

order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. OWENS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. OWENS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. HORN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. HORN 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 West Virginia [Mr. WISE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. WISE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. KIM] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. KIM 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 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 California [Mr. DORNAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. DORNAN 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 [Mr. DOGGETT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. DOGGETT 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 Kansas [Mr. BROWNBACK] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. BROWNBACK 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 Vermont [Mr. SANDERS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. SANDERS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

IMMIGRATION REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. BARR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week the Committee on the Judiciary of this 104th Congress reported out, after extended hearings and even more extended markup, immigration reform legislation which for the very first time in modern times will in fact actually substantively and positively reform both the system of illegal immigration and our efforts by this Government to combat this tremendous drain on our national resources as well as legal immigration.

I am happy to have been a part of that process, but what makes me even happier is an event that happened in my own district in Smyrna, GA, this past Monday evening. This past Monday evening, State Representative Randy Sauder pulled together for the very first time in the district—and probably for the first time in the State of Georgia—a comprehensive task force to study the effects of illegal immigration and to develop solutions to the problem of illegal immigration in our district.

Representative Sauder pulled together as members of this task force, in addition to myself and representatives from other congressional and Senatorial offices, a vast array of local and State law enforcement officials, other State representatives, municipal authorities, police chiefs, other law enforcement officials, the regional director of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, representatives of the Department of Labor, other agents and, perhaps most importantly of all, a number of private citizens who were involved with illegal immigration—combating illegal immigration—that is, in their communities and in their businesses.

And through the work of this task force, which began last Monday evening, on the eve of our historic action in the Committee on the Judiciary, passing this important legislation to be considered hopefully very soon by this very body, was a process of really coming to grips with and letting those of us in the Congress responsible for drafting the laws with regard to both legal and illegal immigration, a comprehensive look at how illegal immigration has affected and continues to adversely affect our communities in terms of the number of illegal aliens involved in criminal activity, in terms of the financial burdens placed on our communities, not just in the Seventh District of Georgia but indeed in many respects all across this country, the drain on the medical services, the drain on our welfare system and, indeed, other problems that are too lengthy to go into here this evening.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Representative Sauder for his foresightedness in recognizing this problem, in recognizing that its

solution goes far beyond the bounds of any one jurisdiction. It affects our homes, our schools, our businesses, our hospitals, our religious institutions, our local government, our State government and, indeed, all taxpayers of this country.

Through the work of Representative Sauder's task force, we hope over the next several months, Mr. Speaker, to really delve into the problem of illegal immigration and how it affects our communities. This work will be especially important to me as a Representative from the Seventh District to assist me in crafting the very best legislation possible, to identify those areas where additional work needs to be done, to helping direct precious taxpayer resources to combat the problem of illegal immigration in America. And I salute Representative Sauder for his work and look forward to working closely with him as an important part of the overall legislative effort of this Congress and future Congresses to come to grips with the crippling problem of illegal immigration in our country.

NURSING HOME STANDARDS PRESS CONFERENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it defies common sense that Republicans are stripping away basic protections for elderly residents of nursing homes, under the guise of cutting the bureaucracy. The fact of the matter is that quality standards for nursing homes are not bureaucratic and onerous, they are necessary. These regulations don't tie the hands of nursing homes, they keep nursing homes from tying the hands of seniors.

Now, I cannot believe that my Republican colleagues are deliberately trying to put nursing home residents at risk, so I must conclude that they simply don't understand how these regulations protect nursing home residents from neglect and abuse. So, let me explain, briefly, how they work in my home State of Connecticut.

As one Connecticut official comments in this article: "Without these standards and people to watch them, these situations will continue. That man might still be counting the dots on the ceiling."

The Republican Medicaid plan will mean the end of uniform safety standards for nursing home residents. It will create a patchwork of standards across the country. Some States may do a great job, others may not. For nursing home patients it will be a crap shoot. The quality of your care will depend on where you live. That's wrong. Our seniors deserve better.

Now, my Republican colleagues want the American people to believe that this budget package is about shared sacrifices for a noble purpose. But,

there is nothing shared in this sacrifice and there is nothing noble in its purpose.

This is a story from Monday's Connecticut Post which explains how these Federal protections worked for two people. It reads:

Paralyzed in a car accident, a 38-year-old man lay flat on his back for four days in a Connecticut nursing home, able only to count the dots on ceiling tiles * * *

In another Connecticut nursing home, an elderly man who suffered a sudden onset of dementia was overdressed by staff to the point where he was unrecognizable and couldn't function * * *

In both cases, it took intervention by state ombudsmen wielding copies of federal nursing home standards to correct the problems and protect the residents.

And, there is nothing revolutionary about returning America's seniors to the health care dark ages of bed restraints and mind-altering drugs.

