well as arguments and pleading and bonding with others, all these emotions and the troublesome times tear apart Jeremiah's fragile temperament and fling themselves upon the pages of his prophecy.

Jeremiah is realistic and bold as he declares sin inevitably brings its own sorrow. People who go after empty idols become empty themselves. We are all transformed for good or bad by that which we desire.

Lord, because this prophet will not evade the honest emotional reaction of what is going on around him, You make him a guide for Your people now caught up in war. Although Jeremiah is never far removed from the agony of people, hope for him is always stirring just beneath the surface of the barren Earth.

The word of the Lord endures forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO UNITED STATES CAPITOL PRESERVATION COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 188a, and the order of the House of January 8, 2003, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the United States Capitol Preservation Commission:

Mr. YOUNG, Florida.

Mr. LATOURETTE, Ohio.

CONGRATULATING OUR LADY OF LOURDES ACADEMY

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Our Lady of Lourdes Academy in my congressional district for winning first place at the ''Florida We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution'' competition. This civics competition ensures that students understand the history and the philosophy of our U.S. Constitution and our Bill of Rights. It is an important program that aids students in understanding their rights and responsibilities as American citizens.

Lourdes Academy, the reigning national champions, will be coming to Washington this month to compete for the national title. Please join me in congratulating the students of Lourdes Academy and especially their teacher, Rosie Heffernan, on their outstanding achievement and wishing them much success in the national competition.

SUPPLEMENTAL LEAVES CRITICAL AREAS UNDERFUNDED

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak against the supplemental bill proposed by the Bush administration.

While Democrats strongly support the immediate passing of whatever is necessary to support our troops, the administration's war supplemental appears to leave critical areas severely underfunded.

Under the bill, there would be no money, no money, to provide communication equipment for first responders, leaving many local police, firefighters, and emergency workers unable to communicate with each other during an emergency.

There would be no money, no money, for homeland security grants, despite the Coast Guard's latest report that they are short almost $1 billion to meet port security needs in this year alone.

This bill also leaves nuclear security needs amounts unmet, providing only 7 percent of the $380 million which his own Secretary of Energy identified as an urgent homeland security requirement.

This bill is bad for the economy, and it is bad for our Nation's first responders. Underfunding critical programs and operations puts our homeland at risk.

AMERICAN DREAM DOWN PAYMENT ACT

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

Ms. HARRIS. Madam Speaker, this afternoon the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity of the Committee on Financial Services will begin hearings on President Bush's visionary plan to extend the dream of homeownership to tens of thousands of low-income families and individuals across our Nation.

As I have consulted with housing advocates throughout my district, I have repeatedly heard that a great number of low-income Americans could meet a monthly mortgage payment were it not for that initial obstacle of the closing costs and down payment associated with the traditional residential loan.

H.R. 1276, the American Dream Down Payment Act, removes that barrier for an estimated 40,000 low-income families and individuals every year.

Madam Speaker, the extension of affordable quality housing opportunities to every American is a moral imperative for a decent, compassionate society. H.R. 1276 represents a powerful step toward this goal, providing thousands of men, women and children across our Nation with the dignity, stability and economic empowerment of homeownership.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET SHORTCHANGES AMERICA

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

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, the budget shortchanges the security of cities and towns across America. The next terrorist we catch might be caught by the FBI, but it is more likely that they will be found by local law enforcement, like the routine traffic stop in April of 2001, where a police officer pulled over none other than the 9–11 ring leader Mohammed Atta.

It is not clear that the 9–11 attacks could have been prevented by a traffic stop, but what should be clear is that even if our government has information on would-be terrorists, local law enforcement is still out of the loop.

The President and the Republican leaders in Congress both ignore this issue in their budgets. While we spend billions to tear down and rebuild Iraq, the Republican budget shortchanges the local police officers, firefighters, and other first responders who are America's first defense against terror.

In my own district, the community of Culver City, California, is right next to the Los Angeles International Airport. They need our support with first responders.

KEEP NETHERCUTT-KENNEDY AMENDMENT ON SUPPLEMENTAL

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, this week we will be voting on our supplemental appropriations bill to help partially fund the war in Iraq. An important amendment, which was unanimously agreed to by the House that is on that bill, was called the Nethercutt-Kennedy amendment, and it has to do with the fact that the Congress has voted not to allow Germany, France, Syria and Russia to share in American taxpayer-funded reconstruction efforts in Iraq.

