is. And it's really clean, isn't it?

And the second thing is it's a great candidate for a fuel cell, which is probably at least two decades off. So you don't hear much talk about hydrogen. It may 1 day be an important part of our energy economy, but that day must await, I think, the development of the fuel cell because if you're simply going to put hydrogen in a reciprocating engine, why wouldn't you put the fuel from which you made the hydrogen in your reciprocating engine and save that fuel loss in the transition?

The second big bubble that broke was the corn ethanol bubble. And I really had high hopes for this before I did some back of the envelope computations, because I saw our farmers who were getting too little for their crops, huge energy represented in these crops, and I think they will make a meaningful contribution to our energy future. But not in the dimensions that were anticipated for corn ethanol.

The National Academy of Sciences, and this isn't ROSCOE BARTLETT, this is National Academy of Sciences, although my back of the envelope computations came to the same conclusion. The National Academy of Sciences says if we use all of our corn for ethanol, every bit of it, use all of it for ethanol, and discounted it for the fossil fuel input, which is huge, in fact, some people believe if you really cost account all the fossil fuel energy that goes into producing ethanol, more energy goes in than you get out of this. They were using 80 percent, which is probably not bad; that that would displace 2.4 percent of our gasoline. That's all of our corn, displace 2.4 percent of our gasoline.

They noted wryly that you could save as much gas if you tuned up your car and put air in the tires. And by the way, you would save half your gas if there was two people in every vehicle out there instead of one which is in most vehicles. You would save half your gas if your vehicle got 40 miles per gallon, rather than 20 miles per gallon, both of which are very doable with a little planning and buying the right car, by the way.

I think was 2 or 3 days ago there was a major headline above the fold in the New York Times saying that Third World leaders were complaining to us that we were starving their people because the high price of corn incented our farmers to shift land from wheat and soybeans to corn. That drove up the price of wheat and soybeans. There have been some problems producing rice around the world and, anyway, these commodities tend to more together. So the four basic foods of the poorest people in the world, they said, have been driven up drastically, essentially doubled in price, because we're making corn ethanol.

Hyman Rickover, by the way, I don't have that quote here but please do a Google search for Rickover and energy speech, and it'll pop up. He cautioned that you probably shouldn't be eating your food. 51 years ago. Maybe we should have listened.

Geothermal. That's true geothermal. That's not hooking your heat pump to ground temperature, which is a really good idea. If you think about what you're asking that heat pump to do this winter, if it wasn't hooked to ground temperature, you were asking it to cool the outside air, which might have been 10 degrees, so that it could warm up your air in the house. That's what you're doing.

How much easier its job would have been if it had been looking at 56 degrees, rather than 10 degrees, because 56 degrees is what ground temperature in here, it's mean annual temperature, it's what the water is that comes out of the wells.

Now, this summer, if you have an air conditioner in your window, and it's not a heat pump tied to the ground, what that air conditioner is going to be trying to do is heating up the 100 degree air outside so it can cool your house inside. Pretty tough job.

But if you had tied that air conditioner to ground temperature, now it's looking at 56, which looks really cool, compared to 100, doesn't it?

I didn't understand this phenomenon as a 7-year old, and I grew up without electricity and an inside toilet on a farm, and we kept our food in a spring house. And I thought there was something magic in that spring house and I didn't understand it, but I knew it was magic because I went in that spring house in the summertime and it was so cool. And I went in that spring house in the winter time and it was so warm.

Of course, when it was 100 outside, that spring house, which was maybe 65, that was Pennsylvania, it'd be a little colder than here, maybe 60 or so, that really seemed cool. In the winter time 60 seemed really warm compared to the zero or 10 degrees outside, so I thought there was something magic in that spring house.

The next chart takes a little deeper look at some of our alternatives. Now, we do have some finite resources, and we can exploit those, and we will exploit those, and we should exploit those, but they are finite. Some of them are huge.

The first of these are the tar sands in Canada. They are huge. There's as much potential oil in those tar sands as there is in all of the known reserves of oil in the world, more actually.

So why aren't we euphoric over that? It's because it's very difficult to get.

The Canadians are now using natural gas, which will run out. They're pumping water, which will run out. They're creating a huge tailings pond, which is kind of an environmental disaster, and they're producing a million barrels a day. That's a lot. It's a little over 1 percent of what the world uses. We use about 88 million barrels a day.

