

teachings of Jesus and the teachings in the Bible, you had comments like George Washington in his resignation, saying—and I'll close with this:

He prayed that Americans would follow the teaching of the Divine Author of our blessed religion without a humble limitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy Nation.

He was right.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3630, MIDDLE CLASS TAX RELIEF AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2011

Mr. DREIER, from the Committee on Rules (during the Special Order of Mr. GOHMERT), submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112-328) on the resolution (H. Res. 491) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3630) to provide incentives for the creation of jobs, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

**CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS
HOUR: JOBS FOR AMERICA**

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I almost don't know where to start. Let me, first of all, indicate my privilege to be yielded the hour as the representative of the minority leader and also to indicate my privilege to discuss some of the issues of the Congressional Black Caucus, which has been a leader, along with our chairman, EMANUEL CLEAVER, and our officers and those of us who have worked on these issues, on the question of jobs for America.

I almost don't know where to start. First of all, let me say happy holidays to my colleagues and, in this season of giving and joy, acknowledge how special a time it is for families to come together.

I do want to start on some of the comments of my friend and colleague from Texas. I am delighted to have him acknowledge that we cannot condemn one faith as it relates to the harm that terrorists desire to do against us. It's important to also note that there are some distortions in the comments about terrorism and in the President's position and the administration's position.

I think it is important to acknowledge that the war against those who will do us harm is not about points; it's not about partisanship; it's not about one-upmanship; it's not about what one administration has done better than the other.

I am very grateful to the men and women in our intelligence community

and to the men and women in the United States military and to those who are engaged in homeland security that we have not had a terrorist act of the proportion of 9/11 on our soil since 9/11. There are no doubts of the many threats that have been interjected and stopped, and it's important for my colleagues to understand that.

I am a senior member on the Homeland Security Committee. Tragically, I was appointed to the select Committee on Homeland Security and traveled with one or two Senators, people in the other body, to Ground Zero. When I arrived, it was early enough that one of the rescue missions was continuing. One could see the smoke billowing out of the ashes; and as we visited the board that still had loved ones about whom people were asking, Have you seen my father or my son?, it was a potent message for those of us who are committed to securing the homeland.

□ 2050

The chairperson for a period was a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, Chairman THOMPSON. He serves now as the ranking member of the committee. He has always chosen to be bipartisan. And over the last week, we joined in a bipartisan hearing with the Senate, Senator LIEBERMAN in the other body, Senator COLLINS, and the chairperson now, Chairman KING, on the question of the potential danger of our military and military bases. In that hearing, no one quarrelled with the responsibility to identify those who would go against our military on domestic soil or how we would address the question.

But it is important to note that I stand here and refuse and reject the labeling of one faith as a faith of terror. I have been in so many different mosques and among so many different groups of Muslims who practice Islam who have rejected those horrible acts.

One cannot challenge the pathway that President Obama has taken or not view it as a pathway that has saved lives. In particular, there is documentation that the last administration, after a period of time, indicated that they didn't know where Osama bin Laden was. It was not their focus. They knew that the country was safe, but they were not looking for Osama bin Laden. Frankly, in the period of time of President Obama's tenure, he has gotten the imam in Yemen, the American citizen imam that was in Yemen who was a part of the inspiration of Major Hasan, who perpetrated the terrorist acts in Fort Hood in my State, the State of Texas. We have intervened in several terrorist threats and attacks, the Times Square bomber. If my recollection serves me well, I think, also, the Christmas Day bombing; that might have been a little bit before that.

We have, in essence, taken out a number of high-target threats to America's security. We have, in fact, with the intellect and genius and with the

order of the President of the United States, President Barack Obama, in a very dangerous mission, the Navy SEALs secured and brought to his end Osama bin Laden. A very dangerous mission, a very controversial mission, but there had to be a Commander in Chief that ordered it. So I take issue with the comment that this President has not been vigilant in protecting the homeland.

Any number of us who serve on Homeland Security know that we can always be better and can always work on issues to, in fact, secure—more than secure. But as a member of the Homeland Security Committee, I've watched as our Border Patrol has surged to 18,000. As we have utilized resources on the border, the numbers of those coming across the border illegally have dropped. As we try to be constructive in arguing for comprehensive immigration reform, I have seen a number of responses that would cause me to disagree that this administration has not been vigilant.

And even today, as we are speaking to the President of Iraq, arguments are being made to ensure the evenhandedness of Iraq's behavior and their treatment of individuals in Iraq, dealing with those who are at Camp Ashraf, but, more importantly, our ongoing relationship with Iraq and our ongoing relationship with a very vital region where there are allies like the King of Jordan, allies that we've been friends with, that it is important that we maintain a certain type of demeanor. And, clearly, suggesting that a two-State solution is not viable or the Palestinian people are not real, they're made up, is an outrageous position to take for any public political person that would rise and ascend to leadership, whether it is in the Congress or in the Presidency of the United States. I could not, not just respond to charges of inadequacy by this administration.

I have served on the Foreign Affairs Committee, I was privileged to have served, and, likewise, being a member of the Homeland Security Committee and serving as the ranking member on Transportation Security and fighting to enhance security measures, more personnel, better training, responsiveness to those who are patted down and go through aviation security, making it fair but yet making it responsive to the nuances and new ideas of terrorists who want to do us harm. Mr. Speaker, it's important that we acknowledge fairness, balance, and that we continue to pray every day for our men and women who are on the front lines, for our intelligence community, for those who are thinking every moment, under this administration, successfully, on addressing that question.

I am here, however, to raise the question of our concerns of the American people that are outside the circle of homeland security and address the day-to-day needs of those who are fighting against poverty, losing their quality of life.