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RIGHT TO SUE AN ERISA HMO

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

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, Members on both sides of this aisle have joined together to address one of the most egregious violations of the individual rights upon which our Nation was founded, the right to due process in court.

Since 1974, federally governed managed care insurance plans have enjoyed a near total immunity from any legal accountability for injuring and killing the citizens of this country for monetary gain. No thinking, feeling American can agree to let that stand. I tell my colleagues today, Mr. Speaker, that will not stand.

But, Mr. Speaker, the industry lobbyists who have profited behind the skirts of ERISA are now engaged in a last-ditch fight to deceive the Members of this body and the American public concerning the truth of what we seek. So, tonight, Mr. Speaker, I want to set the record straight.

The bipartisan Consensus Managed Care Improvement Act that I have cosponsored with the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) provides full relief from the travesty of current law while providing full protection for employers and decent insurers against frivolous and vicarious lawsuits.

The managed care lobby has told us that employers could be sued for simply offering a health plan to their employees, they are actually going around saying that, or could be sued just by choosing a particular plan.

Mr. Speaker, read page 60 of the bill beginning on line 33. The bill says, "Does not authorize any cause of action against an employer, or other plan sponsor maintaining the group health plan, or against an employee of such an employer."

One cannot be any clearer than that. Employers cannot be sued for offering

health insurance in our bill or choosing any particular specific plan. Now, the HMO argues that lawyers could find a way around that protection. But the United States Supreme Court has held that "plain meaning" interpretations would prevail. Who do you believe, the lobbyists or the Supreme Court?

There is only one way under this bill that employers can be sued. If an employer decides to do more than offer health insurance, by trying to practice medicine, yes, then they can be sued. If an employer decides to weigh in on a decision of medical necessity, they will be held responsible for that decision, as they should be. But if that employer chooses to stay out of the dispute and leaves the decision up to medically trained professionals, they remain shielded from any type of liability, as they should be.

Read the bill. Page 61, beginning on line 13, an employer can only be sued if, and I quote out of the bill, Mr. Speaker, "The employer's . . . exercise of discretionary authority to make a decision on a claim for benefits covered under the plan . . . resulted in personal injury or wrongful death."

Would a Member of this body like to argue that anyone should be able to wrongfully cause the death of a human being and then be shielded from that responsibility? Let us have that debate. I think they will not argue that.

Under this bill, an employer is free to buy any health plan on the market for their employees and face no liability whatsoever for having done so. If the employer is asked to step into the middle of the dispute between the employee and the health plan, they simply should refuse, leave the matter up to the doctors, and face no liability whatsoever.

The managed care lobby has told us that this bill opens the door for unlimited punitive damages against health plans, with jury awards soaring into the hundreds of millions of dollars.

Read the bill. We have left a way for insurance companies to remain shielded from any punitive damages, not one nickel.

Read the bill. Page 60, beginning on line 13, and I quote again, Mr. Speaker, "The plan is not liable for any punitive, exemplary, or similar damages . . . if the plan or issuer complied with the determination of the external appeal entity." It cannot be any simpler than that.

There is only one option left the HMO lobby to defeat the legislation: Distort the issue, scare the employers into believing it. We know it, and they know it.

I believe that truth and justice will prevail during next week's vote on this issue. No amount of lies, Mr. Speaker, no amount of threats will deter the Members of this body who know the truth from moving forward on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my fellow Members who support this bill to spread the truth to those who may not know it yet. This evil cannot be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to seeing my colleagues next week on the floor of this House when the truth will come forward as to what is happening to health care in the United States of America.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. NORWOOD. I yield to the gentleman from Michigan.

□ 1745

IN AGREEMENT WITH RIGHT TO SUE AN ERISA
HMO

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I first want to say that I have worked in this place for a long time, and I have worked with a lot of people. None have been more steadfast, courageous, harder working, more able or more dedicated on the matters upon which we work, and I want to commend the gentleman from Georgia and thank him.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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I want to make the observation that I hope my colleagues will have listened to the gentleman from Georgia, because what he is talking about is people who are desperately in need of the protection he and I seek to provide. I want to point out that what he is seeking to do here is to assure that employers who do not intrude into the every day management of the particular fund that is set up for the health care and for the procurement of health care are absolutely protected against liability. The gentleman is totally correct in that. And the only time that an employer would incur a liability under this legislation is if he had actively intervened against the beneficiary.

And so I want to first commend the gentleman. Second of all, I want to urge my colleagues to listen to him. He has been speaking great wisdom. He has also been speaking of justice and decency and something that the health care industry has not always been providing to the recipients of health care. It is an extremely important point in this legislation.

Honest and decent employers have nothing to fear, and HMOs which have been denying people the health care to which they are entitled under the contract do have something to fear. And, indeed, they should. They are the folks that I happen to be after.

IMPORTANCE OF GOVERNMENT FUNDING OF SCIENCE IN TODAY'S WORLD

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

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I have been giving a series of comments in special orders about the importance of science in today's world, and also the importance of government funding of science, because the question often asked is why should the Federal Government be spending good taxpayers money to conduct scientific research.

One very obvious reason: Over half of the economic growth of this country comes from the scientific research which we have funded in the past. I can give numerous examples, and I have given some in the past, but let me just point out a few tonight.

When computers were first developed, one of the difficulties was how computers could talk to each other. That was resolved fairly readily. But then some bright individuals in the Defense Advance Research Project Agency began wondering how can we network a large number of computers. And then, beyond that, how can we connect the networks so that we have what is really an internet, a connection or a network of networks. That was not easily resolved, but it has had far-reaching implications when it was solved.

The basic method is to create what is called a packet of information that travels along the telephone lines from one computer to another. There is a

certain protocol of what is in that packet, what is at the lead, what is in the middle, what is at the end, so that you can keep track of these. After that was developed, the interest of the Defense Advance Research Project Agency was to tie together all the military laboratories in the United States. That eventually came to include other laboratories. And then the NSF got involved and developed what was called the NSF net, which broadened it to all universities. And that was the basis from which the Internet was developed.

Now, who can question the value of the Internet today? So many people use it for so many purposes, we have trillions of dollars flowing on the Internet every day, indicating the commerce we have between banks and other places. If an individual's check is deposited by electronic fund transfer, that money was probably transferred over the Internet.

I have been told, and I have not had a chance to check this for myself to be certain it is true, but I have been told that there is more money transferred electronically over the Internet each day than we have in the entire Federal budget for a year. That illustrates some of the importance of the Internet for this and for various other purposes.

One little sidelight that might be interesting to my colleagues. As we developed these packets to go on the Internet, someone got the bright idea why not do the same thing with telephone information. In other words, treat voice information just as we treat computer information. So today, when we place a telephone call, our voices are chopped up and put in all these little packets, they travel over telephone lines by various routes, and when they reach their destination they are unscrambled, and no one on either end knows that this has happened. That has greatly increased the capacity of our telephone lines for carrying voice and data transmissions.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield some time to my scientific colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT), who is a fellow physicist. We often work on science issues together. This is obviously a bipartisan issue, and I am pleased to yield to him.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Michigan. It is a great pleasure to talk about these things. We do not have occasion to talk about them enough here on the floor of the House.

First, I would like to recognize how much the gentleman does in support of science and science education. We all appreciate it.

I would like to just add two comments to what the gentleman talked about. One is the importance of research that we do not necessarily recognize the value of at first. Many of our colleagues here in this chamber, many of our family members have had MRIs, magnetic resonance imaging. Most people do not realize this came out of studies on nuclear magnetic res-

onance, on which I believe the gentleman has worked in the past. This was once regarded as pure research but has turned out to be of very practical value.

The return on investment in science is enormous.

AFFORDABLE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS ACT

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, before I begin my special order on prescription drugs, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) if he would like to finish his thought.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and just say that the point I wanted to make was that economists argue about what is the yield on research, the economic yield on dollars spent on research, but they argue about whether it is 20 percent or 30 percent, not whether it is 2 or 3 percent. And it is a sound investment.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago the Office of Personnel Management announced that premiums for the Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan would increase by 9 percent next year, the third straight year of large increases. Last month, final figures were in for the number of seniors that will be dropped from their Medicare managed care plan come January 1: 395,000 elderly Americans. Last year, 400,000 were dropped. Most of the remaining plans are curtailing or eliminating prescription drug benefits.

Those are the numbers. Here are the stories. Last month, I received a letter from a 71-year-old widow in Sheffield Lake, Ohio, who had taken a part-time job to help pay for her prescription drugs. Until United Health Care pulled out of her county and left her without a health plan, she had some drug coverage, but just one of her medications, lipitor, absorbed the entire benefit.

I spoke with a woman recently in Elyria, Ohio, who spends \$350 out of her \$808 monthly Social Security check on prescription drugs.

What is the common thread here? The high cost of prescription drugs. Prescription drug spending in the U.S. increased 84 percent between 1993 and 1998. The American public is right to wonder why we are not doing something about that in this Congress. The truth is, what has held us back is a threat. The drug industry says if we do not leave drug prices alone, they will not produce any new drugs.

I believe it is time we use market forces, and by that I mean good old-fashioned competition, to challenge that threat. We can introduce more competition in the prescription drug market and still foster medical innovation.

We need information to examine the industry's claims that U.S. prices are

where they need to be. I introduced last week a bill, the Affordable Prescription Drug Act, that addresses these issues head on. Drawing from intellectual property laws already in place in the United States for other products in which access is an issue, such as pollution control devices under the Clean Air Act, my bill would establish product licensing for prescription drugs.

If, based on criteria by the Department of Commerce, a drug price is so outrageously high that it bears no resemblance to pricing norms for other industries, the Federal Government could require drug companies to license their patent to generic drug companies. The generic companies could sell competing products before the brand name patent expires, paying the patent holder royalties for that right. The patent holder would still be amply rewarded for being first in the market, and Americans would benefit from competitively driven prices. Drug prices would then come down.

The bill would require drug companies to provide audited, detailed information on drug company expenses. And given that these companies are asking us to accept the status quo, in terms of high drug prices, the status quo that has bankrupted seniors and ignited health care inflation, they have kept us guessing about their true cost for all too long.

This is not some brand new untried proposal. Product licensing works in England. It works in France. It works in Israel. It works in Germany; it has worked in Canada. But there is another part of this issue. Through the National Institutes of Health, American taxpayers finance 42 percent of the research and development that generates new drugs. Private foundations, State and local governments, and other non-industry sources kick in another 11 percent. So the drug industry funds less than half of the research and development of new drugs.

In addition, the dollars that the drug companies do spend on research, the U.S. Congress has bestowed generous tax breaks on those dollars for the drug companies. At the same time, drug prices in the United States are twice or three times or four times what they are in every other country in the world.

So get this. Half the cost of prescription drug research and development is borne by U.S. taxpayers. U.S. taxpayers then give tax breaks for the money that they do spend for the research on prescription drugs by the drug companies. And American taxpayers are then rewarded by the drug companies by being charged the highest prices in the world, double, triple, four times what those prices are.

Mr. Speaker, it is time this Congress pass the Affordable Prescription Drug Act.

ENHANCING INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, citizens chronically complain about the state of America's public capital, about the dilapidated school buildings, condemned highway bridges, contaminated water supplies, and other shortcomings of the public infrastructure. In addition to inflicting inconvenience and endangering health, the inadequacy of the public infrastructure adversely affects productivity and the growth of the economy. Public investment, private investment, and productivity are intimately linked.

For more than two decades, Washington has retreated from public investment as costs of entitlements and of the interest payable on rapidly rising debt have mounted dramatically. State and local governments, albeit to a lesser extent, have also slowed investment. Their taxpayers became more frequently reluctant to approve bond issues to finance infrastructure. Whereas in the early 1970s, nondefense public investment accounted for 3.2 percent of the GDP, it now accounts for only 2.5 percent.

Widespread neglect of maintenance has contributed substantially to the failure of the stock of public capital assets to keep pace with the Nation's needs.

□ 1800

For instance, the real nondefense public capital stock expanded in the past decades by a pace only half that set in the earlier postwar World War II period.

Evidence of failures to maintain and improve infrastructure is seen every day in such problems as unsafe bridges, urban decay, dilapidated and overcrowded schools, and inadequate airports.

The General Accounting Office study finds that education is seriously handicapped by deteriorating school buildings and that an investment of \$110 billion is needed to bring them up to minimally accepted conditions. These problems take a toll in less visible and perhaps even more important ways, in unsatisfactory gains in private sector productivity, and a diminished rise in real income for the Nation at large, seemingly endless traffic jams, disruption to commuter rail service, and backed-up airport runways. And that is everyday experiences for Americans. They spell waste and inefficiency for the economy at large.

Congestion on the Nation's highways alone cost the Nation some \$100 billion a year. Let me repeat that. Congestion on the Nation's highways alone cost the Nation some \$100 billion a year according to a Competitiveness Policy Council estimate in 1993. And that was 1993. It does not include the cost of added pollution and wear and tear on the vehicles.

That is the bad news. Now the good news. There is help on the way in the

form of legislation directly targeted for infrastructure renewal. This legislation is designed to help the Nation take a significant step toward overcoming its infrastructure deficit and promoting the productivity needed to meet the competitive challenges of the 21st century. The plan is fiscally sound. It follows the best accounting procedures of the private sector and is designed to recognize the statutes that mandate a balanced Federal budget.

In salient ways it advances sound fiscal operation. The plan would provide \$50 billion a year for mortgage loans to State and local governments for capital investments in types of projects specified by Congress and the President. These mortgage loans would be at zero interest. They would thereby cut the overall costs to local governments of the projects at least in half, depending on the prevailing interest rate for local and State taxpayers.

The principals of these loans would be paid in annual installments. Repayment would depend upon the type of project, but no mortgage would be for a period of more than 30 years. The simple fact is that the Nation is falling behind. Infrastructure improvements will enhance our economy, provide new jobs, increase safety for citizens, and help us compete in the global marketplace. This bill is necessary now to begin to rebuild our vital infrastructure as soon as possible.

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

(Mr. FILNER 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 (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois 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 Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mrs. MEEK of Florida addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. HOYER 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 Maryland (Mr. WYNN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

TECHNOLOGY AND AMERICA'S FUTURE

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I am here this afternoon to say a few words about why research and technology is important to America. For me, it is a simple story. Technology gives people the tools to live better lives, beginning with the discovery of fire on a winter night somewhere back in history. Technology creates jobs, raises standards of living, and allows people to live longer and fuller lives.

My home, in the Ninth District of Texas, has really three prime examples of the power of new technologies to spur growth and create opportunities: petroleum, space, and medicine.

In my hometown of Beaumont, in 1901, an era began when oil drillers hit the Lucas Gusher in Spindletop. By the end of that year, Spindletop's production exceeded all the rest of the world combined. The technologies that unfolded in the following decade in the use of automobiles, aircraft, petroleum refining totally changed the shape of our world, making mobility a commonplace rather than a luxury for the wealthy, allowing average Americans to enjoy the personal freedom to travel, to work, to shop, just to have fun, for pleasure.

Almost a hundred years later, technology continues to find new uses for our hydrocarbon resources and to make transportation more safe and more compatible with the environment. Beaumont and East Texas still have a major share of America's petroleum refining and petrochemical manufacturing capacity. And what keeps the industry a vigorous source of employment everyone recognizes is research and technological innovation.

Energy, oil, and chemicals are increasingly international industries. They have to compete successfully with industries worldwide in the field of efficiency and innovation, and they need to find new ways to minimize

their impact on the environment. The road to those goals is paved by research.

A few miles southwest of Spindletop is the Johnson Space Center, one of the major centers of America's space program. As the Lucas Gusher celebrated the beginning of the 20th century, the International Space Station, managed by the Johnson Space Center, will mark the beginning of the 21st century. This is the largest space project in the history and a collaboration between the United States, Canada, the member states of the European Space Agency, Japan, Russia, and Brazil to build a laboratory in permanent orbit around the Earth.

Where will this step lead us? Space station research and medicine and biomedical technologies will help open the door to new advances in health care, research, and physical sciences and engineering; will enable development of a new generation of materials for optical computing, technologies for increased efficiencies engines, and a host of other advances that we cannot even predict.

The Space Station will be advancing knowledge in the basic sciences across the spectrum and providing opportunity for commercial research and development opportunity as well. And on the Space Station we will also be developing a whole spectrum of space technologies that will enable a tremendous expansion of our capabilities for commerce and exploration.

The course of human space exploration is not set today, but I believe that humans will over the course of the next century make the trip to Mars if not a routine, then at least a regular, event. America should lead that chapter in the history of humanity.

One of the things that we can predict about the 21st century is that our citizens will increasingly find themselves in competition with labor from around the world. This competition does not have to be a zero-sum game where they can get richer by making any neighbor poorer. The 21st century can be a win-win game if advances in research and technology give our workers the knowledge and the tools needed to continue to lead the growth of prosperity in the global economy.

It is obvious to me that research is not a luxury. It is a necessity. We have to make the investments necessary to make sure that the economic opportunity made possible by technology-led growth are available to our children's generation and to make sure that we can maintain our standard of living and to improve our stewardship of the environment, to make sure that our longer lives are healthier, richer, and less expensive medically, to manage the continued growth of the world's population, and to open the universe to the continuing epic of human discovery.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I ask that as we proceed through the next few weeks to negotiate our final appropriations decisions for fiscal 2000 that we remem-

ber the importance of research and the importance of agencies like NASA, the National Science Foundation, and the National Institutes of Health to our country's future.

CLEAN POWER PLANT ACT OF 1999

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Clean Power Plant Act of 1999, a bill to set uniform emissions standards for all electric generating units operating in the United States.

I am pleased to be joined by 18 original cosponsors of both parties and from throughout the country. As we approach the 30-year anniversary of the Clean Air Act, we should take stock of all that it has accomplished to clean our air, improve public health and create a better environment.

We must also, however, recognize that the clean air act and its amendments have not fully solved the problem of the air pollution in this country. In my home State of Maine we routinely see unhealthy levels of smog during the summer ozone season. We still suffer the effects of acid rain and mercury pollution in our rivers, lakes, and streams; and we are only beginning to understand the effect of greenhouse gases which have helped make the 1990's the hottest decade on record.

When we look at the sources of air pollution in America today, one sector stands out as a glaring problem, eclipsing virtually every other source of pollution in the Nation. It is the electric generating sector which for nearly 30 years has evaded the full regulations of the Clean Air Act.

More than three out of every four power plants in the U.S. are grandfathered from having to comply with the act's emission standards and legally pollute at four to 10 times the rates allowed for new plants. When Congress passed the clean air act, it assumed that these grandfathered plants would soon become obsolete, retiring to make way for new plants that would be covered by clean air regulations.

Unfortunately, dirty power is often cheap power, and the economic advantage enjoyed by grandfathered plants has allowed them to survive much longer than Congress ever expected. Most of the power plants in the U.S. began operation in the 1960s or before. The operating cost for grandfathered plants are often half that of new clean generators.

With the U.S. moving toward a deregulated electricity market, it is now time to remove the economic advantage of dirty power. If we do not close the grandfather loophole and level the playing field for new clean generation, clean energy will be disadvantaged.

The Clean Power Plant Act of 1999 sets uniform emissions standards for all plants regardless of when they

began operation. It addresses the four major pollutants that come from utilities and closes several loopholes that allow the electric generating industry to pollute at higher rates than other industries. This bill, however, also recognizes the importance of fuel diversity for electricity generation and the need to make a smooth transition to cleaner technology.

The bill sets an overall cap of 1.914 billion tons of carbon dioxide emissions from the utility sector. This cap is consistent with the Rio Treaty on global climate change which was signed by the Bush administration and ratified by the Senate. It requires EPA to distribute emissions allowances to power plants based on a generation performance standard.

Because the effects of carbon emissions are global rather than local in nature, the bill allows the trading of extra emissions allowances between utilities. For nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxides, the bill sets both a maximum emissions rate and a per-unit cap on total annual emissions. The emissions rates of 1.5 pounds per megawatt hour for nitrogen oxides and 3 pounds per megawatt hour for sulfur dioxides will ensure that all plants must meet standards similar to those required for new generators.

The bill does not allow dirty plants to purchase emissions credits to meet these requirements. While capping total emissions and allowing plants to trade pollution credits will limit overall pollution, it may not protect upwind States from downwind emissions or protect communities around older plants from the local effects of ozone smog or acid rain.

The bill also sets a total per-unit cap on emissions based on the amount of electricity generate by each unit during the period from 1996 to 1998. This provision ensures that if energy demand increases, older plants will not simply run longer at lower emissions rate resulting in no net reduction in pollution. Instead, new energy demands will be met with new clean more efficient energy sources that are subject to all new source emissions standards.

My bill also sets strict standards for mercury emissions, which under current law are left unregulated. The bill calls for a 70 percent reduction in the more than 50 tons of mercury that are emitted from power plants each year. This 70 percent level is what EPA in a March 1999 report estimated is the level of reduction that plants could achieve with currently available technology.