CASTRO'S TRAVELING ROAD SHOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, this week the Nation was witness to a great traveling road show which arrived from Havana. Its main star was the Cuban tyrant Fidel Castro, in his never ending campaign to reform his image from a ruthless dictator, which he is, to a harmless politician, which he is not.

Even though Castro's acting is cruelly trite and cynically predictable, it hypnotized much of American media, business leaders and, I am disappointed to say, some Members of our body. It was quite revolting to see how this dictator, who leads a regime that our State Department characterized as "sharply restricting basic political and civil rights, including the rights of citizens to change their government, the freedoms of speech, press, association, assembly and movement, as well as the right to privacy and various workers rights," well, he was warmly greeted in the Bronx by three of my colleagues from the other side of the aisle who hail from New York City, including the dean of the city's delegation.

This group of Congressman ignored the well-known repression of the Castro regime, repression which is condemned by human rights groups like Amnesty International, which said about Castro's regime that "members of unofficial political human rights and trade union groups continue to face imprisonment, short-term detention and frequent harassment."

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Instead, the congressional groupies accepted Castro with open arms. My Democrat colleague from the Bronx hosted a rally for the dictator on Monday evening telling the Cuban tyrant that he would always be welcomed in that city. My favorite however, was an-

other Member of this body from that city's delegation who, even though she was forced to wait in line to attend the rally, stated that she did not mind waiting in line to see Fidel Castro.

You would think that such enthusiasm is reserved only for movie stars, but not in this instance. It is a shame that Members of this body carry such low respect for our democratic system that they would salivate over the leader who has gone to great extremes to destroy democracies around the world, and who still speaks negatively of political pluralism.

Sadly, another one of my colleagues has accepted Castro's invitation to travel to Cuba, along with a delegation of representatives of American corporations. How can our Federal official authorize such a business trip? Let us hop that they do not.

Mr. Speaker, similarly outrageous was the reception that the United Nations gave Castro. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali warmly embraced Castro as he entered the organization. This shameful portrayal made by the United Nations leader is symptomatic of the hypocrisy embodied in that body, as it speaks of freedom and human rights, but then goes ahead and turns its back on the millions of Cubans who suffer under Fidel Castro.

This same organization now wants to implement global taxes to fund its inefficient bureaucracy. Reports have emerged recently that the United Nations wants to implement taxes on international currency and stock transactions, as a means to gain greater revenue for its activities. This initiative would gravely affect American citizens and businesses who already are the biggest contributors to the United Nations. This is a dangerous phenomenon which grossly expands the scope and mission of the organization and one which the Congress should raise its voice against.

The great missing link in Castro's visit were questions about his regime. None of the American media, congressional Members or business leaders bothered to ask Castro about the repressive nature of his regime. Nobody asked him about the political prisoners. No one asked him about the fate of Rev. Orson Vila Santoyo, who continues imprisoned for practicing his religious faith. No one asked him of the fate of Nilvio Labrada, who was put in a mental institution for demonstration against Fidel Castro. No one asked Castro when he would leave power, conduct elections, allow freedom of expression, allow opposition on the island. Nobody. Instead, those who fraternized with Castro had a mission. Business leaders want to make a quick buck off the Cuban workers sweat in Castro's plantation economy. The media continued its romanticized description of Castro, ignoring his human rights offenses, and my liberal congressional colleagues were just willing political pawns in Castro's propaganda.

Mr. Speaker, Castro came and went but his repression against the Cuban people remains today. This should always be the bottom line when dealing with Castro, and it is unfortunate that many sold their soul to the devil for, in the end, their mission will be unsuccessful. The Cuban people will be free someday, and they will remember, together with history, who stood for freedom and who preferred to prostitute themselves to the whims of the tyrant.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. STUPAK] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. STUPAK addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

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

[Mr. PALLONE 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 Indiana [Mr. ROEMER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. ROEMER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2020, TREASURY, POSTAL SERVICE, AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

Mr. LIGHTFOOT submitted the following conference report and statement on the bill (H.R. 2020) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the U.S. Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain independent agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

CONFERENCE REPORT (H. REPT. 104-291)

The Committee of Conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2020) "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, 1996, and for other purposes," having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the Senate recede from its amendments numbered 4, 10, 30, 32, 33, 39, 41, 42, 44, 50, 51, 64, 73, 83, 85, 87, 89, 90, 91, 98, 99, 110, 111, 118, 124, 134, 137, 138, and 141.

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendments of the Senate numbered 1, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 16, 19, 21, 25, 28, 29, 34, 35, 36, 38, 40, 45, 49, 53, 54, 55, 61, 63, 66, 71, 72, 75, 79, 80, 81, 82, 86, 92, 94, 95, 96, 100, 102, 103, 105, 106, 108, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 119, 120, 121, and 123, and agree to the same.

Amendment No. 2: