

sustainable, that are green, and that will help our country meet the needs of the future.

They talked about efficiency. They talked about saving money with weatherization and putting people back to work doing it. Manufacturing, windmills, solar, all these things are so vitally important, and also transit, all of these critically important things to make our employment grow and to help us stay green.

Unfortunately, however, Madam Speaker, we still have 14 million Americans who are unemployed; and in the time that we have spent in this new Congress, we have not spent any time talking about job creation, green or otherwise. The time is now to focus on jobs. I implore the majority caucus to begin the dialogue about jobs because we haven't talked about it at all.

WHERE IS THE JOB CREATION AGENDA?

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

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my Republican friends a simple question: Where is the job creation agenda? In the first month of the 112th Congress, this body has not taken up a single piece of legislation that will create jobs and put Americans back to work.

Let's look at what we have done: H.R. 2, repeal protections of health insurance reform. Created no jobs. H.R. 359, eliminating public financing for Presidential campaigns. Created no jobs. H.R. 38, establishing a budget with no numbers. Created no jobs. H.R. 519 is on the floor today, to reduce our annual payment to the United Nations and go back into arrears. Again, creates no jobs.

Madam Speaker, my Republican friends claimed that job creation was their number one priority. The American people said loud and clear that job creation should be their number one priority. During the previous Congress we made that priority, which is why we are in the midst of 12 consecutive months of private sector job growth.

I ask my Republican friends to put aside ideology and join with the Democrats in making job creation their number one priority.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, House Democratic Leader:

FEBRUARY 8, 2011.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House, U.S. Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: Pursuant to section 803(a) of the Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Act (2 U.S.C. 803 (a)), I am pleased to appoint the

Honorable SHEILA JACKSON LEE of Texas to the Congressional Award Board.

Thank you for your consideration of this appointment.

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI,
House Democratic Leader.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, House Democratic Leader:

FEBRUARY 8, 2011.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House, U.S. Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: Pursuant to section 4(b) of House Resolution 5, 112th Congress, I am pleased to re-appoint the Honorable JAMES P. MCGOVERN of Massachusetts as Co-Chair of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission.

Thank you for your attention to this appointment.

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI,
House Democratic Leader.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, House Democratic Leader:

FEBRUARY 8, 2011.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House, U.S. Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: Pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 2081, I am pleased to re-appoint the Honorable MARCY KAPTUR of Ohio to the United States Capitol Preservation Commission.

Thank you for your attention to this appointment.

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI,
House Democratic Leader.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

JOHN M. ROLL UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. DENHAM. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 188) to designate the United States courthouse under construction at 98 West First Street, Yuma, Arizona, as the "John M. Roll United States Courthouse".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 188

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

SECTION 1. JOHN M. ROLL UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The United States courthouse under construction, as of the date of enactment of this Act, at 98 West First Street, Yuma, Arizona, shall be known and designated as the "John M. Roll United States Courthouse".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States courthouse referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "John M. Roll United States Courthouse".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) and the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DENHAM. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 188.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DENHAM. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, Senate bill 188 would designate the Federal courthouse currently under construction in Yuma, Arizona, as the John M. Roll United States Courthouse.

On January 8, our Nation suffered a horrendous tragedy. One of our colleagues, the gentlewoman from California, Representative GIFFORDS, was carrying out her duties meeting with her constituents in Tucson, Arizona, when a gunman shot 19 people, killing six. Among those killed that day was Judge John Roll, who was simply stopping by on his way back from attending Mass to say hi to his Congresswoman.

Judge Roll was chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona and was first appointed to the Federal bench by President George H.W. Bush in 1991.

His commitment to serving the public predated his appointment to Federal court. For nearly 40 years, he dedicated his life to public service and the law. Before becoming a Federal judge, Judge Roll was a judge on the Arizona Court of Appeals, serving as presiding judge and vice-chief judge. Earlier in his career, he was an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona. He also served the citizens of Arizona at the local level, first as a Tucson assistant attorney and later as the deputy county attorney in Pima County. It is fitting to honor Judge Roll in this way, given his reputation as a respected jurist and his service to the law.

Although we are honoring the life of Judge Roll through naming a Federal courthouse after him, we must also honor and remember the others who were killed and wounded that tragic day. Among those killed was one of

Representative GIFFORDS' staff members, a pastor, a secretary, a homemaker, a grandmother, and a 9-year-old little girl who had just been elected to her student council; each of them simply going that day to meet their Congressman, never thinking their lives would be in danger.

And in this tragedy, we must not forget the heroes, those who took action, risking their own lives, stopping the gunman and preventing more deaths and injuries.

