have considered this an important challenge, and I hope by October 1st we will finish our work and finish it together and have a bill, not for partisanship, but for all Americans, to protect the civil rights of all Americans.

□ 1630

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK).

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank my esteemed colleague, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), for bringing this to our attention. I have a very short comment to make. Number one, it is time, regarding the instructions she has given to the conferees, it is time we had fair voting in Florida. It is time we not depend on the machine. We need leadership. The Governor of Florida, the Dade County Elections Commission, none of them have acted in good faith. We need this. We need the Federal Government to come in and say, look, we want a fair election. It is time for one. We cannot pass the buck. Even with the machines, if we do not have the proper leadership to direct this, it cannot run in the right way.

We know that Florida has been cheated, we know that this country has been cheated, so I will not stand here and make allowances for anyone. We need this instruction that the good Congresswoman has passed on to the conferees. It is time that they listen for once and pass this and make sense when they do it and not look for some bipartisan kind of thing that is going to please everybody. Please the American public. Please the people who work so hard for the vote. Please the people who died for the vote. So I make no amends for any of them.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this Motion to Instruct the Election Reform Conferees to produce a Conference Report before October 1, 2002, and I commend my good friend Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS for offering it.

Mr. Speaker, election reform is long overdue. How many more election day catastrophes, like last week's voting in Florida, will be required for this Congress to get the message that our people need a real election reform bill and they need it now?! I don't have the time to detail all of the problems that occurred in last week's voting in South Florida, but the problems were extremely serious.

I have read the same newspaper and magazine accounts that all of you have read suggesting that the election reform conferees have not yet been able to work out their differences, and that election reform may be dead for this Session of Congress. Mr. Speaker, this outcome is absolutely unacceptable. This Congress will have failed the American people if it does not pass a strong election reform Conference Report, and send it to the President for his signature before this Session ends.

Mr. Speaker, last week's voting revealed that the many problems that plagued the 2000 Presidential election in South Florida are continuing. I didn't just hear about the problems from my constituents. I experienced some of the problems myself.

Miami-Dade County allowed early voting in advance of the September 10th primary. Yet when I stopped by a library branch in my precinct to cast an early vote, I was delayed from voting for more than 30 minutes because the only computer available was not working and the election officials on duty said that they couldn't verify that I was an eligible voter!

Even though I presented my driver's license, my new voter registration card and other photo identification, I still was not allowed to vote for over thirty minutes while poll workers attempted to check Election Department records to verify my eligibility.

While these poll workers tried to follow new Miami-Dade procedures to contact the main elections office in the case of a computer glitch, they were unable to contact the Elections Supervisor to verify my eligibility. During this thirty minute period, I saw at least two voters who wanted to vote early leave the polling place without voting.

As all of you know, I'm not easily deterred, especially when my rights are being threatened, so even though I was extremely unhappy with the Department's inability to verify my eligibility during this delay, I did not leave the polling place. Instead, I had my District Office contact the County Elections Supervisor and his staff. While I did not speak with the Election Supervisor himself, I understand that Elections Department staff advised that the Elections Supervisor checked the department's records personally to verify my eligibility, and then the poll workers were told which absentee ballot I should be given.

Mr. Speaker, if a Senior Member of Congress with a long history of voting in each election, and someone who knows how to assert herself, had this type of problem when trying to vote, all of us know the problems that new or infrequent voters, or those voters who speak a different language such as Haitians, are facing.

Mr. Speaker, we can and must do better than this. We need to fund the best election technology available and make it available on an equal basis to all of our communities. Yet, Mr. Speaker, we need more than just new and fancy machines. We need to ensure that our poll workers are properly trained in how to operate those machines, and in election law and procedure. Those workers also must share a commitment to seeing to it that all of our people have an equal chance to vote and to have their vote counted. In short, Mr. Speaker, our elections officials must do more to make real election reform a reality for all of our people.

Mr. Speaker, we must not forget the lessons of the 2000 election, and last week's Florida fiasco. None of us can rest until we ensure that every vote counts and is counted. I urge all of my Colleagues to support the Waters Motion to Instruct Conferees, commend Congresswoman WATERS for offering it, and yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the remaining time.

Elections are the heart of our democracy. We cannot afford to allow another Federal election to come and go without addressing the myriad problems in our election system. We must complete action on election reform legislation. We must complete it before we adjourn for the November election. It is time for Congress to assure the American people that every vote will count in the United States of America.

We do this for all of America, but African Americans are particularly sensitive on this subject, because we fought so hard for the right to vote. I can tell my colleagues in that election where we saw a database identifying so-called felons where people who had never been arrested in their lives found themselves on that list, where people could not cast their vote because they could not find their names on the polls, it was reflections of yesteryear by a different name. We have our forefathers and foremothers who were made to pay poll taxes, who were intimidated, who were forced to have to read the Constitution in order to prove their literacy. We cannot afford to have America not fix this election system that is obviously broken and has been demonstrated to be such.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this motion and tell the conferees to complete their work before October 1.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS).

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

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

A POLITICAL MISTAKE

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

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I have for years advocated a moral and constitutional approach to our foreign policy.

This has been done in the sincerest belief that a policy of peace, trade, and friendship with all nations is far superior in all respects to a policy of war, protectionism, and confrontation. But in the Congress I find, with regards to foreign affairs, no interest in following the precepts of the Constitution and the advice of our early Presidents.

Interventionism, internationalism, inflationism, protectionism, jingoism and bellicosity are much more popular in our Nation's capital than a policy of restraint.