But they know it's not sustainable because they're going to run out of gas, they're going to run out of water, and what they're now exploiting is kind of on the surface, and it will soon kind of duck under an overlay, so they have to develop it in situ, and they aren't quite sure how to do that.

So there's a huge amount of energy there, potential. But there's also a huge amount of potential energy in the tides. The moon lifts the whole darned ocean 2 or 3 feet. That's a huge amount of energy.

But, you know, getting that in your gas tank is quite another thing. Energy, to be effective, must be concentrated, and in the tides it certainly isn't concentrated.

Now in our west we have oil shales, and they are really huge, maybe even bigger than the tar sands in Canada. Nobody yet is commercially exploiting those. There are some vigorous attempts today, and there may be some exploitation of those. There's at least a trillion barrels, maybe a trillion and a half, two trillion barrels there. And different experts differ on how much of that may be recoverable. But, again, because it's there, it's not in your gas tank, we will recover some of that.

As oil goes up, Goldman Sachs says by the end of the year it could be 150, $200 a barrel. Who knows?

The more expensive oil gets, the more sources there are of oil because you can now use oil which would have been prohibitive in cost with oil at lower prices.

Coal. I know a lot of people who say, don't worry about the future; we have sure supplies of coal. We have 250 years of coal, at current usage rates.

Be very careful, calibrate what people say when they tell you at current use rates. Now, if we had 250 years of coal, and we don't, I'll come to that in a moment. But if we had 250 years of coal at current use rates, if you increase that use only 2 percent, that's not much, we will have to do more than that. But if you increase it only 2 percent it shrinks to 85 years. The power of compound growth.

And if you use some of the energy coal to make it a gas or a liquid, because you can't put coal in the trunk of your car and go down the road, it now shrinks to 50 years.

And when one other observation. We have no alternative but to share it with the world. Let me tell you why. Because if we get oil from coal, we're then not buying some Saudi oil, which somebody else can buy, so it has the exact effect of sharing it with the world. That is inescapable. There is no way to avoid that.

So now that 50 years, since we use a fourth of the world's supply, and that 250 years was at current use rates for us in this country, not the whole world, now that 50 years, divided by four, shrinks to 12½ years. So if we had 250 years of coal and we increased its use only 2 percent, converted it to a gas or a liquid and shared it with the world, and we have no alternative, it'll last 12½ years.

□ 1645

But the National Academy of Sciences says we haven't looked at the coal reserves since the 1970s and they believe there is more like 100 years at current use rates. So that 85 years and 50 years now shrink to something roughly half of that, and the 12½ years sharing it with the world may shrink to something like 5 or 6 or so years sharing it with the world.

The coal is there. It is huge. But our use of energy in the world is huge, huge. Eighty-eight million barrels a day, each barrel having the energy equivalent of 12 people working all year. That's an incredible amount of energy. Just look at the road you travel home on tonight and see the cars there, and that's replicated 1,000 times in our country and thousands of times around the world.

I was in Beijing a little while ago and they banned bicycles in parts of Beijing. There is no room for them. So many cars on the road. I was late to an appointment in Beijing because of traffic jams, late to an appointment in Moscow because of traffic jams there. I was there in 1973, and the streets were almost devoid of cars. You saw a military vehicle now and then. That's all you saw then. A whole different world now.

Well, there's nuclear, and we now get 8 percent of our total energy, almost 20 percent of our electricity from nuclear that could and probably should grow. But the nuclear we're now using, which is whitewater reactors using fissionable uranium is limited because there is a limited supply of fissionable uranium. That won't last forever.

There are breeder reactors. Nobody uses them for energy production. The breeder reactors, as the name implies, make more fuel than they use. You buy some problems with those, like you have to enrich the fuel and it's weapon's grade stuff and you have to move it around and there's challenges for terrorists getting it and such; but you get energy from it.

Then there is the only silver bullet that gets us home free, and that is nuclear fusion. I happily vote for the roughly $250 million a year that we spend developing that. We're joining with other countries in helping to develop that. I think the probability is low that we will ever be able to exploit that on a commercial scale.

Now, if you're sanguine believing that we're going to solve our energy problem with nuclear fusion, you probably think you can solve your personal financial problems by winning the lottery. You might do it. But the odds of you solving your personal financial problems by winning the lottery are about the same as our solving our energy problems by using fusion.

But because it is such an incredible source, the only thing that gets us home free, I happily support, and I would support more money if we had more skilled people out there who could be looking at this.