Our prayers continue to be with Congresswoman GIFFORDS, the others who were wounded and the families of all the victims. In honoring Judge Roll by passing this legislation, it is important that we do not forget that all the victims that day should be honored and remembered.

I support passage of this legislation and urge my colleagues to do the same.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1220

Ms. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

S. 188 is a bill to honor the life and public service of Judge John McCarthy Roll, who was gunned down, along with others, at a community meeting in Tucson, Arizona.

Judge Roll graduated from the University of Arizona Law School in 1972, and he spent the next 40 years of his life dedicated to public service. Upon graduation from law school, Judge Roll served as a bailiff in the Pima County Superior Court and soon became Deputy County Attorney for Pima County, where he prosecuted criminal cases until 1980.

After his service as Pima County prosecutor, Judge Roll moved to the U.S. Attorney's Office in Arizona, where he served both as a civil attorney and criminal attorney until 1987, primarily prosecuting drug cases for the Federal Government. Judge Roll then served as a State court judge until he was appointed to the Federal bench by President George H. W. Bush in 1991.

From this perch, Judge Roll earned his reputation as a giant amongst the legal community in Arizona. Judge Roll was respected by his colleagues and the attorneys that appeared before him as someone who devoted his life to the rule of law and afforded all who appeared before him a fair opportunity to present their case.

Judge Roll's 20-year service to the judiciary ended tragically on January 8, 2011, when he was shot and killed while attending a local event sponsored by the gentlewoman, our colleague from Arizona, GABBY GIFFORDS. Judge Roll attended the event in the course of his duties to thank Congresswoman GIFFORDS for sending a letter to the Chief Judge of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals requesting that he declare Judge Roll's Federal district a judicial emergency because it was besieged with a high number of immigration and drug

cases. Judge Roll also worked closely with Congresswoman GIFFORDS to justify to Federal officials the need for construction of the Yuma, Arizona, U.S. Courthouse to adjudicate the growing backlog of these cases.

Madam Speaker, given Judge Roll's extraordinary service to his country, it is so fitting and proper that we honor his memory by designating that very same courthouse—the U.S. courthouse now under construction in Yuma, Arizona—as the John M. Roll United States Courthouse. This action today, Madam Speaker, will clear the bill for the President and hopefully provide a small comfort to Judge Roll's wife, Maureen, his three children and his five grandchildren, in honor of his service.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting S. 188.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DENHAM. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. QUAYLE).

Mr. QUAYLE. I thank the gentleman from California for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 188.

I can think of no one more worthy of this honor than Judge John Roll. Naming a Federal courthouse after Judge Roll won't make the pain of his passing any easier for his family and close friends, but it will help ensure that his exceptional legacy and final act of heroism will never be forgotten. While the painful memories of the Tucson tragedy will eventually begin to fade, there will always be a John M. Roll United States Courthouse in Yuma.

Madam Speaker, John Roll's job was to look out for the people of Arizona. That's what a good judge is supposed to do. And John Roll was a great one. We've heard from friends and colleagues about how fair he was in the courtroom and how he worked to make sure that Arizona's judicial system—with its ever-growing caseload—was working efficiently for the people. And it was no surprise, Madam Speaker, when we learned that Judge Roll died while helping to save the life of Ronald Barber, one of Congresswoman GIFFORDS' staff members. So even at the very end, Madam Speaker, Judge Roll was doing what he did every day before that—looking out for the people of Arizona.

For your service to our great State and this country, Judge Roll, we offer our deepest thanks. We will never forget you or the other good Americans who passed away on that terrible day.

Ms. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the leader, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. I thank the gentlelady for yielding. I thank her and you, Mr. Chairman, for bringing this resolution to the floor to name a Federal courthouse in Yuma, Arizona, for John M. Roll. It will be called the "John M. Roll United States Courthouse." How appropriate.

Chief Judge Roll was a dedicated public servant, as our colleagues have referenced, serving as a Federal judge in Arizona, a State judge, and a prosecutor for the city, county, and at the Federal levels. Chief Judge Roll was a proud son of Arizona, moving to Arizona as a little boy, living there for the vast majority of his life, receiving his undergraduate and law degrees at the University of Arizona.

Tragically, Chief Judge Roll was one of the six Americans who were taken from us during the horrific shooting in Tucson. He died while helping to save the life of Ron Barber, as has been mentioned, a staffer for Congresswoman GIFFORDS—protecting him. He had just come from mass. I spoke to his wife, Maureen, the other day, and she said that was his regular routine on Saturday, to go to mass in the morning. He then went from there to see Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS at Congress on Your Corner, and you know what happened next. He was going to talk to her about securing resources for the overwhelming court system. This was characteristic, as he dedicated his entire life to ensuring justice. He was known as a scholar of the law and a man of integrity. He is an example of the public servants who are doing serious and significant work in the judiciary every day.

