

PROVIDING FOR CONCURRENCE BY HOUSE WITH AMENDMENT IN SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 4868, TARIFF SUSPENSION AND TRADE ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4868, the Miscellaneous Trade and Technical Corrections Act. This legislation is of great importance and its passage must be concluded rapidly in order to be voted on by the 106th Congress.

This legislation contains vital provisions from H.R. 1622, the Dog and Cat Protection Act, a bill which bans the import, export, and sale of products containing dog and cat fur. This issue is of the highest moral imperative. An estimated 2 million dogs and cats are killed each year for their fur as part of the international fur trade. These animals are kept in deplorable conditions, subjected to unbearable treatment and face brutal deaths including clubbing and skinning alive. This abuse of animal rights must be stopped.

There is strong support for this legislation in Congress. The Dog and Cat Protection Act has broad bipartisan backing and 93 cosponsors. The Miscellaneous Trade and Technical Corrections Act was approved unanimously by both the House and the Senate. The concern for animal welfare is also shared by the American people. Over 65 million households have a dog or cat. In my own district of Cleveland, Ohio a local Television report by Dick Goddard succeeded in raising public awareness on this issue. His commendable work encouraged thousands of Cleveland residents to express their opposition to this abusive treatment of animals.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge Congress to finish the Conference Report on H.R. 4868, and allow a vote on this vital piece of legislation. I believe that every effort should be made to ensure that the 106th Congress is allowed to vote on this issue. Americans deserve to be protected from unknowingly participating in this brutal trade.

NATIONAL SCIENCE EDUCATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to reject the National Science Act (H.R. 4271), which violates the limits on congressional power found in Article 1, section 8 and the 10th amendment to the Constitution by using tax monies unjustly taken from the American people to promote the educational objectives favored by a few federal politicians and bureaucrats. As an OB-GYN, I certainly recognize the importance of increasing the quality of science education as well as undertaking efforts to interest children in the sciences. However, while I share the goals of the drafters of this legislation, I recognize that

Congress has no constitutional authority to single out any one academic discipline as deserving special emphasis. Instead, the decision about which subjects to emphasize should be made by local officials, educators and parents.

H.R. 4271 not only singles out science for special emphasis, certain positions of the bill will lead to a national science curriculum. For instance, the bill calls for the Department of Education and the National Science Foundation to coordinate and disseminate information on "standard" math and science curricula as well as licensing requirements for teachers of math, science, engineering or technology. While local school districts are not forced to adopt these standards, local schools will be pressured to adopt these standards because they are the ones favored by their DC-based overlords. I would also ask the drafters of this bill what purpose is served by spending taxpayer moneys to create and disseminate a model curriculum at the federal level if their intent is not to have local schools adopt the federally-approved model?

I also object to the provision of this bill providing special assistance to science teachers for training and professional development as well as grants for so-called "Master Teachers." Of course, I recognize that, like other citizens, teachers are underpaid because they are overtaxed. This is why I have introduced the Teacher Tax Cut Act (H.R. 937) which provides all teachers with a \$1,000 tax credit. H.R. 937 effectively raises teacher salaries by lowering their taxes. In contrast H.R. 4271 raises the salaries of certain congressionally-favored educators by effectively cutting the pay of engineers, doctors, truck drivers, waiters, and even their fellow educators. Mr. Speaker, I cannot find any constitutional nor moral justification for Congress to redistribute money to any favorite class of professionals.

If the steady decline of America's education system over the past thirty years has shown us anything, it is that centralizing control leads to a declining education system. In fact, according to a recent Manhattan Institute study of the effects of state policies promoting parental control over education, a minimal increase in parental control boosts students' average SAT verbal score by 21 points and students' SAT math score by 22 points! The Manhattan Institute study also found that increasing parental control of education is the best way to improve student performance on the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) tests. Clearly, the drafters of the Constitution knew what they were doing when they forbade the Federal Government from meddling in education.

In order to put education resources back into the hands of the American people I have introduced the Family Education Freedom Act (H.R. 935). This act provides a \$3,000 per child tax credit for parents to help cover K-12 education expenses. I have also introduced the Education Improvement Tax Cut Act (H.R. 936), which provides a \$3,000 tax deduction for contributions to K-12 education scholarships as well as for cash or in-kind donations to private or public schools. HRs 935 and 936 move control of education resources back into the hands of the American people and help ensure parents can provide their children an excellent education. In fact, since the tax credits contained in H.R. 935 and H.R. 936 may be used to help finance the purchase of items

necessary for a science education, such as labs equipment and computers, these bills will particularly benefit those citizens who wish to improve science education. I therefore urge my colleagues to reject the failed, unconstitutional command-and-control approach of H.R. 4271 and instead embrace my legislation to return control of education resources to the American people.

SUPPORTING THOSE WHO REAFFIRM THE OCCURRENCE OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my disappointment that the House of Representatives chose not to consider H. Res. 596 last Thursday. This was the second time this resolution had been pulled from consideration, despite pledges by the leadership that the US would go on record to affirm their support for the Armenian genocide. It now appears that the House will not have such an opportunity before we adjourn the 106th Congress.

This resolution recognized the suffering of nearly two million Armenians from 1915 through 1923, as the Ottoman Empire strove to wipe out an entire race of men, women, and children. Those who were not murdered were effectively removed from their homes of 2,500 years in what is now modern day Turkey.

It called upon the President of the United States to do three things. Ensure that US foreign policy reflects consideration and sensitivity for human rights, ethnic cleansing, and genocide documented in US records relating to the Armenian Genocide and the consequences of the Turkish court's failure to enforce judgments against those responsible for committing genocide; recognize, during his annual commemoration of the Armenian Genocide on April 24th, that this was a systematic and deliberate annihilation of 1,500,000 people, and reflect upon the United States' effort to intervene on behalf of Armenians during the genocide; and finally, in his annual commemoration of the Armenian Genocide, emphasize that the modern day Republic of Turkey did not conduct the Armenian Genocide, which was perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire.

It was eighty-five years ago that Ottoman leaders used the guise of war as an opportunity to eliminate the Armenian population from the Empire. What began as confiscation of Armenian property in order to "support" the war effort, ended with the murder of 1.5 million people and the deportation of 500,000 others.

In May 1915, the Allied Powers of World War I charged the Ottoman Empire with a "crime against humanity" and vowed to hold responsible those involved in committing genocide. Despite commitments by the Allied Powers and indictments by the post-war Turkish government of the top leaders involved in perpetrating the Armenian genocide and the destruction of Armenian property, justice has not been served to those responsible for the atrocities against Armenians.

It is a shame that America does not have the courage to support the 2 million Armenians that suffered through a genocide. We