The idea behind this is that Russia, France, Syria and Germany have not been on our side and, in many ways, helped accelerate the war in Iraq by seeming to side with Saddam Hussein. We believe that if the U.N. Security Council and these members were unified against the weapons of mass destruction and the regime of Saddam

Hussein, perhaps we would be at peace today in trying to find diplomatic solutions; but now, it seems these very countries who are against U.S. action, who have made a 4-month national pastime of bashing the U.S., now they want to get U.S. tax dollars and help rebuild Iraq.

The Nethercutt amendment speaks to this, and I hope that the conference committee will keep that in the legislation.

OFFICE OF PEACE

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, in a moment I will introduce legislation with 46 cosponsors to create a Department-level office of peace and the Department of Peace is introduced at this moment when it seems that war is inevitable, when our troops are in the streets of Baghdad, when members of the administration talk about the possibility of invasion of Iran and the possibility of invasion of Syria.

This is the moment when we need to ask whether war is inevitable or not. This is the moment when a Department of Peace can take steps to making nonviolence an organizing principle in our society and when we can create a structure in our government where we can strive to make war itself archaic.

Forty-seven Members of Congress have put their names on this legislation because we are at a moment in the history of our Nation and in the world where we need to be asking questions. Is war inevitable? Forty-seven Members of Congress say no. Is peace inevitable? The answer must be yes.

HOUSING ACTION RESOURCE TRUST

(Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, one of the main barriers of homeownership today is the down payment requirement from individuals that do not have the money. Do down payment assistance programs work? They do.

One example is in Rancho Cucamonga, California. The Housing Action Resource Trust, called HART, was formed in 1995; and in 1998, they started giving homeowners down payment assistance, and it is all private funds. Not a dollar of it is government funds.

What they have done is help 40,000 families actually achieve homeownership, and it is significant. Like I said, not a dime of it is government funds.

The HART gift funds can be used for down payment, closing costs, prepaid payments that can be used to remit buy-downs; and the main obstacle we have for moving people from apartments and rental units to housing is basically they do not have the money.

There are programs that do work. The government needs to look at participating in this.

EXTENDED UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, 18 months ago, the Republican leadership during the debate on the first $15 billion bailout for the airline industry promised that soon, promptly, we would consider employee relief, including financial assistance, health insurance and training for new careers. It is 18 months later, and those 150,000 airline employees are still waiting, 18 months of waiting.

The airlines project they will lay off another 70,000 because of the war with Iraq. Boeing has cut 30,000 workers. They are all still waiting for that financial assistance and extended unemployment package.

Finally, today, here on the United States House of Representatives floor for the first time, 18 months too late, we are going to take a vote on that issue; and we will see where people really stand, whether they are with the workers or they just want to bail out the corporations.

REGULATORY TURMOIL

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

Mr. BACHUS. We should be particularly concerned about the negative effects which needless regulatory uncertainty and policy turmoil are having on this country's telecommunications industry.

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The United States' economy is very dependent on an efficient and effective telecommunication industry and the links they provide. Maintaining these important systems and building new advanced networks we are going to need requires a climate of regulatory stability. No one is going to invest heavily if they do not know what the fundamental rules of the game are.

The 1996 Telecommunications Act envisions the FCC coming up with a workable, judicially sustainable, competitive framework in short order. Seven years have passed since the act was signed into law, and according to most authorities, the FCC's latest decision is almost certain to be reversed and remanded once more.

In closing, Congress has a responsibility to the shareholders of these companies, to the hundreds of thousands of employees, and, most of all, to millions of consumers to end this turmoil. It is not good for anyone.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS FOOD DRIVE

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

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mention a very important charitable project by our National Association of Letter Carriers, who have been engaged in this for several years. On the second Saturday in May, which will be May 10 this year, letter carriers in over 10,000 cities and towns will be delivering much more than mail on their routes. They will be collecting food donations left for them by their caring patrons on the 11th annual letter carriers national food drive.

I want to take this opportunity to commend the letter carriers for this incredible charitable endeavor. This effort by the letter carriers is the largest 1-day food drive in the Nation, and it has resulted in the last 10 years in over half a billion pounds of food donations to our local communities. I hope everyone listening will participate on May 10 by leaving a box of nonperishable food next to their mailbox before their mail arrives. It will help the estimated 30 million people who go hungry every day in America, including 12 million children.

Congratulations to our letter carriers for a job well done.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the motion to go to conference on H.R. 1559, making emergency wartime supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2003, and for other purposes, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 1559, EMERGENCY WARTIME SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2003

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1559) making emergency wartime supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2003, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

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

There was no objection.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT OFFERED BY MR. OBEY

Mr. OBEY. Madam Speaker, I offer a motion to instruct.