We had the honor, when we went to Tucson with the President to visit GABBY and to meet with some of the families, to also take pride in the fact that Justice Anthony Kennedy from the Supreme Court came on the trip, and Sandra Day O'Connor, who is from Arizona, was there that evening as well. They were joined by other justices who served with Judge Roll as a tribute to him personally and officially. It was wonderful to hear the beautiful statements that they made in our conversations about Chief Judge Roll, and they all sang the praises of Maureen Roll.

So I hope it is a comfort to Maureen, to their three sons, and five grandchildren that so many people are saddened by their loss. We're praying for them at this very sad time. This courthouse will long stand as a tribute—and an appropriate tribute—to Judge Roll.

Mr. DENHAM. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

(Mr. GOSAR asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOSAR. I stand here today in support of Senate Bill 188. Judge Roll lost his life in the tragic shooting in Tucson 1 month ago, and I believe it is a fitting tribute to honor his memory and service to our country by designating the Yuma courthouse the John M. Roll United States Courthouse.

Judge Roll loved his country. His service as a Federal judge and the chief judge for the United States District Court was admirable. He served selflessly, as he always worked to ensure that the rule of law was upheld.

Judge Roll loved Arizona. Attending the University of Arizona for his undergraduate work and the University of Virginia for his law degree, he returned to the State he loved to serve Pima County, Arizona, and the United States.

Judge Roll's patriotism was evident in the fact that he went out to talk with his Representative at the local Congress on Your Corner event. His love for his country inspired him to serve and motivated him to come and support GABBY GIFFORDS.

Judge Roll lost his life trying to protect another. His act of courage will always be remembered and his upstanding character will never be forgotten. My thoughts and prayers are with his family today.

The United States and Arizona has lost a distinguished public servant, but he will always be remembered for diligence and dedication to our Nation.

May God be with Judge Roll's family and all the victims of the shooting in Tucson.

Ms. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to another of our colleagues from Arizona, ED PASTOR.

(Mr. PASTOR of Arizona asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. First of all, I want to thank my colleague from Maryland for yielding the time.

About 3 years ago, Judge Roll informed us that the courthouse in Yuma, which is in southeastern Arizona, lacked the space because of the increased cases dealing with the drug cases and immigration cases that the Federal court was facing in the Yuma area.

□ 1230

It was very interesting. At the time, the request was kind of unusual because, in the line of things, at least in the court itinerary, the Yuma court was not under consideration, but Judge Roll impressed on the delegation that this was sorely needed in the Yuma area, which prompted the Arizona delegation to work in bringing forth some moneys. I have to tell you that, in the last appropriation bill that passed this House, which was the omnibus bill, Chairman JOSÉ SERRANO, from New York, was able to appropriate the moneys to have this courthouse constructed.

Also, I want to thank the leadership of the Congress, of the House of Representatives, for bringing this bill forward. It is very appropriate that we name this courthouse in the name of Judge Roll, who was the presiding judge of the Arizona courts. As you have been told—and rightfully so—he was a jurist, a scholar, and a man who had a deep belief in God; but more than that, he was a father, a good husband, and one who continually supported the efforts of his community.

So on behalf of the Arizonans, we thank this House for naming this courthouse in Yuma, Arizona, in honor of Judge Roll. May he rest in peace.

Mr. DENHAM. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE).

Mr. FLAKE. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank the committee for bringing this resolution forward. I rise in support of it.

Madam Speaker, as Judge John Roll pored over the plans and designs for a new courthouse to be built in Yuma, Arizona, I am sure his intentions were not to cement a legacy in brick and mortar. To those who knew him, maintaining a reputation as a fair, ethical and intelligent jurist was legacy enough.

One Tucson attorney said, "One of the finest compliments you could give him was that you got a fair day in court."

In fact, when the ability of the Arizona Federal court system to ensure such timely care and attention in all of its proceedings came into question by what he called a "tsunami of felony cases," Judge Roll declared a judicial emergency for the District of Arizona.

An Arizonan since childhood, a two-time graduate of the University of Arizona and a public servant within the State for nearly 40 years, Judge Roll was a tireless advocate. His mission would bring him to seek the assistance of his Representative, Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS. Eventually, their efforts helped to secure approval of the funding for the Yuma courthouse.