This level is a floor, however, so that EPA can require greater reductions as technology improves.

The bill does not simply address emissions of mercury, however. It also closes a loophole in the Solid Waste Disposal Act that allows utilities to dispose of waste that contains mercury without consideration of mercury's severe environmental and health effects. My bill ensures that all mercury waste, including the solid waste created in the combustion process

and the mercury that is captured by smoke stack scrubbers, must be disposed of in a way that ensures the mercury will not find its way back into the environment. This makes my bill the most stringent proposal to reducing the amount of mercury released by power plants.

Finally, my bill closes a loophole that allows utilities to escape regulations on hazardous air pollutants. Currently, utilities are not required to use technology that removes heavy metals and volatile organic compounds from their emissions. These pollutants, which include many carcinogens, can cause severe damage to human health and the environment. My bill ends the exemption for utilities and will require them to implement the maximum available technology to limit emissions of hazardous air pollutants.

This bill is not simply crafted to cut emissions, however, without regard for the economic effects of shifting away from fossil fuels. Instead, it recognizes that, to make clean energy economically as well as environmentally successful, we must ease the transition from old technology to new. The bill contains grants for communities and workers who are affected by changes in fuel consumption. It also authorizes grants for property tax relief for towns that derive a large amount of their tax base from older power plants that will be replaced by cleaner technology.

Mr. Speaker, quality of our air is not just an environmental problem. It is an economic and public health issue as well. Whatever the initial costs of switching to new, clean generating technology, it pales compared to the cost of cleaning up mercury pollution, the cost of treating smog related illnesses, or the costs of a rapid rise in global temperature. I hope my colleagues will join me in this effort to level the playing field for clean energy and fulfill the promise of the Clean Air Act.

H.R. 2982, A BILL CALLING FOR THE HIRING OF 100,000 RESOURCE STAFF FOR STUDENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a very important piece of legislation, H.R. 2982.

This bill will provide \$15 billion over a five year period specifically for states to hire resource staff in our public schools to help students cope with the stress and anxieties of adolescence.

Pearl, Mississippi; West Paducah, Kentucky; Jonesboro, Arkansas; Springfield, Oregon; Edinboro, Pennsylvania; Fayetteville, Tennessee; Littleton, Colorado—all of these towns should conjure up images of small-town American life—quiet neighborhoods, friendly faces, and good, safe schools. However, today these towns bring to mind radically different images—children with guns, students fleeing schools in terror, and kids killing their classmates.

It is hard to forget the images of Columbine High School. Not because this shooting spree was more tragic than any of the others—all of these incidents have been undeniably jarring—but because the attackers were so calculated and so ruthless in their killings. Why did this happen? What could make children from seemingly typical upbringings turn so vio-

lent? And what can we do to ensure that our children will be safe at school?

I don't know if we will ever find all of the answers, and I am not suggesting that Washington is necessarily the place to look for them—I think that, ultimately, we must look to our culture and within our own families to find the answers—but I do know that this Congress owes it to our children to work on policies that can bring about change.

First, we must look to substantive preventive measures. Security guards, metal detectors, and expelling violent students—all have their place in addressing this problem, but they do nothing to prevent tragedies from occurring. Ultimately, we must work with children to ensure they can handle their anger and emotions without resorting to violence. Many of our children enter school with emotional, physical, and interpersonal barriers to learning. We need more school counselors in our schools, not only to help identify these troubled youth, but to work on developmental skill building.

The fact is today we have no real infrastructure of support for our kids when it comes to mental health services in our schools. We currently have only 90,000 school counselors for approximately 41.4 million students in our public schools. That is, on average, roughly 1 counselor for every 513 students. For many schools the ratio is even worse. In Hawaii, for instance, we have only 1 counselor for every 525 students. In California, there is only 1 counselor for more than 1,000 students. That is simply not enough.

With current school counselors responsible for such large numbers of students, they are unable to address the students' personal needs. Instead, their role is more often administrative, scheduling, and job and college counseling. The child is forfeited for different goals.

My legislation will put 100,000 new resource staff in our schools to focus on the mental health needs of students. Like the President's 100,000 new teacher initiative, this will make it easier for children to get the attention they need.

This resource staff assigned to work for and with students will be hired to address the personal, family, peer level, emotional, and developmental needs of students. By focusing on these personal needs, these staff members will pick up early warning signs of troubled youth. They will improve student interaction and school safety. In short, they can save kids' lives.

These resource staff can also provide consultation with teachers and parents about student learning, behavior and emotional problems. They can develop and implement prevention programs. They can deal with substance abuse. They can set up peer mediation, and they can enhance problem solving in schools. Resource staff will provide important support services to students, and to parents and teachers on behalf of the students.

By no means is this the only thing that needs to be addressed to prevent youth violence. This should be the cornerstone of a much larger proposal. We must also look at the media's impact on violence and the easy accessibility of guns. We must strengthen our programs for families and early childhood development, and we must develop character education programs.

If we are really serious about addressing school violence, we must address prevention.

My bill does that, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

(Mr. HOYER 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 Maryland (Mr. WYNN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

□ 1815

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS INITIATIVES DOMESTICALLY AND GLOBALLY REGARDING HIV/AIDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLETCHER). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to speak about the initiatives of the Congressional Black Caucus in the fight against the HIV and AIDS epidemic.

I first want to thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) for their leadership in this effort. This epidemic is killing our community in unprecedented, terrifying numbers. Within our own country among African Americans and among Africans on the continent of Africa, the disproportionate infection rates of people of African descent are staggering.

In my district, which includes Oakland, California, the AIDS case rate for African Americans is five times that of whites. While the county has experienced a decline in the number of AIDS cases since 1994, African-American diagnoses have risen by 20 percent.

I wish that I could say that these frightening and disproportionate statistics are rare in our Nation, but unfortunately they are pervasive. We know that across our country, African Americans have the highest death rate from AIDS and chronic illnesses, higher than all other minority communities combined. African Americans who account for 13 percent of our Nation's population account for 56 percent of all newly reported HIV cases and 68 percent of new cases among adolescents.

What we have seen over the past several years has been the emergence of a crisis, and the failure on the part of our government to target resources where the disease is the greatest void has really compromised our ability to work effectively to decrease the number of HIV infections, to create strong

prevention programs and to provide adequate services and care. We are now thankful, though, that the current funding is significantly higher. However, it remains grossly inadequate.

Last year, under the bold leadership of the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), the Congressional Black Caucus mobilized to call upon Secretary Donna Shalala to declare a state of emergency for HIV/AIDS in the African-American community. It is with determination that we as a caucus have taken the lead on this issue. And with pride I can also say that on a local level in my area, Alameda County has declared a public health emergency on HIV and AIDS in the African-American community, the first jurisdiction in the Nation to do so.

This week, the Congressional Black Caucus has taken the next step to put forth a \$340 million emergency public health initiative on HIV and AIDS which will be distributed proportionately among African Americans and other communities of color. The plan is the next, necessary step to allow the continuation of initiatives within HHS and NIH and CDC that were created from fiscal year 1999 funding and to address new emergency needs. The Black Caucus has also been focused to bring to bear the resources so that African Americans also experience a decline in, and eventual end to, the HIV infection.

Furthermore, let me just mention how it is disproportionately devastating countries in the developing world, most drastically on the continent of Africa. UNAIDS reports that of the 33.4 million people living with HIV/AIDS in the world, 22.5 million, or 67 percent, are in sub-Saharan Africa; 7.8 million are children who have been orphaned with their parents who have died of AIDS. It is anticipated that this number will reach 40 million orphans by the year 2010. That is why I, along with 47 cosponsors, have introduced H.R. 2765, a bill to provide assistance for HIV/AIDS research, education, treatment and prevention in Africa.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to recognize the demoralizing reality of HIV and AIDS, both in this country and throughout the world. We must not falsely and dangerously assume that because new combinations of therapies have improved the quality of life and extended the survival of some with HIV that the HIV/AIDS epidemic is now under control. The battle is far from over. I urge support for the Congressional Black Caucus' emergency public health initiative to combat this epidemic domestically and I urge support for the AIDS Marshall Plan to combat in a substantial way the AIDS epidemic globally.

COMBATTING HIV/AIDS IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I join with the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) and others who are attempting to work at doing something about the problem of HIV/AIDS in the black community. Mr. Speaker, we have spent over a year working in a very concentrated way on trying to garner the resources and redirect them to communities that are highly at risk but have not had the resources follow the crisis.

Under my leadership as Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus last year, we organized an initiative where we were able to identify tremendous resources to begin to do what needed to be done. We discovered a number of things, Mr. Speaker. We discovered that the resources of government were not following the AIDS crisis because the face of the new AIDS had not been unveiled sufficiently in this Nation. Most people still think of AIDS as a white gay disease. It is not. It is not a white gay disease. If there is anything that I can share with you today, it is that the gay community has done a wonderful job in, number one, doing outreach, education and prevention and getting people involved in the new therapies that are causing them to have a better quality of life and being able to go back into the workplace. We need to follow that example. It certainly can be done.

What do we find when we look at the African-American community? We find, of course, that it is the leading cause of death for African Americans between the ages of 25 and 44. What do we find when we look at African-American women? We find that in the new AIDS cases, we are 30 percent of that population. We also find that we are infected 16 times more than white women. And so we see this increase, we see this crisis, we see this emergency, and we are trying to get everyone to understand that it is indeed an emergency that we can do something about. And we need to continue to get the dollars to flow into outreach and education and research and therapy, all of those things that will help our community to do what can be done to stop the escalation of HIV and AIDS infection.

And so we got the \$156 million and the RFPs went out and the responses came back and now we have community groups accessing dollars to do the kind of work that they so desperately have wanted to do that we have not given them the support for. They are saying to us, we have got to build and expand capacity, we have got to get more providers, we have got to make sure that we are doing the kind of creative outreach and education to get with that young population out there who we still have not been able to infiltrate. And so they are beginning to see that they can do these things and they can do them better.

Let us not stop now. Let us take the initiative that has been put together by the gentlewoman from the Virgin

Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) and others who are leading us in the Congressional Black Caucus to keep the resources moving. Let us take this opportunity to be on top of and in front of this funding so that we do not find ourselves having gotten \$156 million, having the proposals responded to and people beginning to do the work and all of a sudden cut off because more money is not following. I think we can do that.

I am here today to add my voice to the efforts of the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) and others who are working so hard to garner these resources.

Let me just say that the gentlewoman from Oakland, CA (Ms. LEE) got her county to declare the emergency that exists there. My county in Los Angeles was slow but they finally did it. They finally looked at the data, the statistics, and they finally understood that they should have done this a long time ago, that in Los Angeles County we have not done what could have been done. And so we have got a lot to straighten out in Los Angeles County. We have got to redo the entire process. We have got to make sure that our organization with its task forces and its RFP responsibilities, all of that, are done in such a way that the resources will get to where they must go.

Mr. Speaker, we will be back to talk a lot more about what must be done.

ADDRESSING HIV/AIDS PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY IN MINORITY COMMUNITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) who are members of the health brain trust of the Congressional Black Caucus for joining me here this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to once again register our dissatisfaction with the funding that the committee is proposing to provide for the HIV/AIDS public health emergency in African-American communities and other communities of color. Mr. Speaker, people of color are represented in the AIDS epidemic in numbers that far exceed our representation in the general population. African Americans and Hispanics are the most severely affected groups, representing well over 60 percent of all AIDS cases in the United States. Of the estimated 40,000 new HIV infections each year, almost 50 percent are in African Americans, and 20 percent are in Hispanics. African Americans were 49 percent of new HIV infections in 1998 and Latinos were 11 percent.

In 1998, African Americans accounted for 45 percent of all total AIDS cases; 40 percent of all cases in men, 62 percent of all cases in women, and 62 per-

cent of all cases in children. In 1998, the AIDS incidence rate among African Americans was eight times that of whites, and for Latinos the incidence rate was 3.8 times that of whites.

Mr. Speaker, if this does not represent an emergency in our community, I do not know what does. This is further compounded by the disparities that exist in all communities of color with respect to heart disease, cancer, diabetes and infant mortality among other diseases. But in all of these, African-American communities experience disparities that far exceed all other groups combined. We need to change these dire statistics. They are a blight on this great country. And we need to provide access to health care for all on a level that is equal to the majority population.

The CBC initiative seeks to do this by empowering communities with the resources they need to be agents of change themselves for better health. Yesterday, I spoke about the need to fund the offices of minority health within the agencies of the Department of Health and Human Services and the importance of elevating the office of minority health research at NIH to a center. Today, I just want to say a few words about the need to address this issue in our correctional facilities.

There are some statistics that we just cannot ignore. In 1995, over 1.5 million adult arrests and over 3 million juvenile arrests were made in the United States. The U.S. prison population increased threefold between 1980 and 1996. Today, there are approximately 1.7 million persons housed in correctional facilities, jails and prisons, in this country. That is the second largest incarcerated population in the developed world, behind only Russia. All told, there are more than 6 million people under some form of the criminal justice supervision, under some form of juvenile justice supervision in the United States on any given day. The majority of these individuals are arrested in, and returned to, urban, low-income communities.

Rates of HIV, STDs, sexually transmitted diseases, and tuberculosis are disproportionately high among the U.S. incarcerated population compared to the U.S. population at large. This presents challenges as well as opportunities. In addition to high rates of infectious diseases, the inmate population is also plagued by a number of chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease and substance abuse. In 1996, 63 percent of jail inmates belonged to racial or ethnic minorities, up slightly from 61 percent in 1989. 41.6 percent were white, and 41.1 percent were African American. Among Federal prisoners, 58.6 percent were white and 38.2 percent were African American.

□ 1830

Looking specifically at HIV, correctional populations have the highest rates of HIV infection of any public institution. A 1995 report by the Bureau

of Justice Statistics shows that the AIDS case rate in prisons is six times higher than the overall U.S. AIDS case rate. In fact, 23 percent of all State and Federal prison inmates were reported to be infected with HIV. In State prisons, 4 percent of female prisoners were HIV positive compared to 2.3 percent of male prisoners.

We must bring the needed funds to develop and implement strategies related to surveillance and reporting in correctional facilities. We must develop continuity of care programs and provide technical assistance to jails and communities dealing with these issues. We hope that this House will recognize the wide disparities in health care that exist for people of color in this country and the challenge it presents for us as we prepare to enter the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, we ask that our colleagues join us in facing this challenge and addressing it successfully.

EDUCATION IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, before we start I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRADY).

CALLING FOR RECTIFICATION OF STATEMENTS MADE EARLIER TODAY ABOUT ED RENDELL, MAYOR OF PHILADELPHIA

Mr. BRADY. Mr. Speaker, I stand here tonight to clarify the RECORD. One of my colleagues, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SCHAFFER), spoke this morning concerning my mayor and the mayor of the City of Philadelphia, and he alluded to the fact that our mayor was out there celebrating Chinese rule, Communist rule with Chinese Americans, and then because of that he became elected chairman of the National Democratic Committee. That is the furthest from the truth that there ever could be.

Mr. Speaker, our mayor is out there celebrating the heritage of Chinese Philadelphians, and he was there not to make a political statement, and I think that that should be rectified and cleared, that the person that made that derogatory statement today must be a little nervous because we do have, without question, one of the best people, one of the best Americans I know, that I know of for a fact, that can head and be Chairman of the National Democratic Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a great American, my mayor, Mayor Ed Rendell. We have been blessed to have Ed Rendell serve as mayor of the City of Philadelphia for the last 7½ years. In fact, he is the best argument that I can think of against term limits.

Mr. Speaker, we now have to share Ed because America's mayor was recently elected and was elected prior to

the alleged demonstration that my colleague alluded to. He was elected chairman of America's Party, the National Democratic Party. They could not have made a better choice.

Mr. Speaker, I wish him well, I wish him all the best. He will not need any luck because he works as hard and as tenaciously as anybody that I know. Luck will follow him.

From one chairman to another, You go, boy.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues who have joined me tonight to talk about a very important issue, and that is education in America.

Today marks the close of fiscal year 1999. All year my Democratic colleagues and I have been working to help pass legislation to strengthen our public schools, but this Congress has utterly failed to achieve that important goal in my opinion. We are at the end of the year; we have no appropriations bills for education. We have not passed the reauthorization of the Secondary School Act, and so many opportunities have been missed.

Rather than answer the call of the American people to pass legislation to improve education for our children, Republican leadership has spent the whole year doing a whole lot of other things and, in the end, moving to cut education funding. With 29 days left before the targeted adjournment date that they set themselves; we did not set it, Mr. Speaker, they set it for this Congress to adjourn; we have a lot of educational issues yet to be addressed.

Mr. Speaker, throughout the month of August, I visited many schools in my district and went into every county and every school district. I met with students, teachers, parents, staff. We talked about the tremendous challenges that they face today, and teachers are doing a wonderful job under some tough circumstances. We talked about school construction, we talked about school safety, teacher training; we talked about the need for more technology in the classroom, we talked about encouraging and enticing more African American students, more minority students, more female students, into math and science and into the technology area. Tremendous needs out there, and Congress can help with that.

I want to now recognize my colleague from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) who has been working on this area all year in the Committee on Science where we serve and on education. She has a deep interest in making sure that all these groups get an opportunity, and she has worked on legislation, and I would yield to her at this time.

Ms. WOOLSEY. I thank the gentleman from North Carolina very much for organizing this special order tonight. It is a particularly important issue when we talk about our children and their education, and believe me, you are a big voice in this country, having been the Superintendent of Schools for North Carolina. You know

as much as anybody in the House of Representatives what we need to be doing to get our children ready for the 21st century.

I ask you, Mr. Speaker, what is wrong with this picture. Females make up slightly more than 50 percent of this country's population, yet less than 30 percent of America's scientists are women. Even fewer engineers are women, in fact, less than 10 percent. In 1994, there were 209 tenured faculty at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and only 15 of those 209 were female.

Of course, these figures are not surprising when we learn that in 1985 women earned less than 30 percent of the bachelors degrees in the physical sciences and less than 10 percent of the bachelors degrees in engineering. Colleagues will not even want to hear the percentage of Ph.D.'s in science- and mathematics-based fields that are earned by women; it is too depressing.

Just to give my colleagues an example:

About 8 percent of the Ph.D.'s in physics in 1988 were awarded to women.

My colleagues may be asking themselves: So what? Is this some national problem? And that was years ago, WOOLSEY.

Yes, well, this is a big problem; and in some fields, the numbers are worse today than they were 11 years ago. In fact, this is a big problem for employers, a big problem for women as future wage earners and a big problem for our Nation as we compete in the global marketplace.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that between 1994 and the year 2005 the number of women in the labor force will grow twice as quickly as men. A recent study of school-to-work projects found 90 percent of the girls clustered in five traditionally female occupations. That has not changed over the last years. These occupations that are chosen by young women are elementary school teacher, nurse, retail sales, travel, hospitality service, and service industries.

My colleagues do not need me to tell them that careers in traditionally female occupations pay far less than careers in science, math, and technology. For example, Mr. Speaker, a data analyst can expect to make \$45,000 a year while a licensed practical nurse earns less than \$25,000 a year and a kindergarten teacher earns only \$18,000 a year.

The National Science Foundation reports that today the jobs facing workers require higher skill levels in science, math, and technology than ever before. The NSF report is verified by a letter I received from the American Electronic Association, and I hereby introduce that letter into the RECORD:

AMERICAN ELECTRONICS ASSOCIATION,
April 27, 1999.

Hon. LYNN WOOLSEY,
439 Cannon House Office Building, Washington,
DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE WOOLSEY: The American Electronics Association (AEA) is

the nation's largest high-tech trade group, representing more than 3,000 U.S.-based high-technology companies. I am writing to inform you of the high-tech industry's growing concern about our nation's education system.

The U.S. high-tech industry has created 1 million new jobs since 1993, paying an average annual wage of more than \$53,000. Recruiting skilled professionals is becoming increasingly difficult for most high-tech companies since the current unemployment rates for many key technology occupations are less than 2%. For instance, the unemployment for engineers is 1.6%; for computer scientists, 1.2%; and for computer programmers, 1.4%. Given the high salaries, rapid employment growth, and low unemployment, it would follow that more students should be entering these fields of study. Instead, the opposite is occurring.

The high-tech industry is facing a critical shortage of skilled workers. Simply put, our nation's educational system is not graduating enough students to fill the workforce needs of the high-tech industry. Further, we are not producing enough students that are prepared to meet the challenges of a technology-driven economy. This week, AEA released a new report—CyberEducation: U.S. Education and the High-Technology Workforce—that provides a comprehensive overview of the education trends that affect the high-tech industry. The report provides a baseline for comparing high-tech education in each state. Key CyberEducation findings include:

The number of degrees awarded in computer science, engineering, mathematics and physics has declined since 1990. Workers with these degrees perform critical research, design and develop new products, and create new jobs for the high-tech industry.

