

base of what we should be working on and not simply talking about Wall Street and protecting millionaires there. It is what people have in their own funds, their own accounts that they want to make sure we're attending to.

Second is the issue of accountability. Most workers, most employers, most executives are good people, honest and decent, God-fearing, ethical people who are trying to do the right thing, whatever their job is. But there are also those who bend the rules, break the rules, ignore the rules, or create their own rules. This is what has gotten our Nation into this mess. And there has to be accountability, strong accountability to investigate and prosecute anyone who bankrupted their firms on Wall Street—or on Main Street—and then expect the taxpayers to pay for it.

Third, it is important that Congress, in the future, review the regulations carefully to close loopholes and to prevent further mismanagement and misconduct.

But there is a fourth principle which we have to make sure that we in Congress take care of, and that is to do something about our economy.

Over the last couple years, many times in this Congress we've debated and discussed issues where we could be boosting our economy. One of those has to do with health care. I have spoken many times about the \$400 billion waste in our health care system each year, money that people pay out of their own pockets each month to pay for health care that we're wasting. We're spending money we don't have to try to protect our economy when we can save money on such things. In the health care area, for example, we waste \$50 billion a year on health care acquired infections. We could be saving that money to make our hospitals accountable. Unfortunately, Congress has not acted on that.

We could save money by using electronic medical records or electronic prescribing to take care of the waste, fraud and abuse in our health care system, and we have far to go. But another major area where our economy can get going is to stop spending \$700 billion a year on energy that we're purchasing oil and gas outside of our Nation.

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Much of that, of course, several hundred billion dollars, is to go to OPEC. OPEC buys its lavish palaces, its beautiful hotels, its built islands, and unfortunately they also buy up our debt. We're going to owe them on our national debt for several years because they buy that up. And recognize also what OPEC is doing with that is not only are they owning our economy, they will own it for the future, they are also nations building weapons and threatening our national security and our economic security.

Oddly enough, while Secretary Paulson is asking us for \$700 billion to

help get Wall Street back on its feet, it's \$700 billion a year we spend each year on energy. If we drilled our Outer Continental Shelf, if we went for the Colorado shale oil, if we looked at the North Slope of Alaska, while just drilling the Outer Continental Shelf alone would yield \$2.6 trillion in Federal income. But we continue to set that off-limits. That does not include how much we could have in Federal income if we also use a shale oil in Colorado and also the North Slope of Alaska.

We put together a bipartisan bill. Congressman ABERCROMBIE, Congressman PETERSON and several of us worked and drafted a bill which unfortunately this Congress has ignored. It is not enough just to say we will open up by default these areas for oil drilling, because the oil companies know they won't invest in that because they expect Congress to once again pull the rug out from under them.

We have to take definitive action to get our economy back on its feet. So follow these principles. Protect people and their money, have accountability to those who did wrong, and work on reviewing the rules and regulations. But above all, I hope that Congress in these final waning days of this session does not continue to ignore how we could be boosting our economy and change it from the largest bust in our history to the largest boom in our economy. That is what we can do. That is what I still hold out some small ray of hope that our Nation can do.

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

(Mr. KAGEN 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 Oregon (Mr. DEFazio) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

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

(Mr. HOLT 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 New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SMITH of New Jersey 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. SHERMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

#### UNITED STATES-INDIA CIVIL NUCLEAR DEAL

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, this evening I rise to encourage my fellow Members of Congress to support the U.S.-India Civil Nuclear Deal. Recently the 45 nations of the Nuclear Suppliers Group waived the ban on nuclear trade with India. This paved the way for Congress to act swiftly to pass the U.S.-Indian Civil Nuclear Deal into law. This agreement will reduce pressure on energy markets, benefits both nations' economies and strengthens the U.S.-India strategic global partnership.

It will bring positive benefits to both the United States and India. It will permit both countries to engage in shared civil nuclear research and development and commercial trade of technology and fuel while guaranteeing safeguards on all civil nuclear material.

Mr. Speaker, completion of this agreement will represent an important milestone in accelerating commercial and cultural ties between the American people and the people of India. But obstacles remain. We must work with the administration to ensure the agreement comes up for a final vote this year, before Congress adjourns. The United States has a significant strategic partnership with India. This civilian nuclear cooperation agreement is a critical component to building on that successful partnership.

The agreement strengthens energy security for the United States and India. By diversifying the energy markets and creating greater energy supply, the civil nuclear agreement promotes the development of stable and efficient energy markets in India. Expansion of U.S.-India civil nuclear cooperation should, over time, lessen India's dependence on imported hydrocarbons, including those from Iran.

The nuclear agreement will also bolster both nations' economies. For the United States, the agreement opens up a major new market for technology exports and investment that is currently off limits. And it brings India into the global nuclear nonproliferation regime as a fully invested partner. India is committed to preventing proliferation from its civilian nuclear program and protecting against diversion of nuclear materials and technologies.

Finally, the civil nuclear agreement will provide the foundation of a promising U.S.-India alliance that will serve as a defense against terrorism and nuclear proliferation. The U.S. has an important stake in ensuring regional stability in South Asia, even as Pakistan continues to produce and test nuclear weapons without proper safeguards.

With uncertainty in Pakistan and the continuing influence of al Qaeda on the Afghanistan and Pakistan border, it is essential that India remain our strategically ally.

Mr. Speaker, 15 years ago, I formed the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans in order to work for a stronger bilateral relationship between the United States and India. Today the world's two largest democracies have established a remarkable strategic partnership that can only be strengthened by civil nuclear cooperation.