The next big bubble that we're talking about now is biomass, and I would caution, how much more energy you think that we can get from wastelands out there that aren't good enough to grow corn and soybeans on, that we could get from all of our corn and all of our soybeans?

I would like to take the last couple of minutes to note a couple of things that we have been doing.

I have a bill, and this is going to give a prize to the first farm that can be totally energy independent. If our farms can't be energy independent, we're really in trouble, aren't we?

The next chart is a bill, the Drive Act. That will encourage the development of vehicles that are more efficient that are flex-fuel. You can use any fuel. Not corn ethanol, but any of the alternative fuels.

I would just like to note that I find this whole challenge exhilarating. There is no exhilaration like meeting and overcoming a huge challenge. I spent some time going over these potential alternatives. I just want realistic expectations. There's no silver bullet out there. It's going to be a little of this and a little of that. And America is very good at that.

What we need in this country is a program that has a total commitment of World War II. I lived through that war. I'll be 82 years old on my next birthday, about 6 weeks from now. I lived through that war.

We need the technology commitment that we had when we put a man on the moon, that focus, and we need the urgency of the Manhattan Project. And I think that Americans are up to this challenge. I think we can lead the world in developing the technology to take us away from the fossil fuels to these other sources of energy.

The next chart I have already gone through. I will indulge for just a moment with the last chart. This is a great one to end on.

Mr. Speaker, this is a chart that shows how satisfied you are with life and how much energy you use. There are 22 countries, some of them using half the energy that we use that are happier with life than we are. There's lots and lots of opportunities out there to live really well using less energy,

and that's our challenge, and with proper leadership, America is up to it.

EXTENDING LEAST-DEVELOPED BENEFICIARY DEVELOPING COUNTRY BENEFITS TO THE SOLOMON ISLANDS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 110–105)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YARMUTH) 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:

In accordance with section 502(f)(1)(B) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the ''Act''), I am providing notification of my intent to add the Solomon Islands to the list of least-developed beneficiary developing countries under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program. In Executive Order 12302 of April 1, 1981, the Solomon Islands was designated as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP program. After considering the criteria set forth in sections 501 and 502 of the Act, I have determined that it is appropriate to extend least-developed beneficiary developing country benefits to the Solomon Islands.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *April 17, 2008*.

HOUSE BILLS APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT

The President notified the Clerk of the House that on the following dates, he had approved and signed bills of the following titles:

January 7, 2008:

H.R. 660. An Act to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect judges, prosecutors, witnesses, victims, and their family members, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3690. An Act to provide for the transfer of the Library of Congress police to the United States Capitol Police, and for other purposes.

January 8, 2008:

H.R. 2640. An Act to improve the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, and for other purposes.

January 28, 2008:

H.R. 4986. An Act to provide for the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, as previously enrolled, with certain modifications to address the foreign sovereign immunities provisions of title 28, United States Code, with respect to the attachment of property in certain judgements against Iraq, the lapse of statutory authorities for the payment of bonuses, special pays, and similar benefits for members of the uniformed services, and for other purposes.

January 31, 2008:

H.R. 5104. An Act to extend the Protect America Act of 2007 for 15 days.

February 5, 2008:

H.R. 3432. An Act to establish the Commission on the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

February 13, 2008:

H.R. 5140. An Act to provide economic stimulus through recovery rebates to individuals, incentives for business investment, and an increase in conforming and FHA loan limits.

February 14, 2008:

H.R. 4253. An Act to improve and expand small business assistance programs for veterans of the armed forces and military reservists, and for other purposes.

February 15, 2008:

H.R. 3541. An Act to amend the Do-not-call Implementation Act to eliminate the automatic removal of telephone numbers registered on the Federal ''do-not-call'' registry.

February 28, 2008:

H.R. 1216. An Act to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue regulations to reduce the incidence of child injury and death occurring inside or outside of light motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5270. An Act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

February 29, 2008:

H.R. 5264. An Act to extend the Andean Trade Preference Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5478. An Act to provide for the continued minting and issuance of certain $1 coins in 2008.

SENATE BILLS APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT

The President notified the Clerk of the House that on the following dates, he had approved and signed bills of the Senate of the following titles:

January 4, 2008:

S. 2436. An Act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the term of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

January 7, 2008:

S. 863. An Act to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to fraud in connection with major disaster or emergency funds.

February 6, 2008:

S. 2110. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 427 North Street in Taft, California, as the ''Larry S. Pierce Post Office''.