Foreign nationals are earning a large percentage of high-tech degrees: 32% of all master's degrees and 45% of all doctoral degrees are awarded to foreign nationals.

Although the test scores of American students in math and science are improving, American high school seniors ranked 19th in math and 16th in science and when compared to students from 21 countries.

If these educational trends continue, the growth of the high-tech industry cannot be sustained. Congress has an opportunity to address the shortcomings in our nation's education system with the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. AEA is currently developing a series of specific education improvement proposals focused on K-12 math and science and the use of technology in the classroom, which we will share with Congress in the near future. AEA and its high-tech member companies are prepared to work with Congress to improve our nation's education system.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM T. ARCHEY,
President and CEO.

AEA wrote to tell me that today the high-tech industry is facing a critical shortage of skilled workers and the future is even looking worse than it was in the past. Additionally, seven high-tech firms including Autodesk, Hewlett-Packard, and Microsoft sent a similar letter to all of the members of the Committee on Education, and I introduce that letter into the RECORD also, Mr. Speaker:

September 24, 1999.

Hon. WILLIAM L. CLAY,
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE CLAY: Research has shown that the earlier girls are introduced

to mathematics and science, the more likely they are to enter information technology (IT) careers. As such, we are writing to express our strong support for H.R. 2387, "The Getting Our Girls Ready for the 21st Century Act (GO GIRL)," introduced by Rep. Lynn Woolsey (D-CA). The bill seeks to encourage young female students' interest in mathematics and science, and ultimately, into high technology careers.

While the IT industry is thriving and continues to drive U.S. economic growth, we are in the midst of a critical high technology worker shortage. At the same time, 50% of the U.S. population is female yet women currently make up just 8% of the engineering workforce. Moreover, only 3 percent of top executive positions at Fortune 500 companies were held by women. Clearly, we are letting a valuable national resource go untapped. We need to work together to encourage more of our country's women to pursue careers in technology.

The GO GIRL! Proposal establishes a program that works with girls beginning in the fourth grade and stays with them through high school. It funds mentors, tutors and events to encourage their interest in technology.

We support proposals that encourage young girls to be exposed to role models and develop an interest and self-confidence in mathematics and science as numerous empirical studies have suggested that girls tend to develop negative attitudes towards the "hard sciences" in middle school. While several of our companies employ a variety of mentoring, recruiting and training programs to encourage women to enter high technology fields, we strongly support federal initiatives that strike at the root of this issue in the formative years.

In your consideration of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), the high technology industry strongly encourages you to consider proposals that not only strengthen math and science education broadly but that aim to target women, minorities and other underrepresented groups to pursue these courses of study. We urge you to consider co-sponsoring Rep. Woolsey's proposal by calling Lynda Theil at 5-5161 and appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Apple Computer, Inc., Autodesk, Inc.,
Compaq Computer Corporation, Hewlett-Packard Company, Intel Corporation, Microsoft Corporation, Motorola, Inc.

In their letter these companies told committee members that without measures like Go Girl we will be jeopardizing the success of Americans' thriving technology industry by letting a valuable national resource go untapped. Quite clearly there is no way that America will have technically competent work force if the majority of students, females, stay away from science, math and technology.

That is why I have introduced a bill to help schools encourage girls to pursue careers in science, math and technology. Although my bill is formally titled: Getting our Girls Ready for the 21st Century, it is known as Go Girl. Go Girl will create a bold new work force of energized young women in these technical fields. Go Girl is modeled on the TRIO program which has successfully encouraged 2 million low-income students whose parents never attended college, and these students now are attending and graduating from college.

Similarly, the lack of female role models hampers female interest in studying math, science, and technology. Girls and their parents first must be able to envision a career in these fields for themselves and for their daughters. Then they need practical advice on what to study and how to achieve the necessary academic requirements. Go Girl follows girls from the 4th Grade, the grade in which girls typically begin to fall behind boys in math and science, through high school. To encourage girls' interest in math, science, and technology in the early grades girls will participate in events and activities that increase their awareness of careers in these fields, and they will meet female role models.

Go Girl participants benefit from tutoring and mentoring, including programs using the Internet which is built on a program started by Carol Bartz, the President of Autodesk Software Company in my district. We can hardly turn on a TV or pick up a newspaper these days without hearing about the importance of Y2K preparations, but what good will Y2K preparation be if we do not invest in our future workers? And we have to ensure that all of our workers are ready for the 21st century.

American girls are close to 50 percent of America's future work force. If they turn away from careers in science, math and technology, we will be shortchanging our employers, and our young women will be shortchanged as well.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in sending a message to the Committee on Education that our young girls and young women must have careers in science, math, and technology. Say to these young women and young men: Go, girl. Go to a career in science, a career in math, a career in technology, and earn a livable wage so you will be able to raise your family comfortably.

So, Mr. Speaker, that is my speech for today because where we are undervaluing all children in our education system by not passing the reauthorization of elementary secondary acts for this Nation, we are particularly undervaluing our young women.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Well there is no question that all children in our public schools have to be reached out to. We have to encourage them, and certainly today with the number of youngsters, the females of all ethnic backgrounds as well as those who are not represented in the technological areas, if we do not encourage them and get them into those areas, all of us will lose because they are the future workers of tomorrow, and you are absolute true, and as we think about that, this whole digital divide that we have, we also have to have a place to put them.

□ 1845

We need buildings in our communities. In the communities throughout my district, and I think this is true all across America, we see student enrollment continuing to grow at alarming

rates. They are outstripping the local governments' abilities to keep up with the needs of quality schools.

This Congress has an opportunity to act and must act to help these communities cope with these very urgent problems. I have introduced legislation, many of you have signed it, we have something like 93 Members having signed it, and the Republican leadership refuses to bring it to the floor or bring it up in committee so we can take action on it.

I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) for her comments, because really she has really been a hard worker and been on this floor and worked in committee to make sure that education is held high, recognizing that the bulk of the money for education really comes from the state and local level. But we have a major responsibility at the Federal level to provide that kind of leadership.

Ms. LEE. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I just want to thank you once again for your leadership and your commitment to education to all of our children in this country and also for conducting this special order.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to talk about our national concerns about education. It is heartening to know that most people in this country want our budget surplus spent sensibly on preserving Social Security and securing our future by educating our children.

Think about it. Rather than getting an insignificant tax cut, which is what the majority of taxpayers would have received with the Republican tax bill that President Clinton just vetoed, they would rather have this money spent on improving our schools. I am very heartened by this. The American people have spoken. They want our educational system improved.

We recognize that as a result of over two decades of neglecting our schools, especially in communities of color and low-income communities, that they are in deplorable conditions. We know that solving these educational problems is not only having enough money, but that the money be spent to support programs that have clear objectives, that have curriculums that are suitable for a highly technical and competitive society, that have capable administrators and well-trained and well-paid teachers, that have basic support staff, like nurses, counselors, attendance clerks, and school secretaries that can call parents. The schools must have up-to-date textbooks, adequate laboratories, and computer technology, and that the physical structure, the schoolhouse, be decent, clean, and safe. Yes, provide an environment that is conducive to study and learning. Schools must be safe havens for our children, free from drugs and weapons.

What I have described is a basic educational package that is centered around the school. The American public school is one of the most powerful engines for uplift in this country.

We know that a strong educational system provides systems with the necessary background and training to survive in and to lead in this world. One significant aspect, however, of a successful school system is that it is also a powerful crime prevention tool.

We know that education is the best form of crime prevention. A California-based think tank recently released a study showing that crime prevention is the most cost effective way of making sure that we do not build prisons. Of all crime prevention methods, education is the most cost effective, not to mention that our children deserve to benefit from a good education rather than to be set up for a lifetime in and out of jail. Yet, rather than invest in education, some would have us funnel more money into prisons to fuel the prison construction industry, putting money into constructing new prisons and building new juvenile detention facilities, as if we are to prepare for the inevitable incarceration of our children.

This is wrong. In fact, the lack of investment in education actually contributes to the rise in incarceration rates. Nineteen percent of adult inmates are completely illiterate, and 40 percent are functionally illiterate. Nationwide, over 70 percent of all people entering State correctional facilities have not completed high school. In our juvenile justice system, youth at a median age of 15 read, on average, at the same level as most 9 year olds.

So it is imperative that we begin to refocus on education and prevention instead of constructing prisons. With children attending classes in trailers, being subjected to unheated and sometimes unsafe buildings or packed together 35 in a classroom, it is no wonder that too many students are not learning and receiving sound healthy starts that they need to succeed in a competitive, fast-paced working world.

My continued experience of working with the youth in my district gives me real hope in the knowledge that students have the vitality, knowledge, and intellect; and they have the wish to learn and succeed and to be good citizens in a healthy, supportive society. They have the will and the ambition to achieve.

Let me give you an example. At the beginning of this month, 2,000 students from different communities in my district coalesced to celebrate a "Week of Unity: One Land, One People." These students are members of the Youth Together Project, a multiracial violence prevention and social justice project which operates in each of five schools to unite students of all races to promote unity and peace on school campuses.

To achieve their goal, they have drafted teachers, parents, and community leaders as allies in their effort. I am so proud that the students of Youth Together understand that Native Americans, African-Americans, Latinos, Asian Pacific Americans and

Whites, all members of our rainbow culture, can work together for peace and justice in our schools and communities.

The children, the youth, will do their part, as will the local communities. It is now up to us in the Federal Government to step up to the plate. We must support the President's initiative to reduce class size by placing 100,000 extra teachers in our classroom. We must support our Democratic education agenda by supporting the School Modernization Initiative bill, H.R. 1660, and provide our children with essential counseling at critical times of their education by supporting H.R. 2567, which will bring counselors to the schools. Our teachers need to be freed up to do what they do best, and that is to teach. The children are doing their part, our teachers are doing their part, now we must do our part.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. I thank the gentlewoman from California for her comments and thank her for her efforts, her hard work on education and for the children of this country, and recognizing that she really is a leader in that area. We appreciate that.

As we talk about these issues this coming year, in the current school year we are in we have more school children in our classrooms than at any time in America's history, more than we had during the time that we talk about the baby-boom after World War II. It is only going to get worse.

Tonight, I can report that officials from the U.S. Department of Education have conducted a study, and the documentation of that study talks about the tremendous explosion we are having in our public schools all across this country. And we are going to experience it for the next decade. It is going to continue to come, and then fairly level out. We will not have a dip. They have confirmed the earlier estimates of what is called the baby-boom echo which has created a crisis in our schools, and it is certainly reflected in my State, one of the fastest growing states in the country.

I am disappointed that the Republican leadership has failed to meet what I think is its most basic responsibility, to pass the annual legislation needed to fund government and has ignored the needs in our community to help with school construction.

That same leadership has refused to act on my school modernization bill, but they have also failed to act on one that Congressman RANGEL has put in that the administration is working with. My Democratic colleagues, along with me, have signed a discharge petition, and for those folks we need to remind each other what a discharge petition is. If we cannot get a bill out of committee, we march up here and sign a petition. If we get 218 signatures on it, we can get the bill out. Hopefully we can get that done.

But as we think of that, we need that to make sure children have a place to learn, but we also need it to have a

place to put the technology that is needed in those classrooms for children to be ready for the 21st Century, because if we do not put the computers and technology in the classroom, there is going to be a tremendous digital divide for all of our children.

I want to thank my friend from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) who has worked so hard in this area. He has worked on it in the Committee on Science where we served, and he worked on it on the floor and other committee. He has taken it as a mission. I thank you for your leadership in this area.

I yield to the gentleman for his comments on this really important issue of the digital divide.

Mr. LARSON. Thank you very much, Representative ETHERIDGE, and thank you for your leadership and again for putting forward this very important hour to discuss this issue.

As you have already recognized, school buildings across this Nation represent about a \$2 trillion investment in brick and mortar, and it is an asset we cannot overlook. While I am as disappointed as several are that we have not been able to address fundamentally the issues of education in this session, I believe that this issue is going to be driven forward, ironically not by the Congress, ironically not by educators, but by businessmen.

It is the Commerce Department that most recently issued a report, a very startling report, called "falling through the net." In that report, what they found is that the gap, the so-called digital divide, is increasingly growing worse along the lines of race, gender, geography and wealth.

What that means in this Nation is that at a time when the economy is surging and roaring forward, that there is not the pipeline of well-trained, well-educated individuals to come forward and fill the jobs that will continue to fuel this great economic growth that we are experiencing. So we fundamentally have got to address issues.

As was pointed out by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE), there are important things that have to be done with respect to modernizing our schools. But as we modernize the schools as well, it is equally as important that we make sure that they are technologically sufficient.

The people who came before not only the Committee on Science and Committee on Commerce, the business community projected that currently we have about 350,000 jobs that are going unfilled because we do not have people that are coming out of our public school system that are digitally fluent and competently trained. The problem is a huge one, and it is one where this Nation and Congress, quite frankly, has had its head in the sand, and we have to wake up.

As I suggested earlier, I think it is going to be the business community that drives this issue, because primarily they are concerned about that workforce in the future. But what the

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Commerce Department's report also demonstrated is this huge gap that exists between those who have access to information and those who do not.

In a digital economy we cannot afford to leave anyone behind. That gap has grown worse in the midst of this great economy and has grown worse, especially for those children in our rural communities and in our cities. We have got the ability, we have the technology. What we have lacked is a universal ubiquitous plan to make sure we are delivering technology in the classroom.

We have proposed legislation in the Committee on Science that is going to address this issue. We hope desperately that it gets taken up on the floor, because it is so important that we come up with the most efficient means of making sure that fundamentally the transmission of voice, video and data in a classroom can be integrated into daily lesson plans and into the curriculum.

As a former schoolteacher myself, I know the importance of making sure that we are more diagnostic in our approach to teaching, that we are able to be more prescriptive in terms of what children's needs are, and ultimately that the goal of every teacher is to individualize instruction.

But if we do not have the basic tools that are going to be necessary to compete in a global economy, then shame on us for having our heads in the sand and not making sure that we are making the kind of fundamental changes within our schools that we need to move forward. We cannot do that, as you pointed out on several different occasions, without well-trained teachers.

We have proposed legislation, several of us here, to make sure that we provide tax incentives for teachers, teachers who are willing to go out and spend the extra money to purchase a computer on their own, a laptop, so they can go home and incorporate that into their daily lesson plans; a tuition tax credit for teachers that will go back and get the kind of education that they need to be technologically up to par with their 5th grade students; and, of course, providing incentives for business as well, so that they, when they buddy up with school systems, when they buddy up with fellow teachers, for the hours that they put in, they receive a particular tax credit.

Fundamentally, it is recognizing that we need to retool our schools. We all know what happened in the automobile industry when we did not retool. We lost. We lost ground, we lost in competition, we lost market share.

This is far more important than an automobile industry. This is our future growth. These are our future students. To compete in the global economy, we have to make sure that these students are well-trained. Every economist worth his salt has said look, when you are dealing with this economy, knowledge and currency, knowledge translates into currency, and information will provide the growth in the future.

We have to retool our schools. We have to retrain our students. One way that I believe that we can, and this is going to take time, and I think most of us understand that, is as we are rebuilding and refurbishing schools and making sure they are technologically up to speed, as we are retraining our teachers we need, according to Secretary Riley some 2 million teachers over the next 10 years, we also have to make sure that we make as part of this culture, part of this information culture, our youngest students.

We have called for the creation of a youth technology corps to be a part of the arm of VISTA, to be part of AmeriCorps, to serve this country starting in the fifth grade, to put a civic face on technology but having at that very young age kids become imbued with the responsibility of service, service to their fellow students, helping them with the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic, helping elderly people who are shut-ins or in nursing homes send e-mails to their sons and daughters and their grandchildren. There is a higher calling here and it is one where if we integrate and take a look at these issues from a universal perspective, this Nation is going to be better served.

I am also reminded as well, at the end, and I think it is something that served me well and I know many of my colleagues have talked about this, there is no piece of legislation, there is no technology, that reads to a child at night, that tucks them in, that offers them the kind of nurturing and help that a loving and caring parent can. Beyond that, there is a responsibility, fundamentally, that resides with this Congress. There is no State, there is no community, that has the wherewithal technologically to provide universal, ubiquitous service to all of our children. We have that responsibility. We created a national highway system. Surely we can create a national information superhighway system.

I thank the gentleman so much for the opportunity today to speak.

[From the Hartford Courant, Sept. 21, 1999]

CLOSING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE IN OUR SCHOOLS

(By John B. Larson)

The nation's economy is surging to unprecedented levels. The productivity of small business start-ups, driven by technology and American ingenuity, is bursting with entrepreneurial capital and the creation of unparalleled wealth.

Yet amid the euphoria, there is growing concern about the alarming trend of limited access to the benefits of this "digital" economy. In its July report "Falling Through the Net," the Department of Commerce confirmed these fears about the information haves and have-nots, citing a persisting "digital divide" between the information-rich and the information-poor—a divide characterized by a disparity of race, gender, wealth and geography that grows disturbingly further apart.

The great irony of this technology enterprise is that it's running out of a vital fuel source: skilled workers. American corpora-

tions are now in the position of asking Congress to help import a work force from foreign countries.

Congress needs to reinforce a crucial pipeline for this needed fuel so that our technological enterprises can feel secure in their ability to grow.

That pipeline has been and continues to be public education. Unfortunately, the pipeline is clogged because our policies are floundering with piecemeal, patch-worked solutions instead of a solidly constructed plan. We cannot meet the demands of a digital economy with inadequate infrastructure, untrained teachers, resistant universities, indecisive government and a private sector that thinks donating its old computers is the solution to the problem.

Congress must recognize a fundamental need to rethink how we deliver education in our classrooms. It needs to light up the desktops of our students and the blackboards of their teachers, and provide students with the training and skills they need to be contributing members of our future work force. Specifically, it needs to bring the information superhighway into our schools and libraries, giving students the opportunity to participate in the global economy.

For this opportunity to be seized by Congress, it will take more than a 30-second sound bite. It will require a long-term plan. Congress must forge a new alliance of the nation's talented technological sector and leading academic and government agencies, to develop a strategic plan with appropriate implementation benchmarks. The information infrastructure needed for classrooms and public libraries must be examined to ensure that it provides the most efficient and cost-effective results. Yet, we must also realize that while a high-tech education system is critical, it won't work without trained professionals.

As a parent of three and a former teacher, I understand that no act of Congress ever reads to a child at night, tucks him in or offers him the kind of nurturing growth that comes from caring parents. Similarly, no piece of technology can replace a highly trained teacher. There can be no high-tech without high touch.

According to U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley, over the next 10 years, this country will need 2 million new teachers. These new teachers must be digitally fluent and prepared to integrate technology into their daily lesson plans and curriculum. Our colleges and universities must be prepared to provide this outcome, and Congress must be prepared to provide incentives. These incentives would include tax credits for equipment purchases, tuition credits to acquire new skills and incentives for business to buddy with teachers and adopt schools.

The third component of how Congress can integrate high-tech learning into our society relates to creating a civic culture that will encourage young people with computer talent to share their knowledge with their community. The best way to make that happen will be through a youth technology corps.

A national tech corps starting in the fifth grade and continuing through high school will be of technological service to peers and adults and expose young people to the importance of community service, learning the important lesson that serving is as important as being served.

Congress has a responsibility to leave no one behind in the digital economy. It must provide the opportunities needed to help Americans attain personal and financial security in a global economy. It can make this happen, or it can be remembered as the Congress that squandered an unprecedented educational moment.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Connecticut

(Mr. LARSON) for his comments. He is absolutely right, and I thank him for his leadership in this area because we have more who feel that our children need not only the technology but need a place to put that technology, and that is where we have to make sure that we have the facilities to put them in and have quality education for our children. I thank the gentleman for his efforts.

As we talk about the technology needs and the other needs, this year we will have over 53 million children who are attending public schools, as we talked about a few minutes ago, and too many of these children, as has already been stated, are stuck in trailers, in converted bathrooms for classes, in gyms, in hallways, and the list goes on. This is not conducive, and it is not what we ought to have to have a quality facility and certainly we cannot get technology in those kind of places.

Our communities need help to get quality buildings, to upgrade them, to get them up to standard, and make children understand that it is education we are about. We really do believe in it. We do need to provide for them a quality facility and a quality environment. As a former State superintendent, I certainly know that, and I urge this Congress to stop playing partisan politics; to deal with our children first and get on and get the job done. It makes no sense.

When we talk about programs that is fine, but the truth is, buildings and all of these other things, the important thing is we have good people in the classroom and we have good programs to deal with children.

My good friend, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS), has been working in this area his whole career here in Congress and he has become an excellent leader, and we have had a chance to talk on this floor about it. He has a couple of excellent programs that he has worked on.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) AT THIS TIME.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE) for what he has done. Being the leader that he is, and I was sitting here and listening to him and I listened to our colleague, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON), I could just feel the passion and compassion that they all have.

I know my other colleagues, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) and others who will come before us tonight, have that same kind of passion.

I just want to remind the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE) of a little story, and I will be very brief, about my visiting a classroom and a teacher is going over the information and she is saying, look, we are going over the things that we tested on Friday. This was a Monday. And I said, why are you going over the matters that you tested on on Friday? The children have gotten their results back and

everything. Why are you not moving on?

Her response to that was that not everybody got an "A." I want to make sure that everybody gets an "A."

I think that is a fitting introduction for a program that was started in Baltimore just recently this past summer where we intensified our summer school program, and we took these 12,000 students who had not made the grade and put them in this program and we discovered some very interesting things. At the end of the summer, at least 50 percent of those children had gotten up to grade level. The other thing that we discovered is that of the schools that they came from, 19 of these schools, because of their overall testing rate, have come up from the bottom to mid-level.

It is because of that intensity we had three factors going there. We had smaller classrooms because we had less children. We had good teachers because they picked the best teachers that had time to plan, time to plan, and they set very high standards. So when we think about that scenario that I just brought up, of all the children rising together and no one being left behind, this is what this was all about.

They did a little bit more research and they discovered something that was very interesting. What they discovered is that although the children would learn pretty much at the same rate during the school year, when the summer came a lot of times the kids that were in the city and the poorer areas did not have access to books, did not have summer camp opportunities, and did not have various exposures that more affluent students might have. So what they discovered was that because of that summer lack of educational experience that they fell behind. Nobody ever talks about that.

So we feel in Baltimore that we are moving into that right direction. But guess what? It takes money to do that. It takes money to do that. I always hear folks talk about, well, money is not what is really needed. Other things are needed. Goodwill is needed, and all of that.

Yes, we do need all of those good things but we also need money. Let one person who has their child in private school tell me that money does not make a difference, tell me that it does not make a difference, and they will not convince me. So I just want to raise that issue.

I want to thank the gentleman again for what he is doing. We have to do the things that he just talked about. We have to make sure that this legislation is passed and these authorizations are made and this money is appropriated so that no one will be left behind, and I thank the gentleman again.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for his comments. He is absolutely correct.

When we think about leaving no one behind, as the gentleman said, we have to have a quality facility. We have to

have the tools to teach. Then we get parents engaged, and we have to have well trained people, and we have to let them know we are going to pay them, and we should encourage them to come into the profession and honor the profession and stop downgrading and bad-mouthing it, because people tell me they support it and then they come to the floor and bad-mouth teachers and bad-mouth schools and do not support them.

Mr. CUMMINGS. And do not pay them.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Yes, and they understand that. We have to have the funds to have quality training and ongoing quality training. In the industry, the one thing they spend their money on is making sure their people are up to speed with the skills.

The one thing we say in education that always bothered me, the first thing that gets cut is we call it staff development or retraining or whatever one wants to call it, or we say to teachers they have to have their skills to this point but they have to pay for it. I cannot imagine an industry trying that and getting away with it.

As the gentleman knows, and I do, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) has worked hard on this whole area of staff development and training and the issues dealing with teacher training and recruitment, and he has come to this Congress and he has hit the ground running very quickly and really become a leader in this area.

Mr. Speaker, I would yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) at this time.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, before my colleague, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS), leaves, I would like to underscore something that he said. I hear from teachers all the time that they say the first many weeks of the school year are spent relearning what the students have lost over the summer; it is a time when the divide between the privileged and the not so privileged students grows wider. The summer is an important time, and I think we should develop programs of summer schools such as the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) described.

I want to thank the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE) very much for his championing education all along. We all look to him because of his experience as a State superintendent, and because of his wisdom in the area of education that really works.

The gentleman has said it. We should be outraged. America should be outraged. Here we get near the end of the fiscal year, in fact today is the last day of the fiscal year, we have a number of appropriations bills not yet dealt with and we save the education bill for last. So education gets the scraps in the appropriations process. Inexcusable.

The gentleman referred to the school modernization and construction bills. We have to resort to parliamentary

procedure, discharge petitions, to even get a debate on the floor. Inexcusable. America should be outraged.

I would like to talk for a minute or two, if I may, about teachers and the support that we owe them. We ask a lot of our teachers. We ask a great deal of them. We should give them what they need to do the jobs.

As the gentleman knows, many of today's teachers, especially in elementary school, say they do not feel prepared to teach science and math. Science and math classes are the gateway for our children to the opportunities of tomorrow. Twenty-eight percent of New Jersey's science teachers do not have a major or a minor in the subject they teach and a third of math teachers across the country are not licensed to teach math.

We need to work on the pipeline to encourage teachers, to get science and math teachers to go into the field, and we need to give them the support once they get there. We need professional development for these teachers. The fact remains that it is not happening as it should.

I just received this week a study from the American Association of Physics Teachers under the American Institute of Physics. It showed that only one half of all physics teachers around the country have received even one day of physics training in the past year.

Science teachers need classroom support. Teachers talk about their need personally to stop at the local hardware and to fund lab experiments out of their own pockets. These physics teachers say that schools now are spending ten percent less on equipment and supplies in physics classes than they were a decade ago. It is a problem.

The gentleman has talked a lot about the need to be connected. Our colleague the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) has also spoken about this, the need to be connected to the Internet. Although 90 percent of the schools in this country are connected to the Internet, only one teacher in ten has identified software to help him or her teach their subject in the classroom, to actually use this equipment educationally. If teachers feel unprepared to use the technology, then we are not doing right by them.

A recent study by the Department of Education told us that only 20 percent of teachers feel qualified to use modern technology and to teach using computers that are available to them; just 20 percent.

Some of us are sponsoring a bill to provide grants for training teachers in how to use and integrate technology in the classroom, and I think all of us here this evening are supporting programs like the Eisenhower funds for training and education of teachers in science and math. We entrust our most precious resources to the teachers. We should equip these teachers. We owe it to the teachers, but even more we owe it to the children of America.

We should treat them as professionals, these teachers.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I could not agree more, and I thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) for his comments. I thank him for his leadership because it is with that kind of leadership and that kind of energy we are going to make a difference, and we just have to keep chipping away, knocking on the door. Eventually it will get open and we will do the job for our teachers that will ultimately wind up enriching our children all across this country.

Mr. HOLT. We must keep pushing so education is not the last thing we take up at the end of the fiscal year.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. It should be the first.

As we think about this whole issue of technology and training, we always come back to the need for modernization of facilities in areas where people cannot make it; areas that are really growing so fast they are having a difficult time meeting it.

I want to recognize and yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY). She came to this place and hit the ground running. She has been on fire for education and the people in her district and she has worked so hard, and I thank her for her leadership.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I really appreciate what a great champion my colleague from North Carolina has been for quality education.

I would like to share some of my experiences. Earlier this month, I visited Boone school in Chicago, in a community called Rogers Park, a bungalow Chicago community in my district, and I witnessed firsthand what kind of overcrowding was happening in my neighborhoods.

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This school has 1,100 children. It is built for 800 children. In one of the classrooms that I went to which was a converted teachers' lunchroom, really a small area, kind of a teachers' lounge, there was a classroom of children.

One of the students handed me a picture that they had done. I would like to just show it to colleagues. This is, "Thank you for caring about Boone students." These are Boone students, and they are all kind of overlapping each other. We have got Freddie under Matthew, and Monserrat laying over Brenda here. Rudy is yelling "help". We have got Jose over here and Mrs. Duarte kind of squished in the corner over there. She is the teacher.

This was typical of what was going on. There was a classroom out in the hall. There were three classes in one room, three different languages. It was packed in there, and it was noisy because they were talking all different languages. Their teachers and the children were saying it was really hard to concentrate in a room like that.

Walking down the hall, there was paint, I am not talking about a few

chips, but paint peeling off the walls. They had done their best to rehab one of the corridors, but this one was terrible. Every morning, they would have to come in and sweep the floor to get the paint chips off. This is not because the school district, the Chicago public schools, have not done their best.

I wanted to quote from the testimony of Gary Chico, president of the Chicago School Reform Board of Trustees when he came to Washington.

He said,

Since 1995, Chicago has committed close to \$2 billion in primarily local funding for 575 separate projects at 371 schools. That money has built 8 new schools and 48 additions or annexes, adding 632 new classrooms to the district, which serves 430 school children.

But more needs to be done, and Chicago cannot do it alone. We're doing our part, but we need partners at the Federal level to meet all the needs.

We've conservatively identified another \$1.5 billion in additional improvements needed before we can say that our schools are truly the kinds of learning environments that we know will make a difference.

The fact is, improving the learning environment improves performance. When kids are in crumbling school buildings with outdated equipment, they're getting the message that education isn't important.

When they're in overcrowded classrooms or taking class in hallways or basements because the classrooms are full, they figure school isn't important.

We can't afford to send that message to our children. We're entering a new century. Every forward-thinking industry knows they can pack up and move anywhere on earth and conduct their business.

If we want them to stay here and invest in America, we have to give them a workforce that can deliver in Chicago and in schools throughout the Nation.

In Illinois, 89 percent of the schools reported a need to upgrade or repair their buildings, 62 percent reported at least one inadequate building feature. It could be a roof or plumbing or electricity or windows or peeling paint. Seventy percent reported at least one unsatisfactory environmental factor.

So I am urging my colleagues to support the President's school modernization bill introduced by the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL). That bill would provide \$24.8 billion in interest-free funding over the next 2 years for school construction and modernization projects, allowing Illinois to issue \$1.125 billion in bond.

Chicago alone would be able to issue \$676 million in bonds and save up to \$333 million in interest payments. It is unacceptable to send our children to 19th Century schools as we go into the 21st Century. Investment in the children today will pay dividends to generations to come.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) is absolutely correct, and I could not agree more.

I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY), another colleague who has just been a real leader in this whole issue, education and all the areas, and we have been enriched by him coming to Congress.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE) for holding the special order this evening.

There are many issues that affect my community. I could argue that I probably have the most diverse community in the United States, most ethnically diverse district in the country. This is the number one issue, the status of our schools in New York City.

We are able to build roads. This Congress helps to build roads. It helps to build bridges. It helps to build tunnels. It helps to build airports. It even helps to build hospitals. But the most important infrastructure our country knows, our public schools, this Federal Government does not do enough in terms of helping build and modernize old schools in this country.

The average school age in New York City is 55 years of age. One out of every five schools is over 75 years of age. Schools start to deteriorate after 30 years of age. So my colleagues can have a sense and idea of the state of the schools in New York City.

I have shown pictures here on the floor of children in closets, in bathrooms, in hallways. It is just incredible. I want to applaud Reverend Jackson. Reverend Jackson went to Chicago and took inner city schools and took them out to the suburbs and showed them what they had. They were awed. But more than importantly, he took suburban children back into Chicago and showed them what inner city children do not have. It caused some of those children to come to tears. Because they think children are very fair minded, and they know when something unfair is happening. I think they recognize what was happening in Chicago.

The same thing is happening in Queens and in the Bronx. We have a school, a high school in the Bronx, Truman High, that has a swimming pool that has not had water in it for the past 3 years. It is almost as bad as having no swimming pool at all, the idea that one has a swimming pool, but it is

not being used. It is incredible, but that is what we are living in in New York City. Those are the circumstances. It is only getting worse.

We project 30,000 students each year in New York City public school system. In Queens alone, we expect a 66 percent rise by the year 2007. We are looking at almost 60,000 more students in Queens alone. If we build all the schools that the city and State want to build, we are still going to be 20,000 seats shy. That is why we have to do something in this House, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the help of the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE).

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is right, and we have got to do it this year. I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) for his leadership.

As we wind down, this evening, I think it is important to sort of step back for a moment and talk about why education needs to be such a high priority in this Congress for this country.

In the new economy of the 21st Century, we have learned, and we know that what one learns will determine what one earns. The truth is the new economy is already here.

I met this week with a leader to the Information Technology Industry Council, and he talked about this digital divide. Alan Greenspan has talked about it, how the economy had just boomed, and we do not really know what kind of impact this has. But unless we make sure that every child is involved in it, we have buildings to put them in, and our teachers are up to speed, and we give them the resources to teach and get them up to doing it, we are going to be in trouble.

According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, high-tech will drive more than a quarter of all economic growth or has driven more since 1993. By the year 2006, half of the U.S. work force will be employed by industries that are either major producers or users of information technology products and services. That is why it is imperative that we act now, this year, not next

year, and not down the road. I will not go into the others. I am going to enter this into the RECORD.

But the jobs that pay the most money are technology jobs. My State tonight is facing a real challenge. Part of eastern North Carolina is under water, four congressional districts. Mr. Speaker, we have schools that have not opened. I include for the RECORD the Adopt a School Program because that is on the Internet so that those who want to help can, as follows:

NCDPI'S ADOPT A SCHOOL PROGRAM

Description—Many schools have been hit hard by Hurricane Floyd. Some schools have lost textbooks while some have lost almost everything. In order to try and meet some of these needs we have organized the "Adopt a School" program. We are encouraging school leaders, classes, PTA organizations, and concerned citizens to link up with schools in need and provide needed assistance throughout this year.

How do you Adopt a School? On this page is a list of schools that have expressed a desire to be adopted. Simply contact the school at the phone number or address listed. Find out what their needs are and how you can help. Then maintain contact with them throughout the year as needs will change with the passing of time.

Some ideas once you have adopted a school:

Contact your adopted school and find out if they have immediate needs such as: tennis shoes, clothing, or other essential items. Have your class or school hold a campaign to collect these items.

After the crisis has passed, there will still be a need for emotional support. A class or a school could write letters of support. You could even form a pen pal program between your school and the adopted school.

The idea is that you partner with this school for the rest of this year to provide support in any way that you can.

Read a description from teacher Marshall Matson of current conditions in Edgecombe county in regards to schools. (9-23-99)

Below is a list of schools who would like to be adopted. If you wish to adopt one of them, please contact them directly at the information listed. Please check back often as this list will be updated regularly as soon as we are made aware of schools in need.

School Name—Location	Contact Information	List of Current Needs
Jones Middle School—Jones County	Ethan Lenker, Principal, Phone: 252-448-3956; Fax: 252-448-1044; E-mail: elenker@hotmail.com.	Please contact school for up to date list. The school is taking financial contributions. Make checks payable to Jones Middle School Relief Fund, Jones Middle School, 1350 Old New Barn Rd, Trenton, NC 28585
Trenton Elementary School—Jones County	Philip Griffin, Principal, Phone: 252-448-3441; Fax: 252-448-1449; E-mail: pkg@alwaysonline.com.	Please contact school for up to date list.
Jones Senior High School—Jones County	Dr. James A. Bule, Principal, Phone: (252) 448-2451; Fax: (252) 448-1034	Please contact school for up to date list.
Princeville Montessori, PK-3—Edgecombe County	Kathy Harris, Resource Personnel, Phone: (252) 823-4449; Fax: (252) 641-5741; E-mail: kharris1@earthlink.net.	Please contact school for up to date list.
Patillo Elementary, 4-5—Edgecombe County	Kathy Harris, Resource Personnel, Phone: (252) 823-4449; Fax: (252) 641-5741; E-mail: kharris1@earthlink.net.	Please contact school for up to date list.
Pitt County Schools	Arlene Ferren, Pupil Personnel Director, Phone: (252) 830-4237	Please contact school at the number given for an up to date listing of schools and needs.
Nash-Rocky Mount Schools	Lela Chesson, Community Relations, Phone: (251) 459-5243	Anyone wishing to make donations to schools in the system should contact Lela at the number listed.
Nash-Rocky Mount Schools Employee Disaster Fund—For employees of the system who have losses.	You may send a check to: NRMS Disaster Fund for Employees Community Relations Office, Nash Rocky Mount Schools, 930 Eastern Ave., Nashville, NC 27856.	For employees of the system who have losses.
Greene County Family Literacy Center—an Even Start Program	Cassie Faulkner Greene County Family Literacy Center, 602 West Harper Street, Snow Hill, NC 28580; Phone: 252-747-8257; email: Cassielota@hotmail.com.	School was flooded. Will need new carpet, books, and furniture.
Rocky Mount Charter School	Dr. John von Rohr, Director, Phone: (252) 443-9923	School was located in the Tarrytown Mall which had five feet of water. School has lost everything. It was the largest public charter school in NC with 800 students and 70 staff.

My district was affected by this tremendous devastation that has wrecked many schools, homes, businesses, and lives; but the district of the gentleman from North Carolina (Mrs.

CLAYTON) is one of the worst affected in eastern North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mrs.

CLAYTON) who has been a leader also in education.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me. I want to say, educationally, the

gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE) has certainly been a leader. I thank him for providing continuous leadership in education, not only in the State of North Carolina and this Nation, but now providing it here in the U.S. Congress.

As the gentleman speaks about education, the infrastructure that leads to the future, many of our schools in Edgecombe County, in fact two of them, will not be able to be used perhaps the rest of this year because they have been seriously damaged by the flood.

The infrastructure I hope that we were talking about improving our school under the modernization act will now need to be looked at in terms of FEMA providing some monies for that.

But, Mr. Speaker, I hope that, as we have opportunity to look at eastern North Carolina, that we put education as one of the infrastructure that, not only we bring back to the status quo before the flood, but that we try to improve those facilities so that the young people in eastern North Carolina, not only can survive this storm, but be prepared for the 21st Century, and that they can have the kind of facility that allows them to prepare for that future.

Also, the infrastructure has been greatly disadvantaged throughout eastern North Carolina. Some estimate that just the electricity alone will cost more than \$80 million. The water system has not yet been assessed.

So schools and other infrastructure that have been damaged by the storm need to be restored. But in education, we do not just need to restore it, we need to improve the facility.

So the gentleman is absolutely right for the bills that he had that would have improved the school must go forward, not only for people in eastern North Carolina, but for this Nation, because we need to find a way where we make sure that the equal divide, the equal opportunity that levels the playing field for the future is actual education. So we have to find for the facilities for that.

I just say educational facilities have been greatly damaged by the flood. Many of our schools have been damaged. But I know several of our schools in two counties we will not be able to restore them. I understand FEMA will come back and try to perhaps restore them. But think about the other schools that need that kind of opportunity to improve.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is absolutely right. As we think of this whole issue of digital divide she was just talking about, the information technology is really the largest job creating engine in the history of the world. To leave a group of people behind is unacceptable, unforgivable, and criminal when we have within our power the ability to do something about it.

We can provide the facility to put it in. We can work together to make sure

every child has access to the technology. When we think about currently almost 70 percent do not have access in some ways in this digital divide, that is unacceptable as we approach the 21st Century.

The richest nation in the history of the world, we must do more, we can do more. This is inexcusable that we do not do more. I think, as a Congress, we have an obligation to make sure that we leave no one behind as we approach the 21st Century.

We need to provide scholarship for science and math and greater support for technology training. Our greatest challenge is to take educational excellence, not just into the suburbs, but to every inner city, into the rural areas as well. We need to improve education for all children in all parts of America.

We need to encourage our people to be more demanding of their government leaders so that we can get the job done. Industry needs to push harder. Not enough pressure is being put, in my opinion, in the right places to get it done.

Finally, let me conclude by saying that this Congress still has the opportunity to do something great for America's future, and we need to do it this year.

MIAMI RIVER CLEANUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUTKNECHT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, for the first time, we have been able to obtain Federal assistance for a long sought dream, the cleanup of the Miami River.

□ 1930

This was included in the Fiscal Year 2000 Energy Water Appropriations bill which Congress has just passed. This is a major victory in preserving a key part of our environment, as well as allowing the Miami River to become a major contributor to international trade and economic growth. This is the beginning of a 4-year phase dredging project proposed by the Miami River Commission with the assistance of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

It provides a \$5 million initial appropriations to begin maintenance dredging of the river, which eventually will cost \$64 million from Federal, State and local sources.

This cleanup will eliminate a significant pollution threat to Biscayne Bay, which used to be one of the Nation's most pristine environments. It will also ensure the continued growth of the Miami River as one of our Nation's critical shipping links to the Caribbean and to South America.

Thanks to the tremendous bipartisan teamwork of the South Florida Congressional Delegation and a broad-based coalition of community leaders, decision interests, and officials at the

Federal, State and local levels, we have been able to achieve this goal, which is vitally important for both the future of our growing trade with our neighbors to the south and the Caribbean, as well as preserving a waterway which is a key part of our ecosystem.

We thank on behalf of the South Florida Congressional Delegation all of our colleagues this week for passing the bill in the House, for passing the bill in the Senate. It is on the President's desk, and we hope that he signs it soon to make this dream a reality for all of South Florida.

EDUCATION, THE ARTS, AND NATURAL RESOURCES IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUTKNECHT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, this evening I want to talk about a number of different subjects. I was not going to talk about education until I heard some of the previous comments, and I think it is important to clarify some of those comments that were made and talk about the direction that the Republican party is going in regards to education. Those remarks will be somewhat brief.