With the construction of this building set to begin this July, Judge Roll labored over the finishing touches. To him, the building represented a means to an end to better serve the people of Arizona. The Judge John M. Roll United States Courthouse will now represent and commemorate Judge Roll's legacy as a selfless public servant.

Let me just say that I, along with some of my colleagues here, had the honor to attend his funeral. I heard stories of selfless service, of care and of what an incredible, wonderful jurist he was to represent the United States Government—to ensure that justice was served and for his service to the people of Arizona. There was such an outpouring of love and support for the family and, basically, just an honoring of the legacy of this great man. So I am glad we can do this small part to ensure that people remember what he has done for the State and for his country.

Ms. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DENHAM. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT).

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, I never met Judge Roll, but if you were judged by the comments, the love, the number of touches I've received just in the last 24 hours, we have a gentleman here with an amazing history, an amazing reputation. Just walking up the stairs, while coming here onto the floor of the House, I was on the floor with a local attorney, named Steve Twist, who could not stop sharing comments

of the fairness and of the devotion to his faith.

The fact of the matter is Judge Roll was tough, but you were always going to get your appropriate day in court. Therefore, I hope naming this courthouse in Yuma that he painstakingly spent time on helping design and get right is just the first step in a fitting tribute to a life well lived.

Ms. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, one of the things that we don't talk about very often is that there are different ways that people choose to serve. Some choose to serve in elected office. Some choose to serve in uniform. Judge Roll chose to serve in our judiciary. It is one of those parts of our system that Judge Roll rightly recognized as one in which it is important to hear with fairness those who come before the court. Every aspect of Judge Roll's service indicated, with regard to those who appeared before him, that he operated and functioned fairly in his courtroom. It is why he was so respected.

As we look at his 20-year service, ending so tragically just in January of 2011, perhaps several months ago, one would not have thought what the name of the courthouse would be under its construction in Yuma, Arizona. Yet, today, because of Judge Roll's service and the tragedy that met him, it seems so obvious that this courthouse should be named for such an important public servant. Given Judge Roll's extraordinary service to the country, it is true that, in his memory, we will remember him as a public servant, but we will also remember the purpose for which he served this country in our judiciary.

The John M. Roll United States Courthouse will be a place in which, not just his wife, Maureen, and his family will be able to recognize their memory, but will be one that other attorneys and judges and litigants will recognize as a place of fairness, as a fair representation of his service to this Nation.

So I do join my colleagues in supporting S. 188.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Judge John Roll, a tireless advocate for justice and a model public servant. By designating the Federal courthouse under construction at 98 West First Street in Yuma, Arizona, as the "John M. Roll United States Courthouse," Congress has chosen to pass the legacy of a champion for justice to many generations of Arizonans and Americans.

A native Pennsylvanian, Judge Roll moved to Arizona as a child. He graduated from the University of Arizona with his Bachelor's Degree in 1969 and his J.D. in 1972. He began his legal career as a bailiff in the Pima County Superior Court later that year.

Judge Roll became an Assistant City Attorney for the City of Tucson and Deputy County Attorney for Pima County, prosecuting criminal cases until 1980. He later joined the U.S. Attorney's Office where he led the organized drug crimes task force, specializing in large drug cases, from 1982 to 1986. From 1987 to 1991 he served as a judge on the State Court of Appeals, and in 1991 also held a post on the Pima County Superior Court.

Judge Roll was appointed to the Federal bench in 1991 by President George H.W. Bush and was unanimously confirmed by the Senate. He served as the chief judge of the District of Arizona from 2006 until his tragic death on January 8, 2011. He displayed remarkable fairness and evenhandedness in his rulings, and was often recognized by peers and colleagues for setting aside his personal beliefs in service of the law.

According to multiple witnesses, Judge Roll died protecting Congresswoman GIFFORDS' district office director, Ron Barber, who continues his recovery. His sacrifice will never be forgotten by the Arizona community. I believe many join me in extending heartfelt sympathies to his widow Maureen, his three sons and his five grandchildren.

For many years, Judge Roll pushed for the construction of a new Federal courthouse in Yuma. He worked diligently with my office and Ms. GIFFORDS' office to secure the funding, which finally came through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. His determination and persistence were key factors, and it is fitting that the building will bear his name.

John Roll was a great example to everyone of what a legal career can mean to a nation and a community. His passing was a very sad day for our State, and I can think of no greater tribute than to pass on his name to future generations through the courthouse he fought so hard to bring to Yuma.

