I would just like to point out that this has

been happening more frequently, and I just think I have to make

this observation. I am sorry, but I am getting a little bit tired of

every time when we come to discuss a major issue before this Committee,

that the Democratic side of the aisle preempts the discussion

and preempts the investigation and the subject matter of the

day with these charges of partisanship. These charges of partisanship

are coming forth specifically to try to thwart an honest discussion.

This has happened over and over and over again, and I am,

frankly, very fed up with it. I served on this Committee when it

was run by the other party, and I will tell you, it was not run as

a bipartisan Committee. It was run by the party that controlled

Congress. That is the democratic process and Democrats controlled this Committee.

No, because I want to finish what I have to

say here. I did not challenge the right of the Democrats to control

the Committee. I asked them to be fair, and in most cases, I will

have to say that when the Chairman was a Democrat, he was relatively

fair. But at the same time, those decisions that were made

in order to go along with what party policy was in the Democratic

Party, the Chairman did not vary from that line. I am sorry.

What we are trying to do here today is examine a policy which

I consider to be—this has got to be the screwiest policy that I have

ever seen with one of the weirdest regimes on the face of this planet.

Here we are kowtowing to one of the strangest dictatorships on

this Earth, and we are providing more aid to one of the worst

human rights abusers and one of the strangest totalitarian regimes

on this planet, and they are our biggest recipients of aid in Asia.

There is something wrong with that. There is something wrong

with the agreements that we have made with this regime that have

actually, I believe, encouraged these crazy people over in North

Korea to believe we are weaklings because we are giving them everything

they want and, as far as I can see, not holding them to

their promises. I don’t want to have an honest discussion of this

policy, the policy of this Administration, thwarted by these charges of partisanship.

As I say, that has happened too often to be a coincidence. Every

time we are discussing something that could make the Administration

look bad, all of a sudden it is partisanship on our part. Let’s

have an open discussion of this issue rather than getting involved

in the partisanship that is coming from your side of the aisle.

Certainly I will to my good friend from New York.

Reclaiming my time, I would congratulate

the Chairman when he was my Chairman of the Subcommittee on

the fair way that he handled the Committee, as well as Mr. Bereuter,

of course, is handling his job very well now that he has taken

over from you. The American people decide what party is in control

of this overall Committee.

I am just saying that this is not the first time I have heard these

charges of partisanship. It seems to me that it is being raised in

order to thwart an honest discussion. That is how it appears to me.

I am not saying that for any other reason except that I want to

have an honest discussion. I think there are some really important

things we need to discuss about Korean policy.

Regular order. The Chairman has the time on the floor.

Before I use my time, Mr. Chairman, is it appropriate

that the witnesses be given a chance to answer some of

the questions that were posed to them before we go to my time?

Thank you very much. It seems to me that

our policies have prolonged this regime in North Korea. I would

like to ask my colleagues who are testifying today whether or not

they believe that our policies have extended the life of the current regime in North Korea?

Let me be very specific in my question. I understand

that the people of North Korea are starving, that the

country itself is falling apart. While my good friend Mr. Ackerman

may suggest, well, we are better off now because they are just

stealing fuel oil rather than having these weapons of mass destruction

being created by some of the things that they were trying to

build, wouldn’t it be better to have that regime just collapse and

fade and go away, and perhaps support unification with South

Korea rather than the policy that we have, which seems to be artificially

keeping North Korea alive in the name of stability?

It seems to me that what we have here is a

travesty where the United States is spending hundreds of millions

of dollars for a regime that turns around and spends its own money

on weapons and repressing its own people.

Are we unconsciously or consciously trying to keep this regime

in power and contributing to their threat to their own people and

to world peace? Mr. Cox?

One issue that has not been raised here

today is the fact that hundreds, if not thousands of U.S. POW’s

were held by the North Koreans after that conflict ended, and there

has been no attempt by this Administration to have an accounting

and make that part of this whole process. I think it is a disgrace

that we are simply writing off these Americans who fought so hard

to protect their country.

Thank you very much.

I would suggest before we move on, we at least give these witnesses a

chance to answer the spurious charges that have just been made against them.