I then want to cover the topic that we have seen with the Brooklyn Museum in New York City. I am going to move from that subject to a subject that I think will be very uplifting to all of my colleagues, and that is the Third Congressional District of Colorado.

We are going to talk about natural resources, as we can see with this picture I have behind me. That is what that district looks like. We are going to get into much more detail about that, cover the water issues, cover the Federal land management issues, and so on. So I think it is going to be a very interesting hour. I look forward to the participation of my colleagues.

But let me begin, first of all, by talking about the preceding comments. First of all, it is important that our friends and our colleagues on both sides of the aisle from North Carolina understand that everybody across this country, 49 States across this country, are going to pitch in for that one State that got hit as devastating as North Carolina.

North Carolina, you are not alone. You are in the United States; and in the United States of America, we are a team and we stick together and we help the other States when the other States are in need of help.

I would expect the other States to help me in Colorado if we had some sort of a disaster. That is why we are the United States of America. So the preceding speaker who spoke on North Carolina, bless her. I understand the tragedies that she is going through. I do not live there, but we are willing to

help make it right. Everybody in this chamber is willing to help make it right for North Carolina.

But let me talk just for a moment about the kind of disaster aid. And when we do this, we must be careful. We still have a fiduciary responsibility to the people who have elected us to make sure that that money gets to the people that need it. We have a fiduciary responsibility to minimize, if not eliminate, Government waste.

So if we ask for accountability on these disaster funds, do not come back at us and say, my gosh, you do not care about the poor people who have suffered these tragedies. You know, that often happens in government business. The minute you question a program for accountability, for efficiency, to see whether or not you have got waste, to see whether or not those dollars are going to the people that need the dollars or the people for whom the dollars were intended, the minute you question it, all of a sudden you are cold and heartless and you do not care about these people that are in these tragic situations.

We have an obligation to make sure that money goes where it is needed and where it is going to do the most good. So do not be upset or offended if we ask some pretty tough questions about how these dollars are being spent.

Which leads me into education. It is amazing to me that the Democrats can stand up here on this House floor and say that they are the only ones for education and that this side is anti-education.

How many people, think of it, how many people have you ever run into that will tell you they are against education? You do not run into people that are against education. Education is a critical mass for the success of this country. It is absolutely essentially for the future of this country. It is what gave many of us in this country a base from which to operate because we learned something because the generations ahead of us taught us and made sure we had good schools. We on the Republican side and the Democrat side feel an obligation to make sure that education is the best.

Well, let me tell my colleagues, there are some things we need to do in the classroom. And some people disagree with that. But on the Republican side, we feel we have to put discipline back in the classroom. And if you do not believe me, take a look at what the disciplinary problems were 20 years ago and take a look at what they are today and take a look at the difference in discipline allowed to the school teacher who has a very difficult job, take a look at the discipline he or she is allowed to exercise in her classroom compared to the discipline that he or she was allowed 20 years ago.

I can tell you, when I was in the 7th grade, I got in a fight on the school ground. It meant an automatic swat on the butt with a board. I remember that to this day. Now, I cannot tell you I did

not get in any more fights, but I sure did not get in any more fights on school grounds. Because we had some discipline in the classroom. The Republicans feel that is an important issue, and we do not think that you are anti-education if you say let us give the teachers the tools they need to have discipline in the classroom.

I urge the Democrats to join with us. Frankly, some of the conservative Democrats do. There is nothing wrong with telling our young people, you must behave, there are certain behavioral standards that you have to live up to; and if you do not live up to these standards, there are consequences, there is punishment, because our primary purpose is to educate you to the highest degree possible.

A second point we should make about some of the previous comments early in this last hour. You know, you do not make schools better by just necessarily throwing more money at all. What happens around here the minute you question a budget for education, the minute you stand up and question are we wasting the money, is the money producing results, is the money accounted for, is the money getting down to the classroom and not being spent in the administration, is it really going to the classroom, the minute you ask those questions, and primarily those questions are asked by Republicans, the Democrats primarily rush right up and put a label on you "anti-education."

You know what, we can make a better educational system in this country if we demand accountability, if we see where those dollars are going and make sure they are being spent efficiently, if we allow those dollars to get into the classroom. That is how we are going to make a difference in education.

I think it is very important that we also recognize that there are alternatives to public education. Now, I am not against public education. I have three children. My youngest child, Andrea, is a senior in high school. My son Dax is a junior at Colorado State University. And my daughter Tessa is a junior at Bryant College in Providence, Rhode Island. My point is this: All three of Lori's, my wife, and my children, all three of those children went to public schools.

Now, they had the option to go to private school, but we were very confident in our local public schools and in the schools that they went to throughout their schooling career. But the point is we should not take away from the people who want to home-school.

I want to say to my Democrat colleagues who were criticizing the Republicans, it was your side of the aisle just a few short years ago that went out and said, if you are a home-schooler, you should have to be licensed in every subject you teach. In other words, a father or a mother who wants to stay home and home-school their children would have to be licensed or certified in math or science or physical education. Whatever they

taught that child, they had to be certified. What did that mean? It meant the elimination of home-schooling. That is exactly what it meant.

I am saying to my colleagues on the Democratic side, come work with us in a bipartisan fashion. Do not just think that public education is the only way to go. Obviously, it is the most significant mode of education in this country. And, obviously, we need to make it as good as we can. And, obviously, it is going to cost us a lot of dollars.

On the other hand, I think I can use the word "obviously" in most cases, home-schooling is doing a darn good job. Look at the test results. Obviously, asking for accountability of these dollars that are being spent in the classroom should be done. I do not know one Democrat or one Republican who does not look for accountability or efficiency or ask for a balance in their own checkbook.

We all have a fiduciary duty to the citizens, whether they vote or not, of this country to be prudent in our fiscal decisions, to be prudent in how we spend the taxpayer dollars, to be prudent that when we spend those dollars we get the biggest bang for our dollars, to be prudent that when we spend those dollars that these kids are getting an education off those dollars. There is no question on either side of the aisle, no question that education right now is the highest priority in this country. And rightfully it should be.

But do not discount a commitment by a Republican education because they stand up and say, hey, track for me or trace for me where these dollars are going. We want the biggest bang.

Let me move on to another subject and tell my colleagues where I am extremely disappointed, extremely disappointed, in a particular aspect of the arts community in this country. I want you to know at the very onset here, I am a supporter of the arts. I think arts are very important in our community.

Now, I know some people, some of my good friends, disagree with me, but I think it is very important and I think there are certain arts programs that the Government has an obligation to be involved in. But if you want to know what gives a black eye to the arts, it is when you use taxpayer dollars to offend the public in such a way you know it is not just an offense, it is a horrible offense to them.

What am I talking about? Let us lay out the facts right here of the New York City Brooklyn Museum, a museum which has benefactors of great wealth. This museum gets government dollars from the City of New York and, as I understand it, government dollars from the Federal Government. What do they choose to do with a portion of those dollars? They are opening tomorrow a show which has a portrait of the Virgin Mary with dung, and where I come from, in the mountain country, we call it crap, thrown right on the face of the portrait of the Virgin Mary. And they call that art.

Well, let me say this to you: What they are trying to do right now, the prima donnas on that board of directors of that Brooklyn Museum, what they are trying to say to the American people or frame this argument as is an issue of First Amendment rights, the freedom of speech.

In this country, we believe very firmly in the right for freedom of speech and in the First Amendment of our Constitution. We believe very strongly in that amendment. What are they trying to say? They are saying, that, well, our opportunity to use taxpayer dollars to pay for a display, a portrait of the Virgin Mary, to throw crap on it, that is our right to express First Amendment rights.

□ 1945

Let me say, this is not to be framed as a first amendment argument. It is not a first amendment argument. Those of us who are opposed, and obviously I am deeply opposed to what they are doing, but those of us who are opposed to this are saying, Look, you have a right to display that kind of art, but you do not have a right, we have to draw a limitation somewhere, you do not have a right to do it with taxpayer dollars. Nobody is taking away your right of freedom of expression under the first amendment. You can go downtown and show that, you can carry a picture of it in your wallet, you can carry it on the subway, you can carry it on horseback out in the mountains if you want to show people. Nobody is denying that you have the right to do that. But you do not have the right to take taxpayer dollars to display a portrait of the Virgin Mary with crap thrown all over it.

I wonder what the reaction would be of these liberal prima donnas if somebody put up a portrait of Martin Luther King and threw crap on it. They would do something. Of course it would be horribly offensive. Would they be standing up today saying, well, it is the first amendment, we in the Brooklyn museum ought to display something like that?

I wonder what these prima donnas would say if with public dollars, taxpayer dollars, we got a Nazi swastika and put it in a park for public display? I wonder what these prima donnas would say if somebody got an AIDS quilt, those beautiful quilts made in memory of the people who have died as a result of AIDS, I wonder what they would think if they hung an AIDS quilt and somebody threw crap on it?

It is wrong. You know it is wrong. You should not be using taxpayer dollars for this display. So what do they do? It is not in them. It is not in them to stand up to the American public and say, you know, we were wrong. We made a mistake. This portrait of the Virgin Mary with crap splashed all over it should not be displayed with taxpayer dollars. But they do not do it. They are not going to do it. So what happens? We as publicly elected offi-

cial and specifically a publicly elected mayor in the city of New York, Mayor Guiliani, steps forward and says, you are not going to use taxpayer dollars for that kind of display. That is off-limits. You went across the line. He did not say you could not display it anywhere. He did not put a ban on the portrait. He just said with taxpayer dollars in this tax-paying institution, you are not going to display the portrait of the Virgin Mary with crap splashed all over it.

So what happens? Well, the liberal community, the prima donnas, they decide this is where we are going to draw a line in the sand. Today it is a Catholic symbol. Tomorrow they will go after a Jewish symbol. Where do we draw the limit with taxpayer dollars? When do we say enough is enough? You have got to use some common sense.

Today I was on a radio talk program. It was pretty interesting. I had the commentator say to me, "SCOTT, how can you tell what's offensive or not?" I said, "What do you mean how can I tell what's offensive? Common sense ought to tell you." You think a Nazi swastika in a public park is offensive? The most reasonable man concept, and I say that generically obviously, your common sense, your gut reaction, your gut tells you, that is offensive. We should not have taxpayer dollars doing that. That is not a violation of the Constitution. It is not a violation of the Constitution at all. We say to TV broadcasters, you cannot show certain things on TV. That is not a violation of the first amendment. It is taxpayer dollars.

My point that I am making here is that it is important for all of us to understand that it is really pretty easy to decide what is obscene art and what is not. What the Brooklyn museum could have done and should have done is to call one of their private benefactors, many of whom are very wealthy, and ask them to put up the private dollars to display this somewhere, fund it with private dollars. By the way, anybody that funds this kind of display is sick in my opinion and do not get me wrong. I do not think this is acceptable in any form of the word. But constitutionally it is permitted. But not with taxpayer dollars. This Brooklyn museum should have gone to those benefactors and said, put up private dollars, not the taxpayer dollars, private dollars and display it with private dollars.

What happens? All of a sudden the politics get involved. Hillary Clinton, First Lady, steps in, she is running for the United States Senate. Well, she says, this museum ought to be entitled to do this. She has taken the side of the museum. There is a pretty clear difference right there between what the mayor of New York City is saying, no taxpayer dollars, and this display is deeply offensive, and what the Senate candidate over there is saying. It is common sense.

Can you imagine our forefathers, the generations of the people who fought in wars for us, or the Catholics in this

country, and, as I said, it may be the Buddhists next, it may be the Jews next, it may be some other group next, can you imagine our fathers and mothers, our grandmothers and grandfathers, the Founding Fathers of this country, what they would have done if they saw that today, under the guise of the Constitution, we were paying with taxpayer dollars to display a portrait of the Virgin Mary with crap splashed on it? Of course you know what your gut reaction tells you that those people would say. They would not believe it. They would be stunned. They could not believe that this great country did not have the restraint with taxpayer dollars to say, Enough is enough. We have certain standards in this country and one of those standards is we are not going to use taxpayer dollars to put a Nazi swastika in a park, we are not going to use taxpayer dollars to destroy or insult the Virgin Mary, which is a huge Christian symbol, by throwing crap all over it, we are not going to display a portrait of Martin Luther King and throw crap all over it, we are not going to display an AIDS quilt and throw crap over it. We have standards in this country. And it is not asking too much to say out there, "Don't do it."

How does it affect the Third District of the State of Colorado out where I live, out where I represent? Because of the attitude of these prima donnas on the board of directors of the Brooklyn museum in New York City, it puts a black eye on the arts clear across this country. Do you know how many of my constituents are going to say to me, "SCOTT, if we're putting an art display in Colorado somewhere, is it going to be this kind of display? Is it going to be taxpayer dollars?" I am begging these people on the board of directors of the Brooklyn museum, look what you are doing to the art industry across this country, in the little communities of Colorado or the little communities of Utah or up in Washington State or down in Nevada or in North Dakota or in Wyoming, or Kansas or Texas. Do you think this story is isolated in New York City? Of course it is not isolated in New York City. It is all over the country. And here we have so-called patrons of the arts standing up and saying we are justified under the Constitution to display a portrait of the Virgin Mary with taxpayer dollars and have crap thrown on it. It is wrong. You are hurting everybody in the art business, in the art profession.

I know I am going to get a bunch of angry phone calls this evening, people opposed. I went to law school. I have got experience with this. The Constitution does not protect the right for you to use taxpayer dollars and have that kind of display. I hope for the sake of everybody, because it is really a losing deal. You may get a lot more people to your show, Brooklyn museum, and maybe you are doing this for the money, but in the long run it is the arts that suffer. It is the very community that you profess to protect. It is

the very community that you profess to stand up for. It is the very community that probably in your heart you feel very deeply about. It is that community, the art community, that you are helping destroy through this kind of action in New York City with your display of the Virgin Mary with crap thrown all over it. You ought to grow up, and you ought to get one of your private benefactors and pay for it with private dollars. It is a disgrace. More than anything else, you in your heart know it is a disgrace. You in your heart know, and mark my word for it, the next time either this evening before you go to bed or tomorrow when you wake up and you look in that mirror, you look in that mirror and say, it is art, to do this to a portrait of the Virgin Mary with the taxpayers' dollars.

Let us move on to another subject. Obviously after the last couple of comments, I want to lighten it a little. I want to talk about the natural resources, kind of the layout of the United States. In order to do that, I need to give a little description of where I live and the district that I represent. I am very proud of my district. I think every Member in here, both Democrat and Republican, obviously are proud of their districts. My family has lived in this district, they were pioneers in the mid to late 1800s, and through all the generations we have been there.

I will tell you a little story. When I went to law school, my wife and I wanted our oldest daughter born in Colorado. I went to law school in Texas. We felt so strongly about our heritage in Colorado, she stayed behind to deliver our baby, so that she was born in Colorado. So we feel strongly about that.

I will give you an idea of the Third Congressional District of Colorado. It is geographically larger than the State of Florida. Looking to my left, here is this portrait. That is what most of my district looks like. It is beautiful, mountainous terrain and these mountains you see up here, we have in Colorado over 56 mountains above 14,000 feet. I would guess that this peak right here, with the red dot on it, is probably above 14,000 feet. What is interesting is a lot of these mountains have snow year round. In fact, I am sure many of you saw, and of course we are big Bronco fans, but I am sure many of you saw last week that in Denver, it snowed in Denver. Very interesting geographical locations and lots of beauty obviously up in these mountains. You can see these trees right here, we call those Aspen trees, they are in my opinion some of the most beautiful trees, certainly in my district and probably in the entire world.

Now, a lot of this land that we have, by the way, let me show you the blue sky. I am going to do a little promotion here about Colorado. That blue sky right there in Colorado, we have over 300 days a year of sunshine, 300

days a year of sunshine in the State of Colorado. My district takes up a little more than half of the State of Colorado. But one of the things you have got to remember about the West is water. That is a pretty boring subject, water. It is real boring unless all of a sudden it is not coming out of your faucet, or it is not there to flush the toilet or they do not have it to serve you in the restaurant. Water is a critical resource obviously. By the way, it is the only resource that regenerates itself. It is the only natural resource, I guess the better way would be to say that it has got automatic renewal, it automatically renews itself.

Here are some interesting statistics. Ninety-seven percent of the water in this country is saltwater. Of the remaining 3 percent of water in this country, 75 percent of that is tied up in the ice caps. Actually only .05 percent of that water is in our lakes and our river for drinking and consumption by humans. When you break that out, 73 percent, and I know I am throwing a lot of statistics out to you but just kind of picture it as we go along. Picture the United States, a map, imagine the United States, a map in front of you. Imagine a line going down between Kansas and Missouri. Seventy-three percent of the water in this country is east of that line. About 13 percent, actually 12.7 percent, around there, about 13 percent, we will round off, 13 percent on our imaginary map right here is up in the Pacific Northwest. And 14 percent is located, almost 15 percent, is located in what we call the mountainous west. That is 14 States. Those 14 States have one-half of the continental nation's land mass. Half of the land mass in this country, in the continental States is located in 14 States, and those 14 States have 14 percent of the water. Water is a critical resource.

In the East, one of the problems in the East is getting rid of water. Remember, 73 percent of the water lies east of the Kansas-Missouri line, so your problem out in the East, if you live in the East, in a lot of aspects is how you drain off the water, how do you get rid of the water. Our problem in the West is how do we save the water.

Of those 14 States that I talked about, Colorado is at the top of those 14 States. Colorado has been called the mother of rivers. Colorado has four major rivers which originate out of those mountains and they originate, of course, as the result of the snowfall. So all of that snow that you see throughout those mountain ranges, and this of course is a small fraction, the red dot on the picture, that snow is what provides the water for those four rivers. That is why Colorado has the title, The Mother of Rivers. It has got the Colorado River, the Rio Grande River, the Platte River, and the Arkansas River.

As I mentioned earlier, in the West we have got to have the capability to store our water.

□ 2000

You see, we do not have heavy rains like in Washington, D.C. I never experienced the kind of rains that you have back here. I mean when it rains here, it rains and rains and rains.

Now we get evening rains in the mountains a lot, but we do not have a lot of quantity of rain. So what happens, because of that we are called an arid State. We do not get a lot of water, we do not accumulate a lot of rain. I think in Colorado our average water is 16 inches a year.

So where we focus on the water is the snow in the mountains. Now how do we get the snow on the mountains converted into the water, and how do we get ahold of it? Well, it is a natural process, you all know it. It happens in the spring; it is called spring run off. Melts the snow down for a period of time.

Now we have problems with spring run off. If it gets too warm too early in the spring, then the water runs off before we are able to use it for agricultural purposes because we are not quite ready yet. If we do not get the snow accumulation, then we have a drought year. If it stays too cold, then the rain, although the water comes down, it can be too late especially in regards to agriculture.

So we are very dependent upon the weather out there, but once this run off contains, that run off goes for about, oh, 60 to 90 days; 60 to 90 days in the spring is when we get the run off from those mountains. So for 60 to 90 days we literally have all of the water we could possibly want. But after that 90 days, what do we have to do with that water? We have to store the water.

Now I know that some of my colleagues get kind of a charge out of criticizing dams and water storage in the west. I want many of my friends in the east to understand we are different than you are back here as far as water conditions are concerned. In the east you have got to get rid of it. In the west we have got to preserve it.

If we did not have dams, and by the way the first dam was not in the Roosevelt era, it was clear back in about 1000 AD in Mesa Verde. It is when the cliff dwellers out in Mesa Verde, which is near Cortez, near the four corners, and the four corners are where four States come together in one spot; it is where the cliff dwellers were; again, a thousand AD. The thought is by the historical studies that the reason the cliff dwellers disappeared from the Mesa Verde dwellings is because they had a drought and their dam did not store enough water. That is how serious water is in the west and that is why we have to have dams.

So, before you buy onto some of these people who condemn dams or water storage, understand in the west just how critical it is, and in Colorado we have an interesting situation. In Colorado one half of the State, the western half, the part I represent, the Third Congressional District, produces

80 percent of the water, but 80 percent of the population lives on the other side of the State. So you can even see that even at the State level within our own State boundaries water is a very, very important subject, and there are a lot of things we can talk about, but I think some statistics on water and how important water in our life is important for us to look at.

An acre foot of water. A lot of times you hear people talk about an acre foot of water. An acre foot of water is about 326,000 gallons of water, to be exact 325,900 gallons of water. Traditionally it has been considered enough water for a family of four people, a family of four people for 1 year. One acre foot of water is enough for a family of four for 1 year. But now that we have brought in some very helpful conservation efforts, we have expanded that. Now I think in today's language one acre foot of water, or 325,000 gallons of water, is enough really to extend a family of four for 2 years. Conservation has paid off, but we have to use conservation in the right fashion.