Mr. Speaker, we should all do everything we can to see that the U.S. civil nuclear agreement receives final approval in Washington so that the world can begin to benefit from its implementation and we can embark on a new era of U.S.-India relations.

#### RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE BUD CRAMER AND THE HONORABLE TERRY EVERETT ON THEIR RETIREMENT FROM CONGRESS

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

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, as the American people are sitting home tonight watching the President of the United States talking about the state of our economy with so many uncertain questions that are out there about so many different issues, this is a time where the House has completed its work that gives us an opportunity to show the American people how, at least in the State of Alabama, Republicans and Democrats have over the years worked together hand in hand with a love of country at heart to try to make our State, our communities and certainly our great country a better place. And tonight I am privileged to lead this special order which will not take the entire hour but will give some of our colleagues an opportunity to recognize the significant contributions of two such Members, two men who didn't come to Congress at the same time, but who came within a term of each other, and who have, with different life backgrounds, made a substantial contribution to the betterment of their district, the State that they grew up in and love, and certainly this wonderful Nation. And I'm referring to two men of different political paths and different political parties, but two men who

have universal respect here in the House of Representatives, BUD CRAMER of the Fifth Congressional District of Alabama and TERRY EVERETT of the Second Congressional District.

Earlier this year, Congressman CRAMER surprised his constituents and really people throughout this city and our Nation's capital that he would be leaving Congress after 18 remarkable years of dedicated service to the people of Huntsville and his district, the Fifth Congressional District in north Alabama. And I think it was actually this time last year when Congressman TERRY EVERETT surprised the people in the Second Congressional District that he too was going to be calling it quits after 16 wonderful years of dedicated service to the people of Alabama's Wiregrass community.

Joining me tonight will be some colleagues who know these Members intimately well. And so I will be privileged to recognize them in just a moment and let them say a few words of thanks on behalf of the American people to these two giant legislative leaders and their dedicated service.

I also have some statements for the RECORD, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to enter, because as the night has drawn on and Members have had other obligations, they have not been able to actually be here for some of these comments. But I would like to enter one in particular at this moment from my colleague, Congressman ROBERT ADERHOLT, of Alabama's Fourth Congressional District.

Of TERRY EVERETT, ROBERT ADERHOLT said, "we value very highly Representative EVERETT's service and his work with our delegation over the course of his distinguished career. John Quincy Adams once said, if your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you're a leader. TERRY EVERETT is the type of leader that embodies this quote. His actions have inspired many Alabamians to dream more and to learn more. And I am pleased for his great contribution to our State. As TERRY leaves this institution at the conclusion of this 110th Congress and goes on to other endeavors, we wish him the very best of luck and ask God's blessings on him and his wife, Barbara, for many years to come."

And ROBERT also serves next door to Congressman CRAMER. And he asked me as well if I would take just a moment to mention the following about his friend and neighbor, Congressman BUD CRAMER. "Even though Bud and I are members of different political parties, we have cosponsored over 50 bills in this congressional session alone. We've not always agreed on every issue that has come before the House, but I have always respected him and his leadership no matter what the issue has been. Congressman BUD CRAMER has served his district and our State well. And it is my pleasure to have worked alongside him for 12 years. He has been a great partner in working on

issues for north Alabama. As Bud leaves this institution, he leaves behind friends on both sides of the aisle. Regardless of the path he chooses, he leaves this institution a better place. And I look forward to watching his successes along the way."

And also, ROBERT added "may God bless BUD in all of his endeavors, and we wish him all the best that he looks forward to doing."

Now I'm very pleased to recognize for a few minutes my distinguished friend from California, the former chairman of the House Armed Services Committee and the current ranking Republican on that committee, Honorable DUNCAN HUNTER, who has known Congressman TERRY EVERETT for every year that TERRY has been in Congress. And I would be honored to yield as much time as my friend, DUNCAN HUNTER, might choose to consume.

Mr. HUNTER. I thank my good friend for yielding. And to both these great sons of Alabama, I want to say, thank you for your wonderful work and your wonderful service to our country.

I was in TERRY's house a couple of summers ago. And we walked out to his woodworking studio where he makes all of these great cabinetry, wood products and molding. In fact he built this beautiful house by himself almost single-handedly using all this machinery that he had in his woodworking place. And as we walked across the floor, I noticed a bunch of red stains. And I said, what is that, TERRY? He said, that is when I cut part of my hand off. And I keep that blood to remind me so I won't do it again. And I immediately decided that I would not become a woodworker. It was too dangerous.

But I am reminded on that trip that TERRY EVERETT was showing me how to make cabinets. And he can make cabinets. And if you go in that house, you can see he made beautiful ones. I said, TERRY, our house burned down in California. We're going to have to rebuild it. He said, well, HUNTER, if you come down here for a week or two, we will make some cabinets.

TERRY, let me tell you, having now experienced the cost of California cabinets, I wish I had come down and worked with you and made those cabinets with you out of some of that good old cypress wood. That would have been great.

And BUD, I want to thank you incidentally for your great support of national defense. I have always been in this Congress kind of a Johnny One Note focused on defense issues since I got here. You always support a strong national defense. That has helped us to do all the things that TERRY and I have worked on over the years to rebuild our defense in such a way that we're able to bring down the Soviet Union and that we were able to free hundreds of millions of people, we were able to bring freedom to the captive nations of Eastern Europe and to keep the United States a shining star in this very difficult, very dangerous world. And your