March 6, 2008:

S. 2571. An Act to make technical corrections to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act.

S. 781. An Act to extend the authority of the Federal Trade Commission to collect Do-Not-Call Registry fees to fiscal years after fiscal year 2007.

March 11, 2008:

S. 2478. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 59 Colby Corner in East Hampstead, New Hampshire, as the ''Captain Jonathan D. Grassbaugh Post Office''.

March 12, 2008:

S. 2272. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service known as the Southpark Station in Alexandria, Louisiana, as the John ''Marty'' Thiels Southpark Station, in honor and memory of Thiels, a Louisiana postal worker who was killed in the line of duty on October 4, 2007.

March 14, 2008:

S. 2745. An Act to extend agricultural programs beyond March 15, 2008, to suspend permanent price support authorities beyond that date, and for other purposes.

S.J. Res. 25. Joint Resolution providing for the appointment of John W. McCarter as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

March 24, 2008:

S. 2733. An Act to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. PALLONE (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today through April 24 on account of a family medical emergency.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCHIFF, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PRICE of Georgia) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. TANCREDO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, April 24.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, April 24.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia, for 5 minutes, today.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Ms. Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 5813. An act to amend Public Law 110–196 to provide for a temporary extension of programs authorized by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 beyond April 18, 2008.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced her signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 793—An act to provide for the expansion and improvement of traumatic brain injury programs.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 54 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, April 18, 2008, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6138. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental

Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Inert Ingredients: Denial of Pesticide Petitions 2E6491 (N-Acyl Sarcosines and Sodium N-Acyl Sarcosinates), 7E4810 (Crezasin), and 7E4811 (Mival) [EPA-HQ-OPP-2002-0201; FRL-8342-4] received February 4, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6139. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Clothianidin; Pesticide Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2007-0280; FRL-8346-9] received January 28, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6140. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — North Dakota: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions and Incorporation by Reference of Approved Hazardous Waste Program [EPA-R08-RCRA-2006-0501; FRL-8524-7] received February 4, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6141. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans and Operating Permits Program; State of Kansas [EPA-R07-OAR-2007-0829; FRL-8526-2] received February 4, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6142. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maine; Transportation Conformity [EPA-R01-OAR-2007-1054; A-1-FRL-8524-9] received February 4, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6143. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Final Rule; Ohio; Revised Oxides of Nitrogen (NO_X) Regulation, Phase II, and Revised NO_X Trading Rule [EPA-R05-OAR-2007-1085; FRL-8519-1] received January 28, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6144. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Ohio; Clean Air Interstate Rule [EPA-R05-OAR-2007-0390; FRL-8519-6] received January 28, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6145. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Adequacy of Nebraska Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Program [EPA-R07-RCRA-2006-0878; FRL-8523-2] received January 28, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6146. A letter from the Executive Director, Office of Compliance, transmitting a copy of the 2007 Annual Report of the Office of Compliance, pursuant to Section 301(h) of the Congressional Accountability Act (CAA); jointly to the Committees on Education and Labor and House Administration.

6147. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting a report on the proposed fiscal year 2009 budget; jointly to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform and Agriculture.

6148. A letter from the Chief Counsel for Advocacy, Small Business Administration, transmitting the Administration's Report on the Regulatory Flexibility Act, FY 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 612(a) Public Law 96-354, section 3(a); jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary and Small Business.

6149. A letter from the Chair, Good Neighbor Environmental Board, transmitting the eleventh annual report of the Good Neighbor Environmental Board; jointly to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Energy and Commerce.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3513. A bill to amend the Oregon Wilderness Act of 1984 to designate the Copper Salmon Wilderness and to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the North and South Forks of the Elk River in the State of Oregon as wild or scenic rivers, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110–591). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 831. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain Forest Service land to the city of Coffman Cove, Alaska; with an amendment (Rept. 110–592). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RAHALL: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3734. A bill to rename the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area in the State of Idaho as the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area in honor of the late Morley Nelson, an international authority on birds of prey, who was instrumental in the establishment of this National Conservation Area, and for other purposes (Rept. 110–593). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. WAXMAN: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 3928. A bill to require certain large government contractors that receive more than 80 percent of their annual gross revenue from Federal contracts to disclose the names and salaries of their most highly compensated officers, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110–594). 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. MANZULLO (for himself and Mr. SMITH of Washington):

H.R. 5828. A bill to enhance the reliability of information in the Automated Export System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SIRES (for himself, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and Mr. MEEK of Florida):