Now just talk for a minute about how much water is needed; for example, for a cow. A steer drinks 4.2 gallons of water a day. If you are going to have milk, the jersey cow that produces the milk needs 12 gallons of water a day. For a holstein producing a lot of milk it is 23 gallons of water a day. An acre of corn, one acre of corn, gives off 4000 gallons of water per day just in evaporation. So an acre of corn, 4000 gallons of water evaporate off that acre a day. To grow one bushel of wheat you need 11,000 gallons of water. One bushel of wheat; can you imagine, one bushel of wheat, 11,000 gallons of water. You need 135,000 gallons of water to grow one ton of alfalfa. Thank goodness that resource is an automatic renewal.

These are numbers you probably never heard of before. They are numbers that surprise me, and I spent half my professional career in water.

About 1,400 gallons of water are used to produce a meal of a quarter-pound hamburger, an order of fries and a soft drink. So when you go to the store and you get a quarter pounder and order fries and a soft drink, to grow that, to get everything ready for it, took 1,400 gallons of water.

About 48,000 gallons of water, 48,000 gallons of water are necessary to produce the typical American thanksgiving dinner for 8 people. So those of you who are going to have thanksgiving dinner at your house and you have got 8 people, keep in mind that about 48,000 gallons of water were necessary to produce everything at that dinner table.

About 1800 gallons of water are needed to produce the cotton in one pair of jeans, 1,800 gallons of water for one pair of jeans. Four hundred gallons just to produce the cotton in a shirt; 400 gallons for your shirt.

Takes 39,000 gallons of water to produce the average domestic automobile including tires. Listen to that:

39,000 gallons of water to produce the average domestic automobile.

So you can see that water plays obviously a very important part in our lives, and I know that recently there has been a lot of criticism about water and about our water management in the west, and a lot of this criticism comes from special interest groups frankly in the east. So I want to say to the average person out there: Before you join on with some of these people that criticize us, understand our differences.

Now one thing we all have in common when it comes to water is we all use, for example, an acre foot of water every year for a family of four whether you live in New York City or whether you live in Denver. So we have a lot of things in common with the water, with the use of water. But the retention of water is different in those western States than it is in the east.

Now a couple of other things that I thought that I would point out about water that are important:

One of the fun things to think about of course are the physical characteristics that I told you about the State of Colorado, and as I mentioned, in the State of Colorado about half of our State has most of the water, 80 percent of the water, and the other half of the State has 80 percent of the population. It requires a lot of cooperation between those two geographical areas of the State of Colorado, but we have been able to do it for many, many years, and we intend to continue to be able to do that.

What I hope to do is come back again. I have given a lot of statistics this evening on water, and I am going to come back to this House floor to talk to my colleagues to address this water, but I am going to do it in a series of speeches because you can take in too much in one evening, or I can put out too much. I guess you can take all you can handle, but I can put out too much in one evening about water.

I just want you to leave this evening thinking about water is a automatically renewable resource. There is a difference in water retention in the east versus the west. Most of the water lies in the east, 73 percent of the water lies east of the Kansas-Missouri line. Only 14 percent of the water lies in half the land mass of the United States; those are the western States. Ninety-seven percent of the water is salt water. Only 3 percent is the kind clear water, and of that 3 percent, 75 percent of that 3 percent, so 75 percent of the 3 percent is tied up in the ice polar caps. So you can see for all the water we have in the world, only a small small fraction of that water is actually good for consumption.

Let me move very quickly, and then I intend to turn over the remainder of my time to a colleague of mine who would like to make some comments on another subject. I want to talk to you about something that happened very exciting this last week here on the House floor.

Now we have all heard several discussions in the last few days about all kinds of subjects, but one of the things that happened on a bipartisan basis out of this House of Representatives is for the first time in 85 years we have a new national park in the State of Colorado. It is called the Black Canyon National Park. We passed it out of the House. Senator BEN CAMPBELL was the sponsor in the Senate, I was the sponsor in the House. We passed it out. I fully expect the President to sign it, and I think within the next month the Black Canyon National, what I am calling now National Park was a national monument in Gunnison, Colorado, will be a thing of reality. It is spectacular, it is incredible, and I hope that you have an opportunity to go to Montrose, Colorado, and visit the Black Canyon National Park.

This is a picture right here. Notice my red dot. These are sheer walls, and the Black Canyon, by the way, it is the color of these walls which have very black rock on them; that is where the Black Canyon got its name. Clear at the very top here, right up there where the red dot is in the right hand corner of that picture, those are trees up there. So a human being would actually be about a fourth the size of that red dot. Look at the sheerness of this cliff.

Those cliffs, and that gorge and that canyon, as we go down through here, are as high as 2,000 feet, 2,000 feet. These are some of the oldest rocks known to mankind, and what is neat about this project is a lot of people came together to make it happen. This was not a mandate by the Federal Congress, it was not an outside-of-the-area group that came in and said you do not know how to take care of this country, we are going to come in here and make this a national park. It was local people who cared about their local community who felt the responsibility to their local people, to the State people and to the people of the United States to do something to allow people to really see and understand the magnitude and the magnificence of the Black Canyon in the State of Colorado.

Now I want to thank publicly here the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), the majority leader who helped us get it on the floor. I want to thank the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), chairman of the House Committee on Resources. I want to thank the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) who was the House subcommittee chairman on national parks, and Tod Hull. He is a legislative staff on the public lands. I like to also thank Cindy Bowen; she is a county commissioner out in Montrose, Colorado; Sheridan Steele. Sheridan is the Superintendent of the Black Canyon, and they are very proud out there about what has happened. I want to thank Siobhan McGill, Floor Assistant, Office of the Majority Leader; Ken Gale who is the interim director of the Montrose Economic Development, and Ken has been back here

numerous times. This is a pet project for Ken. Ken, congratulations; you got a lot to be proud of. I want to thank Steve Aquafresca, the former State representative out of the State of Colorado representing that area. I want to thank Wayne Keith, and I want to thank the currently-elected officials that represent that area, Kaye Alexander, Jim Dyer and many of the other elected local officials and so on, the communities of Crawford, Paonia, Montrose, Olathe, Cedar Ridge, Hotchkiss, Delta; the counties, Club 20. There are a lot of people, the staff members of the BLM, Dave Roberts, the Forest Service. They all pitched in to help us show off to all of you the spectacular beauty of the Black Canyon National Park.

Now amongst all of those walls right there, and here you can see the river up close. Now let me tell my colleagues, our water, water sports in Colorado on the hottest day of the summer will still make your teeth chitter, but there is a lot of excitement in seeing this kind of water, pure water. It is said to be so pure; look at the second picture here; that you can stand up on some of these cliffs, obviously not at 2,000 feet, but you can stand up on some of these cliffs and actually spot trout in the clear water in the pools down below.

This is also the home for habitat of bears, bobcats, all kinds of animal species. It is beautiful, and you should take that opportunity to come out and see Colorado.

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One more quick picture before it falls. Look at the walls here again. Two thousand feet, you can see the walls here. There is a tree right there where the red dot is, straight down.

Let me wrap up my remarks by telling you, of course, all throughout our country the fall is a beautiful season, the colors, the smell, the blue sky. But if you have an opportunity, come out and enjoy our State.

Finally, as my final remarks, let me reemphasize my remarks at the beginning of my discussion with you this evening, and that is to our friends, our family, to people we do not know in the state of North Carolina: The other 49 states of this country will not abandoned you. The other 49 states of this country will be there to help you through the tragedy that you recently suffered. I know that it may seem remote at this time, that kind of help, but there are prayers from all across the country coming your direction. There are resources, including monetary resources and everything from generators to lanterns to batteries to fresh water, resources from all across this country, coming to help you out.

Again, North Carolina, you will not be forgotten.

WHITE HOUSE APPEASING CASTRO REGIME

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HAYES). Under the Speaker's an-

nounced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 15 minutes as the designee of the Majority Leader.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I just want to say I just got back from Colorado Springs a couple of weeks ago, and what the gentleman said about Colorado is absolutely true. It is a gorgeous state.

Mr. Speaker, once again I underestimated the lengths to which the White House would go to appease the Castro regime, the most violent sponsor of terrorism in the Western Hemisphere.

If you think freeing over one dozen FALN terrorists responsible for the deaths of his own countrymen is unexplainable, what the White House is doing right now is baffling.

Mr. Speaker, today I am disturbed by reports that as the White House was preparing to grant clemency to 16 imprisoned terrorists, it told the State Department to grant a visa to a notorious Cuban spy named Fernando Garcia Bielsa. This visa would allow Mr. Bielsa to work under diplomatic cover at the Cuban Interests Section just blocks from the White House.

Ironically, Mr. Bielsa is a high-ranking Cuban communist party official in charge of supporting the very terrorist groups to which the prisoners belonged. President Clinton is asking the State Department to issue a visa to Bielsa, in spite of the evidence in intelligence reports linking him with the FALN terrorists and other terrorist groups.

I was particularly impressed by reports that the FBI strongly objected to granting a visa to him. Yet, apparently when the State Department pressured the FBI, the Bureau had to drop its objections.

It has been reported that Mr. Bielsa serves as the chief of the American Department of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee. The American Department, known by its initials DA, has a long tradition of being Castro's main instrument for coordinating terrorism in the Western Hemisphere, including agent influence activity and support for Puerto Rican terrorism against the United States.

Mr. Speaker, the State Department continues to classify Cuba as a state sponsor of international terrorism. In fact, the State Department's report, Patterns of Terrorism Report for 1998, Cuba reportedly maintains, "close ties to other state sponsors of terrorism and leftist insurgent groups in Latin America. For instance, Columbia's two main terrorist groups, the FARC and the ELN, maintain representatives in Cuba. Moreover, Havana continues to provide a safe haven to a number of international terrorists and U.S. terrorist fugitives."

Make no mistake about it: Cuba believes what the FALN stands for and has a history of supporting them in very material ways. Senate hearings in 1982 revealed that Cuban intelligence helped organize the FALN terrorists and other related groups. Here are a few examples.

Cuba continues to provide asylum to FALN terrorist fugitives, including William Morales, who escaped in 1979 while serving a 99 year sentence for bombing and murder. He fled to Mexico, where he fled a policeman and was finally granted asylum by the Castro government.

Just last year, in 1998, Mr. Bielsa flew to Puerto Rico to meet with leaders of a Puerto Rican terrorist group. What I want to know is why did not the Clinton Administration automatically refuse Mr. Bielsa's visa application? Under U.S. law, the State Department cannot independently issue visas to foreigners believed to be entering the country for the purpose of hostile intelligence activity.

A 1981 State Department report says the DA was created to "centralize Cuban control over covert activities" in support of revolutionary groups in our hemisphere. Who pressured the State Department to grant this visa for Mr. Bielsa? Was it the National Security Council? If so, who pressured the NSC?

Mr. Speaker, Castro has spies here in the U.S. For example, last year 10 people allegedly operating as a spy ring for Castro were arrested and accused of collecting information on U.S. military installations and anti-Castro groups in Florida. At the same time, the arrests ended the most extensive espionage effort involving Cuban agents ever uncovered in the U.S.

U.S. Attorney Thomas Scott was quoted as saying, "In scope and in depth, it is really unparalleled in recent years. This was an attempt to strike at the very heart of our national security system."

Investigators said it was the first time in memory that a Cuba-sponsored spy ring had been dismantled in Southern Florida, even though between 200 and 300 operatives are believed to have worked with impunity in the Miami area for decades.

Our intelligence has uncovered new construction and an expansion of a Russian spy base near Havana that could endanger U.S. military operations overseas. The number of satellite dishes has doubled from three to six. Workers built new buildings, new parking lots and a swimming pool for the Russian military technicians who are now running the base. From this facility, Moscow has intercepted communications from the White House, the State Department, Washington-based international financial institutions and private U.S. companies.

In fact, the Russians had intercepted advanced word on U.S. military movements during the 1991 Persian Gulf War. And, Mr. Speaker, if that doesn't frighten the American people, China's defense minister visited Havana last year to negotiate the construction of an electronic spy base next to this Russian facility. This is not fiction from a paperback novel, Mr. Speaker.

So it is obvious why U.S. counter-intelligence believes that the Castro

government is placing their agents where they can influence policy decisions on issues affecting the Castro regime.

What decisions, you may ask?

How about granting clemency and allowing terrorists back on the streets, the FALN terrorists? Many in Congress have opinions about why that offer was made. Some feel it has a lot to do with what is going on New York politics today, but maybe there is more to it.

What other kinds of policy decisions would Castro want to influence? How about easing the restrictions on the U.S. embargo on Cuba? The U.S. embargo was instituted to pressure the Castro regime to abandon its dictatorial and subversive ways. Castro has been able to stay in power because the embargo was not strong enough and because of massive Soviet subsidies.

The collapse of the USSR triggered a 60 percent contraction of the Cuban economy, proving the utter bankruptcy of Castro's policies. In addition, passage of both the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992 by this Congress, the Toricelli Act, and the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act of 1995, the Helms-Burton law, have further tightened U.S. policy on the totalitarian dictatorship of Fidel Castro.

These factors, as well as the complete weariness and disgust of the Cuban people with Castro, indicate that time is running out on the dictatorship in Cuba, but not if Castro can send his highest ranking spy to Washington and influence key officials to ease that embargo.

Is it working? Well, let us just see.

Earlier this year the White House expanded commercial flights to Cuba. The President allowed U.S. residents, not just those with family in Cuba, to send larger amounts of money to individual households, which simply gives Castro the hard currency he needs to prop up his communist regime. He allowed direct mail service between our countries, the President did, and finally he has authorized the sale of food and agriculture products to "private companies" in Cuba.

One more policy decision that could be influenced should be considered. Only December 3, 1998, a 7.2 metric ton cocaine shipment bound for a state-owned company, Union del Plastico, in Havana, Cuba, was seized by Colombian National Police in Cartagena, Colombia. The consigned company was a joint venture with two minority Spanish partners, who contend they were not partners, but rather shipping and purchasing agents for the Cuban government.

Cuban "spin" started the day after the seizure with Castro's anti-narcotics police searching the company's premises with drug dogs and coming up with no traces of drugs there whatsoever.

Cuban police claimed the shipment was destined for Spain, without any proof. Castro made a speech on January 4, 1999, identifying the two Spaniards as the culprits in this scheme

which had been alleged to operate without his government's knowledge and complicity. That is baloney. The U.S. State Department has bought this story from Castro and accepted his claims as evidence and proclaims the shipment was headed for Spain.

However, two House committees and one Senate committee have conducted a thorough investigation into this shipment and determined the shipment was likely headed to the United States, 7.2 metric tons of cocaine through Mexico. The Cuban company has a subsidiary, Plastimex. There is a company bearing that name located right across the U.S. border in Juarez, Mexico.

Regardless of the final destination, the 7.2 tons of cocaine, Cuba, as a recipient of this shipment, should meet the criteria to be placed on the major list of countries who traffic or transit illicit narcotics.

The Cuban government has been complicit in drug trafficking for decades as a method of collecting much-needed hard currency to keep Fidel Castro's regime in power.

As a matter of fact, Raul Castro, Fidel's brother, is under indictment for drug trafficking in Miami, Florida. So, influencing decisions to keep Cuba off the major's list and look the other way on drug trafficking would sure help Castro, and it is working.

The Clinton Administration is assisting Castro in his coverup by sending two Coast Guard personnel to Havana to help promote the image that Fidel Castro is getting tough on drugs, and this is simply not the case. It is a public relations campaign by the Castro regime to repair its tarnished image on the drug front.

The Clinton Administration is doing nothing but strengthening Castro's position. Clearly this 7.2 ton drug seizure should place Cuba squarely on the major's list.

Not to mention the increased overflights of Cuba by drug trafficking planes, which have been unchallenged by Fidel Castro. Also drug trafficking fast boats into Cuban territorial water go without a challenge from the Cuban navy.

It seems strange that the Cuban Air Force can shoot down two unarmed American civilian planes out of the sky and Castro's Navy can sink a tugboat full of innocent women and children, yet they cannot respond to the hundreds of increased drug trafficking activities in Cuban air space and territorial waters.

Mr. Speaker, the granting of a visa for Mr. Garcia Bielsa is an affront to the national security of the United States. The American people will be outraged when they learn that a top Cuban spy known for his support of terrorism and espionage is allowed to set up shop real close to the White House here in Washington.

Why should Mr. Bielsa be allowed to live and work in Washington, D.C.? The Cuban Interests Section, as I said, is not in need of personnel. Quite the op-

posite. Prior to 1994, the Cuban Interests Section contained 24 staff and, according to the Cuban-American National Foundation, nearly all of whom were intelligence agents.

According to the Congressional sources today, the espionage presence in the Cuban Interests Section is nearly doubled. Granting a visa to Mr. Garcia Bielsa is more than misguided, because this man and his mission here pose a real threat to our Nation's security right here in the United States.

Mr. Garcia Bielsa is not just an ordinary Cuban citizen or a visiting diplomat. He is a principal spy and a leader within Castro's inner circle. With Mr. Bielsa using Washington, D.C. as a base of operations, Castro's campaign to discredit the U.S. and our commitment against communism has been invigorated.

I believe Mr. Garcia Bielsa's presence in Washington, D.C. will, without a doubt, enhance Castro's ongoing operations against the United States. That is why I sent a letter, along with four of my colleagues, to Secretary of State Madeleine Albright expressing our concerns over these troubling reports. We also asked her to provide us with answers to a few simple questions.

First, why were the views of the Federal Bureau of Investigation not respected in the decision to grant a U.S. visa to Mr. Bielsa?

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Second, has any representative of the Department of Justice or the FBI provided any information to the State Department regarding Mr. Garcia Bielsa's anti-U.S. espionage spying or pro-terrorism activities? Did this information talk of his contact with Puerto Rican terrorists or so-called nationalist groups?

Three, if the State Department did have knowledge of Mr. Garcia Bielsa's activities, who instructed his visa be accepted?

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I hope we receive accurate and helpful responses to these questions because we now know that China has stolen classified information on every thermonuclear warhead in the U.S. ballistic missile arsenal, including the W-88 warhead, our most modern warhead; we also know that Chinese penetration of our national weapons labs spans at least the past several decades and certainly continues today; finally, because the Chinese Government used illegal fundraising channels in this country to influence the 1996 presidential elections.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the time has come for our government to cease and desist with these shortcuts that have led to a breach of our national security and initiate a more rigorous system of scrutinizing the campaigns of hostile nations against the U.S., and I believe that Mr. Bielsa's visa should not be approved.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2981. An act to extend energy conservation programs under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act through March 31, 2000.

INDONESIA'S SHAMEFUL MILITARY OCCUPATION OF EAST TIMOR AND WEST PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I have entitled my remarks tonight to my colleagues and to my fellow Americans as Indonesia's Shameful Military Occupation of East Timor and West Papua New Guinea, or also known as Irian Jaya.

Mr. Speaker, this week the House of Representatives considered legislation, House Resolution 292, expressing its position with regards to the tragic crisis in East Timor, Indonesia.

I want to commend the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on International Relations of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON), for bringing to the floor this important measure regarding the recent dire developments in East Timor.

I would further deeply commend the chairman and ranking member of the House Committee on International Relations Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), for introducing the resolution and their considerable work on it. I am honored to be an original cosponsor of House Resolution 292.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to commend the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY) for introducing H.R. 2895, a bill that will cut off all U.S. bilateral and multilateral agreements with Indonesia if the Indonesian government fails to implement and support the United Nation's supervised plebiscite which resulted in a vote of over 78 percent of the voters of East Timor in favor of total independence from the government of Indonesia.

The bill of the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY) has strong bipartisan support by both Republicans and Democrats, and I am honored to have also been an original cosponsor of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, like many of our colleagues, I am greatly disturbed and saddened by the brutal, violent response of the pro-Jakarta militia and Indonesian military to the overwhelming force for independence demonstrated by the courageous people of

East Timor. However, I am not at all surprised at the rampant killings, Mr. Speaker, as the Indonesian military has routinely used violence as a tool of repression.

Although the Timorese struggle for self-determination has received much publicity, Mr. Speaker, scant attention has been paid to the people of West Papua New Guinea who have similarly struggled to throw off the yoke of Indonesian colonialism.

As in East Timor, Indonesia took West Papua New Guinea by force in 1963. In a truly pathetic episode, the United Nations in 1969 sanctioned a fraudulent referendum where only 1,025 delegates that were handpicked and paid off by the Jakarta government were permitted to participate in a so-called independence vote. The rest of the West Papua New Guinea people, well over 800,000 strong, Mr. Speaker, had absolutely no voice in the undemocratic process.

Since Indonesia subjugated West Papua New Guinea, the native Papuan people have suffered under one of the most repressive and unjust systems of colonial occupation in the 20th century.

Like in East Timor where 200,000 East Timorese have died, the Indonesian military has been brutal in West Papua New Guinea. Reports estimate that between 100,000 to 200,000 West Papuans have died or simply vanished at the hands of the Indonesian military.

While we search for justice and peace in East Timor, Mr. Speaker, we should not forget the violent tragedy that continues to play out today in West Papua New Guinea.