Ms. EDWARDS. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DENHAM. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 188.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. DENHAM. Madam 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 and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

UNITED NATIONS TAX EQUALIZATION REFUND ACT OF 2011

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 519) to secure the return to the United States the \$179 million overpaid into the United Nations Tax Equalization Fund as of December 31, 2009, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 519

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "United Nations Tax Equalization Refund Act of 2011".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Approximately \$180 million in United States taxpayer funds overpaid to the United Nations remain in the hands of the United Nations because the United States has not requested the return of those funds.

(2) The funds were paid into the United Nations Tax Equalization Fund (TEF), which is used to reimburse United Nations staff members subject to United States income taxes for the cost of those taxes.

(3) In recent years, the TEF has taken in considerably more money than it has paid out, with the United States apparently overpaying into the TEF by \$52.2 million in the 2008–2009 timeframe alone.

(4) According to the United Nations Financial Report and Audited Financial Statements released on July 29, 2010, "As of 31 December 2009, an amount of \$179.0 million was payable to the United States of America pending instructions as to its disposition."

(5) That balance was allowed to accrue notwithstanding United Nations Financial Regulation 4.12, which states that any such surpluses "shall be credited against the assessed contributions due from that Member State the following year."

(6) Allowing the United Nations to regularly overcharge the United States and to retain those overpayments, or to spend them on wholly unrelated activities, is a disservice to American taxpayers and a subversion of the Congressional budget process.

SEC. 3. REFUND OF UNITED STATES TAXPAYER DOLLARS FROM THE UNITED NATIONS TAX EQUALIZATION FUND.

(a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It shall be the policy of the United States—

(1) to direct the United Nations to return to the United States the \$179,010,326 overpaid into the United Nations Tax Equalization Fund (TEF) as of December 31, 2009, which the United Nations itself has identified as "payable to the United States of America";

(2) to use the voice and vote of the United States to press the United Nations to reform its TEF assessment procedures to reduce the repeated discrepancies between TEF income and expenditures; and

(3) to annually instruct the United Nations to return to the United States any TEF surplus funds payable to the United States.

(b) CERTIFICATION AND WITHHOLDING.—Until the Secretary of State submits to the appropriate congressional committees a certification that the United Nations has returned to the United States the \$179,010,326 identified by the United Nations in its July 29, 2010 Financial Report as payable to the United States, the United States shall withhold \$179,010,326 from the United States contribution to the regularly assessed biennial budget of the United Nations.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(2) the term "United Nations Tax Equalization Fund" or "TEF" means the fund established under the provisions of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 973 (December 15, 1955) to equalize to net pay of United Nations staff members.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

□ 1240

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The American people have spoken. They overwhelmingly voted for today's YouCut proposal calling for U.S. taxpayer funds overpaid to the United Nations to be returned to the United States. The United Nations holds about \$179 million overpaid by U.S. taxpayers into the U.N. Tax Equalization Fund. This is not about the U.N. finally doing the right thing by paying for security upgrades at its headquarters in New York. The U.N. is not paying for anything.

After years of avoiding its responsibilities, the U.N., with the support of the Obama administration, is asking the American taxpayer to bail them out once again and pay 100 percent of the proposed construction costs. To make matters worse, allowing the U.N. to take \$100 million of the refund owed to U.S. taxpayers would be an increase for the U.N. budget.

This YouCut not only ensures that U.S. taxpayers receive the funds owed to the U.S. Treasury, but it prevents a \$100 million increase for the U.N. The U.N. doesn't want the American people to know this; so the U.N. and the State Department are now stating that they should allow this increase because it is for security upgrades. This is not about security. This is the U.N. and the Obama administration looking for another excuse to avoid making the difficult choices and requiring accountability from the United Nations.

This is not like U.S. embassy construction projects where the needs are assessed, where a detailed plan is developed on how the security needs will be addressed, on how the funding request is presented, and how the Congress will then allocate the funds, no. After months of requests, my colleagues on the committee and I are still waiting for the details on this proposed construction project and, more recently, on how the U.N. would fund it.

In news reports, I read that the State Department may have already handed over to the U.N. \$100 million of our overpayment into the TEF. The Tax Equalization Fund, TEF, is a round-about mechanism premised on the U.N. belief that U.N. employee salaries and benefits should be tax free. The TEF has collected much more from the U.S. than it has paid out.

The U.N.'s most recent biennial financial report states that the amount of the U.S.-paid surplus has grown to \$179 million. The U.N. readily admits that it does owe the overpaid money to our U.S. taxpayers. According to the U.N.'s official financial report, the TEF surplus is "payable to the United States of America pending instructions as to its disposition."

This YouCut proposal declares that it is U.S. policy to seek the return of those funds and the reform of the TEF assessment process. And until the Secretary of State certifies to Congress