H.R. 5829. A bill to improve the Operating Fund for public housing of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts (for himself, Ms. WATERS, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. WATT, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. CLAY, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. HODES, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. SHAYS, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. DINGELL, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. LEE, Mr. WU, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. SIRES, and Ms. TSONGAS):

H.R. 5830. A bill to create a voluntary FHA program that provides mortgage refinancing assistance to allow families to stay in their homes, protect neighborhoods, and help stabilize the housing market; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

H.R. 5831. A bill to amend the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 to provide injured members of the Armed Forces information concerning benefits; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

H.R. 5832. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to eliminate the requirement for dependents to reside with members of the Armed Forces to be eligible for TRICARE Prime Remote; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 5833. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for the direct payment of attorney fees and costs to the attorney representing a prevailing party in certain Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income claims, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina, and Mr. FORTUÑO):

H.R. 5834. A bill to amend the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 to promote respect for the fundamental human rights of the people of North Korea, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Mr. BURGESS, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. GORDON, Mr. TERRY, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. FERGUSON, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. SOLIS, and Mrs. CAPPS):

H.R. 5835. A bill to provide for increased planning and funding for health promotion programs of the Department of Health and Human Services; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CARNAHAN:

H.R. 5836. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to authorize the President to provide assistance to establish partnerships between businesses and postsecondary educational institutions in developing countries in Africa to increase economic freedom and competitiveness, promote civil society, and improve the quality of life in such countries; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California (for herself, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. PENCE, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas):

H.R. 5837. A bill to make technical corrections to section 1244 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, which provides special immigrant status for certain Iraqis, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. TIERNEY, and Mr. ANDREWS):

H.R. 5838. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to apply the protections of the Act to teaching and research assistants; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. BUYER (for himself, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas):

H.R. 5839. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to improve the safety of drugs; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KANJORSKI (for himself, Ms. BEAN, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, and Ms. PRYCE of Ohio):

H.R. 5840. A bill to establish an Office of Insurance Information in the Department of the Treasury; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MOORE of Kansas (for himself and Mr. ROSKAM):

H.R. 5841. A bill to provide regulatory relief and improve productivity for insured depository institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. FARR, and Mr. HINCHEY):

H.R. 5842. A bill to provide for the medical use of marijuana in accordance with the laws of the various States; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts (for himself and Mr. PAUL):

H.R. 5843. A bill to eliminate most Federal penalties for possession of marijuana for personal use, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. WOOLSEY (for herself, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. FARR, Mr. HONDA, Ms. LEE, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. STARK, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Ms. SPEIER):

H.R. 5844. A bill to provide for the transfer of the decommissioned Naval Security Group Activity, Skaggs Island, in Sonoma County, California, from the Department of the Navy to the Department of the Interior for conversion into a wildlife refuge for inclusion in the National Wildlife Refuge System; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. EMANUEL (for himself, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. NADLER, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. POE):

H.R. 5845. A bill to permit leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 for victims of violent crime and domestic violence and immediate family members of victims of violent crime and domestic violence to attend court proceedings relating to such crimes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. ESHOO (for herself, Mr. CANNON, and Mr. MARKEY):

H.R. 5846. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to auction spectrum for a free and open access broadband service; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. POE, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. PENCE, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. GOODE, and Mr. BISHOP of Utah):

H.R. 5847. A bill to prohibit United States funding for the 2009 United Nations Durban Review Conference (''Durban II Conference'') or any other activity relating to the planning, preparation, or implementation of a follow-up meeting to the 2001 United Nations World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (''Durban I Conference'') in Durban, South Africa; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. HOLT (for himself, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota):

H.R. 5848. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to authorize a program to prepare teachers for digital age learners; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. MELANCON:

H.R. 5849. A bill to extend the returning worker exemption to the H-2B numerical limitation; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MILLER of Florida (for himself, Mr. BOYD of Florida, and Mr. BONNER):

H.R. 5850. A bill to amend the Act entitled ''An Act authorizing associations of producers of aquatic products'' to include persons engaged in the fishery industry as charter boats or recreational fishermen, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SALAZAR (for himself and Mr. UDALL of Colorado):

H.R. 5851. A bill to provide for orderly and balanced development of energy resources within the Roan Plateau Planning Area of Colorado, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. TOWNS (for himself, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. CAMPBELL of California, and Mrs. BONO MACK):