I would urge our colleagues and our great Nation and the international community to revisit the status of West Papua New Guinea to ensure that justice is also achieved there.

Mr. Speaker, with respect to the events of the past weeks, the Indonesian government should be condemned in the strongest terms for allowing untold atrocities to be committed against the innocent, unarmed civilians of East Timor. I commend President Clinton for terminating all assistance to and ties with the Indonesian military. United Nations estimates that there are over 300,000 Timorese, in excess of a third of the population of East Timor, have been displaced and it remains to be seen how many hundreds, if not thousands, have been killed in the mass bloodletting and carnage by the Indonesian military and its militia.

Mr. Speaker, a couple of days ago, the United Nations Human Rights Commission voted for an international inquiry into the atrocities committed in East Timor. The call for an international war crimes tribunal to punish those responsible for the atrocities should be heeded, even if it implicates the top military leadership of Jakarta.

I strongly supported the intervention of the United Nations-endorsed multi-

national force in East Timor, and I am heartened at their arrival in Dili last week. Although only 5,000 of the 7,500 troop peacekeeping is presently there in East Timor, they have already had a significant effect in stabilizing the situation and restoring order in Dili.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the government of Australia for its leadership with the multinational force and recognize the important and substantial troop contributions of Thailand to the peacekeeping effort.

While I believe America's role in the peacekeeping mission should have been greater, certainly the contribution of the U.S. airlift and logistical support has been invaluable. If Australia, Thailand and our allies call upon us and it is necessary that the United States play a more substantial role in the peacekeeping effort, I submit, Mr. Speaker, even if it means the contribution of a small contingency of ground troops which could easily be drawn from our reserves of the U.S. Marines in Okinawa, after all, Mr. Speaker, is this not the very reason why we have troops located in the Asia-Pacific region, and that is to provide stability and order in that region of the world?

Mr. Speaker, with Indonesia being the fourth largest nation and the largest Muslim country in the world, which sits astride the major sea-lanes of communications and trade, certainly we do have a substantial national interest in preserving stability in Indonesia and Southeast Asia as well.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join my colleagues in adoption of legislation that touches on all of the foregoing concerns. It is appropriate that the House finally speak as a body in addressing the tremendous evil perpetrated against the free citizens of East Timor by the Indonesian military.

Mr. Speaker, we and our colleagues must do all we can to assist the recovery of the Timorese people and to support their struggle for freedom, economic self-sufficiency and democracy.

Mr. Speaker, if I may borrow the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who said in part, "I refuse to accept despair as the final response to the ambiguities of history. I refuse to accept the idea that the isness of man's present nature makes him morally incapable of reaching up for the eternal oughtness that forever confronts them."

As a nation and as a world we have watched as East Timor and West Papua New Guinea have struggled for independent and self-determination. As a government, we have known the ambiguities of colonialist history. Indonesia, a former Dutch colony, was granted independence by the Netherlands in 1949. In its own act of colonial aggression, Indonesia then demanded all former territories of the Dutch East Indies and the Portuguese Colonial Empires, including West Papua New Guinea and East Timor. When Indonesia's demands were not met, the Indonesian military troops slaughtered

and murdered some 100,000 West Papua New Guineans and also slaughtered and murdered over 200,000 East Timorese. The world stood in silence while the slaughter continued.

Mr. Speaker, we have known the isness and the oughtness of what now confronts our collective conscience.

Like Conrad notes in the book, *The Heart of Darkness*, and I quote, "The conquest of the earth, which mostly means the taking it away from those who have a different complexion or slightly flatter noses than ourselves, is not a pretty thing when you look into it too much."

Mr. Speaker, "when you look into it too much," the world ought to be a better place than what it is.

Mr. Speaker, I know much has been written and said about what now confronts us in the conflict of East Timor. As Mahatma Ghandi once said, and I quote, "I have nothing new to say. The principles of truth and nonviolence are as old as mountains."

Sometimes, Mr. Speaker, it serves us well to be reminded of the principles of goodness espoused by those who have lived the struggle and overcome. So today, I speak not as a representative with something new to say, but as a human being who wants to associate himself with a brotherhood and sisterhood of good.

To the people of East Timor who seek to be free, I add my voice of support and condemn the government of Indonesia for denying East Timor its inalienable right to self-determination. To the good people of West Papua New Guinea, who also seek to be free from Indonesian colonial rule, I rise to share some 36 years of your pain and your suffering and of the slaughter and the murderings of your people by the Indonesian military.

Mr. Speaker, there is consensus that the Island of New Guinea was settled by a people from West Africa. In 1883, the Island of New Guinea came under colonial rule and was partitioned by three western powers. The Dutch claimed the western half while the British and the Germans divided the eastern half.

In 1949, the Dutch granted independence to the colonies of the former Dutch East Indies, including the Republic of Indonesia, but the Dutch retained West Papua New Guinea and in 1950 supposedly prepared the territory for independence.

Indonesia, however, under the leadership of military Dictator Sukarno sent troops over and militarily occupied West Papua, and to this day West Papua continues to exist under military rule.

Mr. Speaker, in 1962, the United States mediated an agreement between Indonesia and the Netherlands, minus West Papuan representation, of course. Under terms of the agreement, the Dutch would leave West Papua and transfer sovereignty to the United Nations Temporary Executive Authority, known as UNTEA, for a period of 6

years, after which time a national election would be held to determine West Papua's political status. But almost immediately after this agreement was reached, Indonesia violated the terms of the transfer and took over the administration of West Papua from the UNTEA.

In 1969, Indonesia orchestrated an election that many regarded as a brutal military operation. In what came to be known as an "act of no-choice," where 1,025 elders under heavy military surveillance were selected to vote on behalf of 809,327 West Papuans on the territory's political status. United Nations Ambassador Ortiz-Sanz, who was sent to West Papua to observe the process, issued the following statement, and I quote, "I regret to have to express my reservation regarding the implementation of article XXII of the Agreement relating to the rights, including the rights of free speech, freedom of movement and of assembly of the inhabitants of the area. In spite of my constant efforts, this important provision was not fully implemented and the Indonesian administration exercised at all times a tight political control over the population."

Mr. Speaker, despite Ambassador Ortiz-Sanz' report, the United Nations sanctioned Indonesia's position and on September 10, 1969, West Papua became a province of the Indonesian military rule.

□ 2045

Mr. Speaker, there is some speculation surrounding the extent of U.S. involvement with respect to the West Papua/Indonesian settlement. In late 1961, a Robert H. Johnson of the National Security Council staff wrote a letter to Mr. Bundy, the President's Special Assistant for National Security Council Affairs, concerning the conflict between Indonesia and the Netherlands.

Mr. Johnson wrote in part, and I quote, "The U.S. has a general interest in eliminating this irritant in international relations involving two free world countries. But its more basic interests are two: (a) to eliminate this issue from Indonesian politics where it has diverted the country from constructive tasks, has been used by Sukarno as a means of frustrating opposition to himself, and has been exploited by the large local Communist party" and by the Soviet Union "(b) to avoid a military clash because such a clash would probably strengthen Communist forces within Indonesia. The loss of Indonesia could be as significant as the loss of mainland Southeast Asia and would make defense of the latter considerably more difficult. If the above analysis is correct, we must conclude that it is in our interests that a solution be devised which will lead to accession of West New Guinea to Indonesia."

Mr. Speaker, in other words, it was our national policy to sacrifice the lives and future of some 800,000 West

Papua New Guineans to the Indonesian military in exchange, supposedly, for Sukarno and Sukarto to become our friends, and yet organize the most repressive military regimes ever in the history of Indonesia.

Mr. Speaker, this event is perhaps the worst example of what the United Nations did by sanctioning this act of no choice against the people of west Papua New Guinea. Mr. Speaker, I call upon the United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan to take appropriate action to correct this shameful act of the United Nations took against the people of West Papua. The United Nations should call and supervise a real plebiscite like the one given to people of East Timor.

Mr. Speaker, in his 1990 statement before the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid, Nelson Mandela of South Africa said, "It will forever remain an indelible blight on human history that the apartheid crime ever occurred. Future generations will surely ask, what error was made that this system established itself in the wake of the adoption of a Universal Declaration on Human Rights."

"It will forever remain an accusation and a challenge to all men and women of conscience that it took as long as it has been before all of us stood up and to say, enough is enough."

Mr. Speaker, I cannot help but feel similarly about our own stance towards West Papua during the height of the Cold War and our continued stance at present. Geo-politics aside, since the Indonesian government seized control of West Papua, the Pupuans have suffered blatant human rights abuses, including extrajudicial executions, imprisonment, torture and, according to Afrim Djonbalic's 1998 statement to the United Nations, "environmental degradation, natural resource exploitation, and commercial dominance of immigrant communities."

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, a U.S.-based company mining copper, gold, and silver in west Papua New Guinea allegedly shares in the exploitation and abuse of Papuan lands and its people.

In West Papua, New Guinea, Mr. Speaker, Freeport-McMoRan, an American company in partnership with the Indonesian leaders and leading Australian and British mining companies, operates the world's largest gold mine and the world third largest copper mine in West Papua, New Guinea. Conservative estimates suggest that the copper reserves of Freeport are worth well over \$23 billion. The gold reserves are worth around \$15 billion. As it currently stands, the Indonesian government has approximately an 8.5 percent share in Freeport mining and Freeport pays Indonesia more money than any other company in the entire country.

Mr. Speaker, from 1969 to 1971, Freeport built a 63-mile road from the southern coast of West Papua to the Ertsberg Mountain, moving 12 million tons of earth. As Mr. Wilson describes

it in his book called *Conquest of Copper Mountain*, "At one point, we literally had to chop off the top half of a mountain." Draft author James Lang in Irian Jaya case number 157, notes that, in 1967, Freeport signed a contract with the Indonesian government to mine for copper in 10,000 hectares, not acres, Mr. Speaker, hectares, of land belonging to the indigenous Amungme tribal people. Yet, to date, this report was in 1996, Mr. Speaker, Freeport's control has extended over three times as much land, and the company has no policy of commitment or royalty distribution to the local community.

With the construction of a new city for its employees, Freeport mining company will take an additional 25,000 hectares of land from the Amungme tribe. Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, Freeport recently opened a new mine and Grasberg just two kilometers from the Timika site. Resting on 2.6 million hectares, again, Mr. Speaker, not acres, hectares of land acquired from Indonesia in 1991, the new mine will increase its output to 900 million pounds of copper and 1.1 million ounces of gold, making it the world's single biggest mining operation.

In 1977, Mr. Speaker, the Amungme Tribe put in a claim for compensation for their lost land which the Indonesian government promptly and simply rejected. As spokesman for the Free Papua Movement summarized the situation, and I quote, "Since Freeport signed contracts in 1967, it has regarded this land as not belonging to our people . . . the Indonesia Constitution considers it state land and any companies made by the Amungme people" are declared "as terrorist action."

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Robert Bryce, contributing editor for the *Austin Chronicle*, noted in *Mother Jones*, this is an article in 1996, "Freeport's Grasberg mine is essentially grinding the Indonesian mountain into dust, skimming off the precious metals, and dumping the remainder into the Ajkwa River. The pulverized rock (called 'tailings') has created a wasteland in the river valley below. By its own estimates, the company will dump more than 40 million tons of tailings into the river this year alone," Mr. Speaker.

"The mine's tailings have already 'severely impacted' more than 11 square miles of rainforest, according to the 1996 Dames & Moore environmental audit. The report, endorsed by Freeport, also estimates that over the life of the mine some 3.2 billion tons of waste rock, a great part of which generates acid, will be dumped into the local river system."

"At present," Mr. Speaker, "the company mines 125,000 tons of ore each day. The company intends to increase that amount to 190,000 tons per day. At that rate, Mr. Speaker, Freeport will dump enough tailings in the Ajkwa River to fill Houston's Astrodome every 3 weeks."

Mr. Speaker, from the University of Chicago, Mr. Marina Peterson writes in

a stated report in 1996, "Specific allegations have been made to Freeport's direct association with human rights abuses undertaken by the Indonesian government on Freeport land. Freeport facilities are policed both by Freeport security and the Indonesian military; Freeport feeds, houses, and provides transportation for the Indonesian military; and after any incidence of indigenous resistance against Freeport, the military responds while Freeport looks on.

"In 1977, when West Papuans attacked Freeport facilities, the Indonesian military bombed the natives using U.S.-made Broncos and a Freeport employee sent an anonymous letter to Tapol on August 6, 1977, writing 'any native who is seen is shot dead on the spot.' The Obliteration of a People," dated 1983. Although Freeport likes to shift blame onto the Indonesian government, Press reports that 'One recent Western traveler was told by a Freeport security employee that he and his coworkers amuse themselves by shooting randomly at passing tribesmen and watching them scurry in terror into the woods and Amnesty International reported that the military used steel containers from Freeport to incarcerate indigenous people.'

Mr. Speaker, it might be fair at this point to note that West Papuans differ racially from the majority of Indonesians. West Papuans are Melanesian, believed to be of African descent. In 1990, Nelson Mandela reminded the United Nations that when "it first discussed the South African question in 1946, it was discussing the issue of racism." I cannot help but wonder, Mr. Speaker, if what we are now discussing is the issue of racism in West Papua New Guinea. As Mahatma Gandhi said, "Till we are fully free, we are slaves."

Mr. Speaker, ultimately I believe in the goodness of people and in the goodness of the Members of this body. I believe that, as we are made aware of human suffering and gross injustice, we will rise to say enough is enough.

It was not so long ago that Nelson Mandela stood before us in a joint session of Congress, some 9 years ago as I recall, Mr. Speaker, and commented on our stand against apartheid. "The stand you took established the understanding among the millions of our people that here we have friends, here we have fighters against racism, who feel hurt because we are hurt, who seek our success because they, too, seek the victory of democracy over tyranny."

Mr. Speaker, let the people of West Papua know that here, too, they have friends, here, too, they have fighters against racism, who feel hurt because they are hurt. Let them know that we seek their success because we, too, seek the victory of democracy over tyranny. Let us go out this evening with that determination, Mr. Speaker.

Again, I love to share with my colleagues another quote from Martin Luther King, Jr. who said in part, "I refuse to accept the view that mankind

is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war, that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality. I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere have dignity, equality, and freedom for their spirits. I believe that what self-centered men have torn down, men other-centered can build up. I still believe that one day mankind will bow before the alters of God and be crowned triumphant over war and bloodshed, and nonviolent redemptive goodwill will proclaim the rule of the land. I still believe that we shall overcome."

That quote, by the way, Mr. Speaker, was part of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s speech that he made when he accepted the Nobel Prize for the promotion of peace in 1964.

Mr. Speaker, I was in high school then. It was a little high school in the State of Hawaii. It was named Kahuku High School. My high school is among the smallest in number in the State of Hawaii, but Kahuku High School never lacked in size and fierceness when it came to football players.

I was in high school, and our Nation had just elected a new President. I remember well the most profound statement that, to this day, is quoted by people and leaders throughout the world. It was President Kennedy who did not mince his words when he said it in his inaugural address, and I quote, "Let every Nation know that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, to assure the survival and success of liberty."

Mr. Speaker, there are close parallels between our country and the colonies of East Timor and West Papua New Guinea. Our Nation was founded under the yoke of British colonialism. East Timor was formerly a colony of Portugal, and West Papua New Guinea was a colonial possession of the Dutch or the Netherland. But there is a slight difference, however. Unlike the 13 colonies that eventually won its independence from England, immediately following the withdrawal of Portuguese and Dutch influence from East Timor and West Papua New Guinea, respectively, the Indonesian military became the new colonial master of these two colonies.

So when we talk about colonies, Mr. Speaker, our Nation has a very real sense of appreciation what colonies are like: a constant fear of military rule by a military dictatorship, absolutely no freedom of expression, one's family and friends are not free to meet and to congregate, and even the right or privilege to petition the government for wrongdoings. One can forget about the privilege of voting freely for people of one's choice to represent you.

□ 2100

Simply put, Mr. Speaker, just kiss goodbye to democracy.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation currently is the most powerful, the most prosperous, and the only superpower remaining now since the fall of the

former Soviet Union. There are those who argue that we should stop being the policeman of the world. But if we do not assist territories like East Timor and West Papua New Guinea should we let countries like China, Iran, and Iraq to take our place?

We have actively supported the concept of regional security organizations like NATO. Why not revive the Southeast Asian Treaty Organization to serve similar functions that NATO currently provides in Europe?

Mr. Speaker, let us give heed to President Kennedy's challenge to the world and to all our fellow Americans. Let us support the cause of freedom and democracy wherever and whenever any people who live under repressive military governments seek our help.

I commend the people and the good leaders of East Timor for their long-last struggle to become a free people after some 25 years of military rule. Now I challenge my colleagues in the United Nations to do the same for the people of West Papua New Guinea who continue to live in fear of Indonesian military rule for the past 36 years, and that repressive rule still continues.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HAYES). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 2206

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HAYES) at 10 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 2336

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. REYNOLDS) at 11 o'clock and 36 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1906, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

Mr. DIAZ-BALART, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-356) on the

resolution (H. Res. 317) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 1906) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2084, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

Mr. DIAZ-BALART, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-357) on the resolution (H. Res. 318) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2084) making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

Thursday, September 30, 1999

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

House Committee ordered reported 19 sundry measures, including the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations for fiscal year 2000.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S11663–S11755

Measures Introduced: Nine bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1669–1677, S. Res. 192–193, and S. Con. Res. 58. **Page S11726**

Measures Reported: Reports were made as follows:
H.R. 858, to amend title 11, District of Columbia Code, to extend coverage under the whistleblower protection provisions of the District of Columbia Comprehensive Merit Personnel Act of 1978 to personnel of the courts of the District of Columbia, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 106–167) **Pages S11725–26**

Measures Passed:

Extending Birthday Greetings to Former President Carter: Senate agreed to S. Res. 192, extending birthday greetings and best wishes to Jimmy Carter in recognition of his 75th birthday. **Pages S11669–70**

U.S. Code Chapter 12: Senate passed S. 1606, to extend for 9 additional months the period for which chapter 12 of title 11, United States Code, is reenacted, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S11753–54**

Sessions (for Grassley) Amendment No. 1888, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S11753–54**

John Heinz Senate Fellowship Program: Committee on Rules and Administration was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 180, reauthorizing the John Heinz Senate Fellowship Program, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S11754**

Jacob K. Javits Fellowship Program: Senate agreed to S. Res. 193, to reauthorize the Jacob K. Javits Fellowship Program. **Pages S11754–55**

Energy Policy and Conservation Act Extension: Senate passed H.R. 2981, to extend energy conservation programs under the Energy Policy and Con-

servation Act through March 31, 2000, clearing the measure for the President. **Page S11755**

Labor/HHS/Education: Senate continued consideration of S. 1650, making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto:

Pages S11663–66, S11681–S11719, S11721–24

Adopted:

Graham Amendment No. 1821, to restore funding for social services block grants. (By 39 yeas to 57 nays (Vote No. 302), Senate earlier failed to table the amendment.) **Pages S11701–11, S11715–17**

Graham Amendment No. 1886 (to Amendment No. 1821), to restore funding for social services block grants. **Pages S11704–11, S11717**

Dodd Amendment No. 1813, to increase funding for activities carried out under the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990. (By 41 yeas to 54 nays (Vote No. 303), Senate earlier failed to table the amendment.) **Pages S11711–14, S11716–17**

Coverdell Amendment No. 1885 (to Amendment No. 1846), to clarify provisions relating to expenditures by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration by authorizing 50 percent of the amount appropriated that is in excess of the amount appropriated for such purpose for fiscal year 1999 to be used for compliance assistance and 50 percent of such amount for enforcement and other purposes. (By 44 yeas to 51 nays (Vote No. 304), Senate earlier failed to table the amendment.) **Pages S11695–S11701, S11717–18**

Enzi Amendment No. 1846, to clarify provisions relating to expenditures by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration by authorizing 50 percent of the amount appropriated that is in excess of the amount appropriated for such purpose for fiscal year 1999 to be used for compliance assistance and

50 percent of such amount for enforcement and other purposes.

Pages S11694–S11701, S11718

Inhofe Modified Amendment No. 1816, to express the sense of the Senate regarding payments under the prospective payment system for hospital out-patient department services under the medicare program.

Pages S11721–22

Rejected:

Boxer Amendment No. 1809, to increase funds for the 21st century community learning centers program. (By 54 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. 299), Senate tabled the amendment.)

Pages S11663–66

Hutchinson Amendment No. 1812, to provide for a transfer of funds for the consolidated health centers.

Pages S11685–94

Hutchinson Amendment No. 1834 (to Amendment No. 1812), to provide funding for the consolidated health centers. (By 50 yeas to 49 nays (Vote No. 300), Senate tabled the amendment.)

Pages S11691–93

Reid Amendment No. 1820, to increase the appropriation for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. (By 51 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. 301), Senate tabled the amendment.)