I have heard all the arguments on why we must immediately invade and occupy Iraq and have observed that there are only a few hardy souls left in the Congress who are trying to stop this needless, senseless, and dangerous war. They have adequately refuted every one of the excuses for this war of aggression; but, obviously, either no one listens, or the unspoken motives for this invasion silence those tempted to dissent.

But the tragic and most irresponsible excuse for the war rhetoric is now emerging in the political discourse. We now hear rumblings that the vote is all about politics, the November elections, and the control of the U.S. Congress, that is, the main concern is political power.

Can one imagine delaying the declaration of war against Japan after Pearl Harbor for political reasons? Or can one imagine forcing a vote on the issue of war before an election for political gain? Can anyone believe there are those who would foment war rhetoric for political gain at the expense of those who are called to fight and might even die if the war does not go as planned?

I do not want to believe it is possible, but rumors are rampant that looking weak on the war issue is considered to be unpatriotic and a risky political position to take before the November elections. Taking pleasure in the fact that this might place many politicians in a difficult position is a sobering thought indeed.

There is a bit of irony over all of this political posturing on a vote to condone a war of aggression and force some Members into a tough vote. Guess what, contrary to conventional wisdom, war is never politically beneficial to the politicians who promote it.

Presidents Wilson and Roosevelt were reelected by promising to stay out of war. Remember, the party in power during the Korean War was routed in 1952 by a general who promised to stop the bloodshed. Vietnam, which started with overwhelming support and hype and jingoistic fervor, ended President Johnson's political career in disgrace and humiliation. The most significant plight on the short term of President Kennedy was his effort at regime change in Cuba and the fate he met at the Bay of Pigs. Even Persian Gulf War 1, thought at the time to be a tremendous victory, with its aftermath still lingering, did not serve President Bush, Sr.'s reelection efforts in 1992.

War is not politically beneficial for two reasons: innocent people die, and the economy is always damaged. These two things, after the dust settles from the hype and the propaganda, always make the people unhappy. The euphoria associated with the dreams of grandiose and painless victories is replaced by the stark reality of death, destruction, and economic pain. Instead of euphoria, we end up with heartache as we did after the Bay of Pigs, Korea, Vietnam, Somalia, and Lebanon.

Since no one wants to hear anymore of morality and constitutionality and justice, possibly some will listen to the politics of war, since that is what drives so many. A token victory at the polls this fall by using a vote on the war as a lever will be to little avail. It may not even work in the short run. Surely, history shows that war is never a winner, especially when the people who have to pay, fight, and die for it come to realize that the war was not even necessary and had nothing to do with national security or fighting for freedom, but was promoted by special interests who stood to gain from taking over a sovereign country.

Mr. Speaker, peace is always superior to war; it is a political winner.

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

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear herafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

GROWING CONCERN OF CHILD MODELING ON THE INTERNET

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an issue that is of prime importance, I hope, to many American families and their children; and it is as a member of the Congressional Caucus on Missing and Exploited Children that I rise today, because I have introduced legislation that deals with a growing concern of child modeling on the Internet.

What occurs is that young girls, 10, 12, 13 years old, are encouraged by their parents and aided and abetted by individuals to display themselves on the Internet for viewership, if you will, people who pay a fee, a monthly fee in order to view the site. I am not going to mention the names of the sites, because I do not want to encourage anybody to go, but to understand the gravity of the situation we are facing. The girls initially pose in not very suggestive ways. They may be appearing next to a horse; they may be outside in their bathing suit; they may be holding a tennis racket. As time goes on, they are encouraged to pose more provocatively for their viewers. They are asked to expose themselves, they are asked to wear things like belly dancing outfits, they are asked to emulate an activity that is highly inappropriate for somebody their age. Many of these parents are deceived into thinking that the person witnessing their child on the Internet is another young person, a young girl or boy who is taking part in this little modeling expedition and encouraging their children or their friend to continue their activities as a child model.

What we found out through investigation at the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children is that often, the people that are paying $19 a month to view these sites are pedophiles. They are often people who are depraved and who are looking at 11- and 12-year-old girls, and they are e-mailing each other back and forth saying, why do you not do this or pose like this. It is such a serious problem that I have designed legislation that I hope will answer some of the concerns.

Today on John Walsh's show we talked for an hour about this very topic, and Mr. WALSH had on two mothers, two daughters, and two of the promoters of these Web sites in order for us all to hear from them why they thought this was an appropriate and legitimate act for their child to pursue. Oftentimes they said it was to raise money for the child's college, even though one of the girls on the show quit school and was now being home schooled because she said she had asthma and could not conduct the hard work of school because of her condition. Nonetheless, she would find time in her day to be a child model. What we heard was startling, that they would allow their child to come into contact of people of such ill repute.

Now, again, I urge people to listen to what I am saying. I am not suggesting that young girls cannot be models, and I am not suggesting that there is not an appropriate place in commerce for young people to display their talents; but what we are finding on these particular Web sites, and it was first brought to my attention by a local NBC affiliate in Florida, in Miami, WTBJ, they had done an investigation on somebody who actually happened to live in my district and they went on to find these cases where the girl was posing. All I want to suggest to people is first, to my colleagues, look at the legislation.

There has been much written about this legislation in the mainstream media. There has been much discussed, in fact, on national radio shows about this very topical issue and the legislation I have sponsored. We hope we can generate the debate in order to have parents hear our voices on what I hope is a clarion call for them to be very, very careful of what they subject their young children to.

If we look at almost every case of abduction, every case of rape, every instance where a child has gone missing,