H.R. 5852. A bill to prohibit the conducting of invasive research on great apes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. TSONGAS:

H.R. 5853. A bill to expand the boundary of the Minute Man National Historical Park in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to include Barrett's Farm, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN:

H.R. 5854. A bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to grant a Federal charter to the Military Officers Association of America, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 5855. A bill to establish a program to provide grants to help homeowners who are facing foreclosure to receive professional counseling; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. POE, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. WYNN, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. NADLER, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, and Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota):

H. Con. Res. 330. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HINCHEY (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. FARR, Ms. HOOLEY, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mrs. BONO MACK, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SNYDER, and Ms. SUTTON):

H. Con. Res. 331. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Women's Health Week, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MCNERNEY:

H. Res. 1117. A resolution declaring the support of the House of Representatives for the goals and ideals of Earth Day and for developing the scientific and technological capabilities to achieve those goals; to the Committee on Science and Technology.

By Mr. FOSTER:

H. Res. 1118. A resolution honoring the life and achievements of John Archibald Wheeler and expressing condolences on his passing; to the Committee on Science and Technology.

By Mr. PLATTS (for himself, Mr. SHAYS, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. MCKEON):

H. Res. 1119. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals highlighted through National Volunteer Week; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. ABERCROMBIE (for himself, Mr. WESTMORELAND, and Mr. SIMPSON):

H. Res. 1120. A resolution supports the establishment of an NCAA Division I Football Bowl Subdivision Championship playoff system in the interest of fairness and to bring parity to all NCAA teams; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, 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. BISHOP of Utah:

H. Res. 1121. A resolution commending Miller Motorsports Park, the county of Tooele, and the State of Utah for hosting the Federation Internationale de Motocyclisme (FIM) Superbike World Championship May 29 through June 1, 2008; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. MUSGRAVE:

H. Res. 1122. A resolution recognizing Armed Forces Day; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. ROHRABACHER (for himself, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. COBLE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. ROYCE):