Pages S11682–85, S11714–15

Withdrawn:

Gregg Amendment No. 1810 (to Amendment No. 1809), to require that certain appropriated funds be used to carry out part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Page S11663

Reid Amendment No. 1807, to require the Secretary of Labor to issue regulations to eliminate or minimize the significant risk of needlestick injury to health care workers.

Pages S11663, S11721

Brownback Amendment No. 1833, to establish a task force of the Senate to address the societal crisis facing America.

Pages S11722–24

A unanimous-consent time agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill, with an amendment to be proposed thereto, at 9 a.m., on Friday, October 1, 1999.

Page S11755

FAA Authorization—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for the consideration of S. 82, to authorize appropriations for Federal Aviation Administration, on Monday, October 4, 1999.

Pages S11720–21

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Arthur L. Money, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

3 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

Page S11755

Messages From the House:

Page S11725

Measures Referred:

Page S11725

Enrolled Bills Presented: Page S11725

Communications: Page S11725

Executive Reports of Committees: Page S11726

Statements on Introduced Bills: Pages S11726–34

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S11734–35

Amendments Submitted: Pages S11737–51

Notices of Hearings: Page S11751

Authority for Committees: Page S11751

Additional Statements: Pages S11751–53

Record Votes: Six record votes were taken today. (Total—304) Pages S11666, S11693, S11715–17

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and adjourned at 7:51 p.m., until 9:00 a.m., on Friday, October 1, 1999. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S11755.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

WTO AGRICULTURAL TRADE AGENDA

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded hearings to review the Administration's agriculture trade agenda for the upcoming World Trade Organization meeting in Seattle, after receiving testimony from Peter Scher, Special Trade Negotiator, Office of United States Trade Representative; August Schumacher, Jr., Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services; Andrew Whisenhunt, Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation, Bradley, on behalf of the American Farm Bureau Federation; Leland Swenson, National Farmers Union, Nicholas D. Giordano, National Pork Producers Council, Janet A. Nuzum, International Dairy Foods Association, and Allen F. Johnson, National Oilseed Processors Association, all of Washington, D.C.; and Kyle Phillips, Knoxville, Iowa, on behalf of the National Corn Growers Association.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Thomas B. Leary, of the District of Columbia, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner, Stephen D. Van Beek, of the District of Columbia, to be Associate Deputy Secretary of Transportation, Michael J. Frazier, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation, Gregory Rohde, of North Dakota, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, Linda Joan Morgan, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation

Board, and lists for promotion in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the United States Coast Guard.

MOTOR VEHICLE RENTAL FAIRNESS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs, Foreign Commerce, and Tourism concluded hearings on S. 1130, to amend title 49, United States Code, with respect to liability of motor vehicle rental or leasing companies for the negligent operation of rented or leased motor vehicles, after receiving testimony from Sharon Faulkner, Premier Car Rental Company, Albany, New York; Ken Elder, Welcome Corporation, Alexandria, Virginia; Raymond T. Wagner, Jr., Enterprise Rent-A-Car Company, St. Louis, Missouri; and Larry S. Stewart, Stewart, Tilghman, Fox and Bianchi, Miami, Florida, on behalf of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America.

FOREST RESOURCES FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Forests and Public Land Management concluded hearings on S. 1457, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to assess opportunities to increase carbon storage on national forests derived from the public domain and to facilitate voluntary and accurate reporting of forest projects that reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations, after receiving testimony from Robert Lewis, Jr., Deputy Chief, Research and Development, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; Gerald J. Gray, American Forests, Washington, D.C.; James F. Cathcart, Oregon Department of Forestry, Salem; E. Austin Short, III, Delaware Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Dover, on behalf of the National Association of State Foresters; and William H. Banzhaf, Society of American Foresters, Bethesda, Maryland.

CORRUPTION IN RUSSIA

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded hearings to examine the extent of the corruption in the Russian political and economic system, and the future status of United States and Russian relations, after receiving testimony from Peter Reddaway, George Washington University Institute for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies, Thomas E. Graham, Jr., Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and James O. Finckenauer, Rutgers University School of Criminal Justice, all of Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S.J. Res. 3, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to protect the rights of crime victims; and

The nominations of Robert Raben, of Florida, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Robert S. Mueller, III, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of California, and John Hollingsworth Sinclair, to be United States Marshal for the District of Vermont, all of the Department of Justice.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Small Business: On Wednesday, September 29, Committee ordered favorably reported S. 791, to amend the Small Business Act with respect to the women's business center program, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to call.

GLOBAL TRANSPORTATION Y2K IMPACT

Special Committee on the Year 2000 Technology Problem: Committee concluded hearings to examine how the Year 2000 problem may interfere with the global network of transportation systems and what steps Governments, industry, and trade associations are taking to minimize the potential impact, after receiving testimony from Mortimer L. Downey, Deputy Secretary, Kenneth M. Mead, Inspector General, Jane F. Garvey, Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration, and Rear Adm. George N. Naccara, Chief Information Officer, United States Coast Guard, all of the Department of Transportation; Peter Cooke, British Airways, Harmondsworth, England; David Z. Plavin, Airports Council International-North America, and Thomas Windmuller, International Air Transport Association, both of Washington, D.C.; Edward Smart, International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations, Montreal, Quebec; and Richard T. du Moulin, Marine Transport Corporation, Weehawken, New Jersey, on behalf of the International Association of Independent Tanker Owners.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Bills Introduced: 13 public bills, H.R. 2978–2990; and 1 resolution, H. Con. Res. 190, were introduced. Pages H9076–77

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 354, to amend title 17, United States Code, to provide protection for certain collections of information, amended (H. Rept. 106–349, Pt. 1);

H.R. 1858, to promote electronic commerce through improved access for consumers to electronic databases, including securities market information databases, amended (H. Rept. 106–350, Pt. 1);

H.R. 1663, to designate as a national memorial the memorial being built at the Riverside National Cemetery in Riverside, California to honor recipients of the Medal of Honor, amended (H. Rept. 106–351);

H.J. Res. 65, commending the World War II veterans who fought in the Battle of the Bulge, amended (H. Rept. 106–352, Pt. 1);

H.R. 1300, to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to promote brownfields redevelopment, to reauthorize and reform the Superfund program, amended (H. Rept. 106–353, Pt. 1);

Conference report on H.R. 1906, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000 (H. Rept. 106–354);

Conference report on H.R. 2084, making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000 (H. Rept. 106–355);

H. Res. 317, waiving points of order against the conference report on H.R. 1906, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000 (H. Rept. 106–356); and

H. Res. 318, waiving points of order against the conference report on H.R. 2084, making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000 (H. Rept. 106–357). Pages H9075–H9173

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest Chaplain, Rev. Darrell Darling of Santa Cruz, California. Page H9025

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal of Sept. 29, 1999 by yeas and nays

of 362 yeas to 52 nays with 1 voting "present", Roll No. 461. Pages H9025, H9031–32

Social Security Advisory Board: Upon the recommendation of the Minority Leader, the Speaker appointed Ms. Martha Keys of Virginia to the Social Security Advisory Board. Page H9029

National Transportation Safety Board Amendments Act: The House passed H.R. 2910, to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the National Transportation Safety Board for fiscal years 2000, 2001, 2002 by a yeas and nays vote of 420 yeas to 4 nays, Roll No. 462. Pages H9032–40

Agreed to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order by the rule. Page H9039

Agreed to the Weiner amendment that strikes section 10 dealing with doppler weather radar. Pages H9038–39

H. Res. 312, the rule that provided for consideration of the bill was agreed to by a yeas and nays vote of 420 yeas with none voting "nays", Roll No. 460. Pages H9029–31

Unborn Victims of Violence Act: The House passed H.R. 2436, to amend title 18, United States Code, and the Uniform Code of Military Justice to protect unborn children from assault and murder by a yeas and nays vote of 254 yeas to 172 nays, Roll No. 465. Pages H9044–73

Agreed to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order by the rule. Page H9072

Agreed to the Canady amendment that makes conforming changes to section 3 amending the Uniform Code of Military Justice, clarifies that the punishment is in lieu of that otherwise provided, and broadens the exemption for abortion-related conduct to include a surrogate decision maker who acts on behalf of the pregnant woman (agreed to by a recorded vote of 269 yeas to 158 noes, Roll No. 463). Pages H9063–64, H9071–72

Rejected the Lofgren amendment in the nature of a substitute that establishes a Federal crime for any violent or assaultive conduct against a pregnant woman that interrupts or terminates her pregnancy (rejected by a recorded vote of 201 yeas to 224 noes, Roll No. 464). Pages H9064–72

H. Res. 313, the rule that provided for consideration of the bill was agreed to by voice vote. Pages H9040–44

Extension of Energy Conservation Programs: The House passed H.R. 2981, to extend energy conservation programs under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act through March 31, 2000.

Pages H9073–74

Recess: The House recessed at 9:02 p.m. and reconvened at 10:06 p.m.

Recess: The House recessed at 10:07 p.m. and reconvened at 11:36 p.m.

Senate Messages: Message received from the Senate appears on page H9025.

Referrals: S. 1051 was referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Four yea and nay votes and two recorded votes developed during the proceedings of the House today and appear on pages H9030–31, H9031–32, H9039–40, H9071–72, H9072, and H9073. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10:00 a.m. and adjourned at 11:38 p.m.

Committee Meetings

LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Ordered reported the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations for fiscal year 2000.

ANTHRAX VACCINE IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Military Personnel held a hearing on the Department of Defense Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: John Hamre, Deputy Secretary; Gen. Anthony Zinni, USMC Commander in Chief, U.S. Central Command; Gen. John Keane, USA, Vice Chief of Staff, Army; Dave Oliver, Principal Deputy Under Secretary, Acquisition and Technology; Lt. Gen. Ronald R. Blanck, USA, Surgeon General, Army; Lt. Col. Redmond Handy, USAF (ret.); Maj. Jeffrey Jeffords, USAF, 164th Airlift Wing, Tennessee Air National Guard; Master Sgt. William Colley, USAF, 137th Airlift Wing, Oklahoma Air National Guard; Col. Myron G. Ashcraft, USAF, Chief of Staff, Headquarters Ohio Air National Guard; Lt. (jg) Chris Rohrbach, USN, Assistant Officer in Charge, Bravo Platoon, Group 8, Little Creek, Virginia; and Gunnery Sgt. Larry Miyamoto, USMC, Chemical Biological Incident Response Force, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Commerce: Subcommittee on Health and Environment approved for full Committee action the following bills: H.R. 2634, amended, Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 1999; H.Res. 278, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the importance of education, early detection and treatment, and other efforts in the fight against breast cancer; H.R. 1070, to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide medical assistance for certain women screened and found to have breast or cervical cancer under a federally funded screening program; H.R. 2418, amended, Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network Amendments of 1999; and H.R. 11, amended, to amend the Clean Air Act to permit the exclusive application of California State regulations regarding reformulated gas in certain areas within the State.

SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES INTERNET ACCESS ACT

Committee on Commerce: Subcommittee on Telecommunications, Trade, and Consumer Protection held a hearing on H.R. 1746, Schools and Libraries Internet Access Act. Testimony was heard from Representatives Weller and Tancredo; Christopher J. Wright, General Counsel, FCC; Kelly Levy, Acting Associate Administrator, Office of Policy Analysis and Development, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Department of Commerce; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Government Reform: Ordered reported the following bills: H.R. 1451, amended, to establish the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission; H. Res. 279, amended, congratulating Henry “Hank” Aaron on the 25th anniversary of breaking the Major League Baseball career home run record established by Babe Ruth and recognizing him as one of the greatest baseball players of all time; H.R. 2904, amended, to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to reauthorize funding for the Office of Government Ethics; H.R. 915, amended, to authorize a cost of living adjustment in the pay of administrative law judges; H.R. 2885, amended, Statistical Efficiency Act of 1999; H.R. 1788, amended, Nazi Benefits Termination Act of 1999; H.R. 642, to redesignate the Federal building located at 701 South Santa Fe Avenue in Compton, California, and known as the Compton Main Post Office, as the “Mervyn Malcolm Dymally Post Office Building”; H.R. 643, to redesignate the Federal building located at 10301 South Compton Avenue, in Los Angeles, California, and known as the Watts Finance Office, as the “Augustus F. Hawkins Post Office Building”; H.R.

1666, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service at 200 East Pinckney Street in Madison, Florida, as the "Captain Colin P. Kelly, Jr., Post Office"; H.R. 2307, to designate the building of the United States Postal Service located at 5 Cedar Street in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, as the "Thomas J. Brown Post Office Building"; H.R. 2357, to designate the United States Post Office located at 3675 Warrensville Center Road in Shaker Heights, Ohio, as the "Louise Stokes Post Office"; H.R. 1374, amended, to designate the United States Post Office building located at 680 State Highway 130 in Hamilton, New Jersey, as the "John K. Rafferty Hamilton Post Office Building"; H.R. 2302, to designate the building of the United States Postal Service located at 307 Main Street in Johnson City, New York, as the "James W. McCabe, Sr. Post Office Building"; H.R. 2358, to designate the United States Post Office located at 3813 Main Street in East Chicago, Indiana, as the "Lance Corporal Harold Gomez Post Office"; H.R. 2460, to designate the United States Post Office located at 125 Border Avenue West in Wiggins, Mississippi, as the "Jay Hanna 'Dizzy' Dean Post Office"; H.R. 2591, to designate the United States Post Office located at 713 Elm Street in Wakefield, Kansas, as the "William H. Avery Post Office"; and H.R. 2938, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 424 South Michigan Street in South Bend, Indiana, as the "John Brademas Post Office".

GRANT WAIVERS

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on National Economic Growth, Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs and the Subcommittee on Government Management, Information, and Technology held a joint hearing on Grant Waivers: H.R. 2376, to require executive agencies to establish expedited review procedures for granting a waiver to a State under a grant program administered by the agency if another State has already been granted a similar waiver by the agency under such program, and Streamlining the Process. Testimony was heard from Representative Green of Wisconsin; John J. Callahan, Assistant Secretary and Chief Financial Officer, Department of Health and Human Services; Samuel Chambers, Jr., Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service, USDA; and public witnesses.

HONESTY IN SWEEPSTAKES ACT

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on Postal Service approved for full Committee action, as amended, H.R. 170, Honesty in Sweepstakes Act of 1999.

EAST TIMOR—HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

Committee on International Relations: Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights held a hearing on the Humanitarian Crisis in East Timor. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of State: Harold Hongju Koh, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor; and Julia Taft, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration; and public witnesses.

ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES IN GLOBAL AND NATIONAL COMMERCE ACT

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Courts and Intellectual Property held a hearing on H.R. 1714, Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act. Testimony was heard from Andrew Pincus, General Counsel, Department of Commerce; Ivan K. Fong, Deputy Associate Attorney General, Department of Justice; Pamela Meade Sargent, U.S. Magistrate Judge, Western District of Virginia; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime held a hearing on the following bills: H.R. 1349, Federal Prisoner Health Care Copayment Act of 1999; and H.R. 1887, to amend title 18, United States Code, to punish the depiction of animal cruelty. Testimony was heard from Representative Salmon; Philip S. Wise, Assistant Director, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims approved for full Committee action the following bills: H.R. 1520, Child Status Protection Act of 1999; H.R. 2886, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide that an adopted alien who is less than 18 years of age may be considered a child under such Act if adopted with or after a sibling who is a child under such Act; H.R. 2961, International Patient Act.

The Subcommittee also passed on for full Committee action two private relief bills.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands held a hearing on the following bills: H.R. 1864, to standardize the process for conducting public hearings for Federal agencies within the Department of the Interior; H.R. 1866, to provide a process for the public to appeal certain decisions made by the National Park Service and by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and

H.R. 2541, to adjust the boundaries of the Gulf Islands National Seashore to include Cat Island, Mississippi. Testimony was heard from Representatives Taylor of Mississippi and Underwood; the following officials of the Department of the Interior: William Shaddox, Acting Associate Director, Professional Services, National Park Service; and Juliette Falkner, Director, Office of Regulatory Affairs; and public witnesses.

DAKOTA WATER RESOURCES ACT

Committee on Resources: Subcommittee on Water and Power held a hearing on H.R. 2918, Dakota Water Resources Act of 1999. Testimony was heard from Senators Conrad and Dorgan; Representative Pomeroy; Eluid Martinez, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior; Edward P. Schafer, Governor, State of North Dakota; and public witnesses.

CONFERENCE REPORT—AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FDA, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Committee on Rules: Granted, by voice vote, a rule waiving all points of order against the conference report to accompany H.R. 1906, Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act 2000, and against its consideration. The rule provides that the conference report shall be considered as read. Testimony was heard from Representative Skeen.

CONFERENCE REPORT—TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES

Committee on Rules: Granted, by voice vote, a rule waiving all points of order against the conference report to accompany H.R. 2084, Department of Transportation and related agencies Appropriations Act 2000, and against its consideration. The rule provides that the conference report shall be considered as read. Testimony was heard from Representative Sabo.

REFORMULATED GASOLINE

Committee on Science, Subcommittee on Energy and Environment concluded hearings on Reformulated Gasoline (Part II). Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

COMPUTER SECURITY ENHANCEMENT ACT

Committee on Science: Subcommittee on Technology held a hearing on H.R. 2413, Computer Security Enhancement Act of 1999. Testimony was heard from Raymond Kammer, Director, National Institutes of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce; Keith Rhodes, Director, Office of Com-

puter and Information Technology Assessment, GAO; and public witnesses.

WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTERS SUSTAINABILITY ACT

Committee on Small Business: Ordered reported H.R. 1497, Women's Business Centers Sustainability Act of 1999.

FUTURE—WOODROW WILSON BRIDGE

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Ground Transportation held a hearing on the Future of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. Testimony was heard from Senators Warner and Robb; Representatives Davis of Virginia, Moran of Virginia, Hoyer, Wynn, Pombo and Radanovich; the following officials of the Department of Transportation: Peter J. Basso, Assistant Secretary, Budget and Programs and Chief Financial Officer; Kenneth R. Wykle, Administrator, Federal Highway Administration; and Raymond J. DeCarli, Deputy Inspector General; John D. Porcari, Secretary, Department of Transportation, State of Maryland; the following officials of the District of Columbia: Carol Schwartz, member, Council; and Vanessa Burns, Director, Department of Public Works; and public witnesses.

FINANCIAL DATA QUALITY

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Emergency Management held a hearing on Financial Data Quality. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Transportation: John L. Meche, Deputy Assistant Inspector General, Financial and Information Technology; and Jack Basso, Chief Financial Officer; the following officials of the GSA: Eugene L. Waszily, Assistant Inspector General, Auditing; and William B. Early, Jr., Chief Financial Officer; and the following officials of the EPA: James O. Rauch, Assistant Inspector General, Audit; and Sallyanne Harper, Chief Financial Officer.

VETERANS' MATTERS

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing on the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Resolution Management and the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication. Testimony was heard from Carlton Hadden, Acting Director, Office of Federal Operations, EEOC; Eugene A. Brickhouse, Assistant Secretary, Human Resources and Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

LAND USE, CONSERVATION, AND PRESERVATION—IMPACT OF TAX LAWS

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Oversight held a hearing on the Impact of Tax Laws on Land Use, Conservation, and Preservation. Testimony was heard from Representatives Johnson of Connecticut, Kanjorski, Gilchrest, Blumenauer, Pitts and Hoeffel; Leonard Burman, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Tax Analysis, Department of the Treasury; Dan W. Reicher, Assistant Secretary, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy; D. Reid Wilson, Chief of Staff, EPA; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

FINANCIAL SERVICES MODERNIZATION

Conferees continued to resolve the differences between the Senate and House passed versions of S. 900/H.R. 10, bills to enhance competition in the financial services industry by providing a prudential framework for the affiliation of banks, securities firms, and other financial service providers, but did not complete action thereon, and recessed subject to call.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D1050)

H.R. 1905, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000. Signed September 29, 1999. (P.L. 106-57)

H.R. 2490, making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000. Signed September 29, 1999. (P.L. 106-58)

S. 1637, to extend through the end of the current fiscal year certain expiring Federal Aviation Administration authorizations. Signed September 29, 1999. (P.L. 106-59)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1999

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Health, hearing on Medicare Balanced Budget Act Refinements, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9 a.m., Friday, October 1

Senate Chamber

Program for Friday: Senate will continue consideration of S. 1650, Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations. Also, Senate will consider any conference reports when available.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Friday, October 1

House Chamber

Program for Friday: Consideration of the conference report on H.R. 1906, Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations 2000 (rule waiving points of order);

Consideration of the conference report on H.R. 2084, Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act Conference Report, 2000 (rule waiving points of order);

Consideration of the conference report on H.R. 2606, Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Conference Report, 2000 (rule waiving points of order); and

Go to Conference on H.R. 2466, Department of Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2000.



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