H. Res. 1123. A resolution calling on the President of the United States not to commit the United States to any status of forces agreement or any other bilateral agreement with the Republic of Iraq that involves the continued presence of the United States Armed Forces in Iraq unless the agreement includes a provision under which the Republic of Iraq agrees to reimburse the United States for all costs incurred by the United States related to the presence of United States Armed Forces in Iraq after the effective date of the agreement; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 406: Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. WELLER.
H.R. 503: Mr. SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 510: Mr. BACHUS and Mr. MARCHANT.
H.R. 583: Ms. GIFFORDS.
H.R. 643: Ms. PRYCE of Ohio and Mr. DAVIS of Alabama.
H.R. 715: Ms. KILPATRICK.
H.R. 741: Mr. BOUCHER.
H.R. 821: Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 826: Mr. WAMP.
H.R. 998: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H.R. 1076: Mr. CARNEY.
H.R. 1108: Mr. MURTHA.
H.R. 1110: Mr. INSLEE.
H.R. 1113: Mr. COHEN and Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 1157: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
H.R. 1222: Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia.
H.R. 1228: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 1232: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
H.R. 1245: Mr. TOWNS, Mr. ROSS, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 1283: Mr. HULSHOF.
H.R. 1295: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H.R. 1363: Mr. RYAN of Ohio and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.
H.R. 1395: Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 1419: Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. MITCHELL, and Mr. HINCHEY.
H.R. 1431: Mrs. SCHMIDT.
H.R. 1552: Mr. WELCH of Vermont.
H.R. 1576: Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia.
H.R. 1609: Mr. LATTA, Mrs. BONO MACK, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mrs. MUSGRAVE.
H.R. 1610: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Mr. CRAMER.
H.R. 1621: Mr. RAHALL.
H.R. 1646: Mr. ISRAEL.
H.R. 1647: Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. COHEN, Mr. HOLT, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Mr. COSTELLO.
H.R. 1655: Mr. COSTELLO and Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 1667: Mr. ISRAEL.
H.R. 1738: Ms. CASTOR and Mr. FOSSELLA.
H.R. 1783: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 1827: Ms. FOXX and Mr. CAMPBELL of California.
H.R. 1881: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 1889: Mr. BOREN.
H.R. 1890: Mr. BOREN.
H.R. 1930: Mrs. BACHMANN.
H.R. 1932: Mr. UDALL of New Mexico and Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 1940: Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia.
H.R. 1967: Mr. PENCE, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Ms. FALLIN, Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. TERRY, and Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 2032: Mr. JEFFERSON.
H.R. 2054: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 2091: Mr. WU and Mr. LATHAM.
H.R. 2138: Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, and Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California.
H.R. 2188: Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
H.R. 2230: Mr. PEARCE.
H.R. 2241: Mr. PASTOR.
H.R. 2280: Mr. WALZ of Minnesota.
H.R. 2325: Mr. BOREN.
H.R. 2330: Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, and Mr. POE.
H.R. 2370: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
H.R. 2611: Mr. ALTMIRE.
H.R. 2676: Mr. BOUCHER.
H.R. 2744: Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mrs. BONO MACK, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. BECERRA, and Ms. CASTOR.
H.R. 2802: Mr. TOWNS and Mr. KUCINICH.
H.R. 2833: Mr. DONNELLY.
H.R. 2878: Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H.R. 2892: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 2914: Mr. BOOZMAN.
H.R. 2941: Mr. GERLACH.
H.R. 3036: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
H.R. 3089: Ms. GRANGER, Mr. SHIMKUS, and Mr. COLE of Oklahoma.
H.R. 3098: Mr. RODRIGUEZ.
H.R. 3140: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska and Mr. GOODLATTE.
H.R. 3186: Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. BONNER, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, and Mr. ARCURI.
H.R. 3202: Mr. MEEKS of New York.
H.R. 3229: Mr. BERMAN, Mr. ACKERMAN, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. CHANDLER, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. EMANUEL, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. FARR, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. HONDA, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. KANJORSKI, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. NADLER, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. STARK, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. WU, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. CASTOR, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HARE, Mr. INSLEE, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. ROTHMAN, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. SOLIS, Ms. SUTTON, and Mr. WAXMAN.
H.R. 3232: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania and Mr. HIGGINS.
H.R. 3341: Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland.
H.R. 3419: Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H.R. 3457: Mr. GONZALEZ and Mr. MCCOTTER.
H.R. 3544: Mr. WAXMAN and Mrs. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 3622: Mr. ARCURI and Ms. HIRONO.
H.R. 3700: Mr. ALLEN.
H.R. 3800: Mr. DONNELLY.
H.R. 3865: Mr. COBLE, Mr. FARR, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. BOUCHER.
H.R. 3976: Mr. BISHOP of New York.
H.R. 4008: Mr. KELLER.
H.R. 4020: Mr. JEFFERSON and Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 4107: Mr. BOUCHER.
H.R. 4114: Mr. DEFAZIO.
H.R. 4202: Mr. COSTELLO.
H.R. 4218: Mrs. CAPPS.
H.R. 4236: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia and Mr. CARNEY.
H.R. 4335: Mr. CAPUANO.
H.R. 4344: Mr. KUHL of New York.
H.R. 4450: Mr. BACA, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. BOUCHER, and Mr. MORAN of Virginia.
H.R. 4460: Mr. HUNTER and Mr. CONAWAY.
H.R. 4544: Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. MILLER of Florida, and Mr. GALLEGLY.
H.R. 4688: Mr. PORTER and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 4879: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 4900: Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. MCCRERY, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. BARROW, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BONNER, and Mr. TERRY.
H.R. 4930: Mr. BOUCHER and Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 4959: Mr. HARE and Mr. STARK.
H.R. 5131: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 5180: Mr. DONNELLY and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 5244: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas and Mr. YARMUTH.
H.R. 5265: Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 5268: Mr. HARE, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. WEINER.
H.R. 5404: Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia.
H.R. 5448: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 5461: Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 5465: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota and Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 5467: Mr. SHULER.
H.R. 5498: Mr. GERLACH.
H.R. 5510: Mr. HILL.
H.R. 5534: Mr. BERMAN, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. PALLONE, and Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 5541: Mr. WALDEN of Oregon.
H.R. 5546: Mr. WAMP.
H.R. 5548: Mr. TOWNS.
H.R. 5552: Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey and Mr. KAGEN.
H.R. 5611: Ms. PRYCE of Ohio.
H.R. 5613: Ms. WATSON, Mrs. EMERSON, and Mr. HOBSON.
H.R. 5626: Mr. CARSON and Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H.R. 5648: Mr. WALDEN of Oregon.
H.R. 5656: Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, and Mr. BOUSTANY.
H.R. 5669: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 5673: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Ms. FALLIN.
H.R. 5674: Mr. BOREN.
H.R. 5676: Mr. MACK, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. KELLER, and Mr. Lincoln Diaz-Balart of Florida.
H.R. 5681: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H.R. 5700: Mr. CROWLEY.
H.R. 5716: Mr. GONZALEZ.
H.R. 5723: Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, and Mr. BOUSTANY.
H.R. 5728: Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida.
H.R. 5731: Mr. JORDAN.
H.R. 5740: Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. KELLER, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. STEARNS, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. FERGUSON.
H.R. 5752: Mr. BROUN of Georgia.
H.R. 5776: Mr. PENCE, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia, and Ms. FALLIN.
H.R. 5782: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina.
H.R. 5788: Ms. MATSUI and Ms. HIRONO.
H.R. 5794: Mr. BONNER and Mr. POE.
H.R. 5795: Mr. BROUN of Georgia.
H.R. 5818: Ms. CLARKE, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, and Mr. WILSON of Ohio.
H.R. 5825: Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. MACK, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. RENZI, Mr. POE, Mr. DUNCAN, and Mr. KNOLLENBERG.
H. Con. Res. 249: Mr. MICA.
H. Con. Res. 257: Mr. SAXTON, Mr. BOREN, Mr. MANZULLO, and Mr. HUNTER.
H. Con. Res. 295: Ms. FALLIN, Mr. LAMBORN, and Mr. FORBES.
H. Con. Res. 317: Mr. CHABOT, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. DELAURO, and Mr. PAYNE.
H. Con. Res. 318: Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina and Mr. Carson.
H. Con. Res. 320: Mr. FILNER, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. FATTAH, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H. Con. Res. 323: Mr. FORBES.
H. Con. Res. 328: Ms. DELAURO.
H. Con. Res. 329: Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. GOODE, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, and Mr. JONES of North Carolina.
H. Res. 37: Mr. COHEN.
H. Res. 373: Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania and Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H. Res. 795: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H. Res. 821: Mr. MILLER of Florida.

H. Res. 881: Mr. CAMPBELL of California, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. PENCE, Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. REYNOLDS, Mrs. MYRICK, and Mr. STEARNS.

H. Res. 923: Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. CAMPBELL of California, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. CLAY, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. DICKS, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. HILL, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. HULSHOF, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. LATTA, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. CRENSHAW, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. SHULER, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mr. BILBRAY, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. LAHOOD, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Ms. FOXX, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. WAMP, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. MARCHANT, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. PITTS, Mr. HOBSON, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. AKIN, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. GOODE, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. DUNCAN, Mrs. BONO MACK, Mr. MACK, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. SALI, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. LINDER, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. KELLER, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. BURGESS, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. PENCE, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. PAUL, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. DENT, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. HAYES, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. STEARNS, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, and Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.

H. Res. 937: Ms. FALLIN and Mr. REYES.

H. Res. 981: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.

H. Res. 984: Mr. PASTOR, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. BOYD of Florida, Mr. TANNER, Mr. ROSS, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. SHULER, Mr. SPACE, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. COOPER, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. HILL, Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. COSTA, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. BARROW, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mr. ARCURI, and Mr. MAHONEY of Florida.

H. Res. 992: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.

H. Res. 1002: Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. WYNN, Ms. BERKLEY, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. CASTLE, Ms. WOOLSEY, Ms. CASTOR, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. UPTON, and Mr. COSTELLO.

H. Res. 1008: Mr. FILNER and Mr. LATHAM.

H. Res. 1054: Mrs. BIGGERT.

H. Res. 1056: Mr. HARE and Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.

H. Res. 1062: Mr. FILNER.

H. Res. 1067: Mr. LOBIONDO and Mr. SALAZAR.

H. Res. 1070: Mr. CONAWAY.

H. Res. 1076: Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. PENCE, and Mr. JONES of North Carolina.

H. Res. 1079: Mr. ORTIZ, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mrs. BACHMANN, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, and Ms. KILPATRICK.

H. Res. 1081: Mr. HINOJOSA.

H. Res. 1099: Mr. HINOJOSA.

H. Res. 1109: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Ms. LEE, and Mr. ENGEL.

H. Res. 1110: Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. REICHERT, Mrs. EMERSON, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. SAXTON, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. BONNER, and Mr. FEENEY.

H. Res. 1111: Mr. ENGEL, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. TANNER, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. SIRES, Mr. HODES, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, and Mr. INSLEE.

H. Res. 1115: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. ARCURI, and Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

236. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the National Legislative Commission of the American Legion, relative to Resolutions with legislative intent for the 110th Congress Second Session; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.