

The grants included in the so-called crime bill last year had so many strings that most State and local governments could not or would not accept them.

Mr. Speaker, let us cut the strings, let us give local law enforcement officials the power to fight local crime. Let us pass H.R. 728 now, before one more American becomes just another statistic.

ABORTIONS—SAFE, RARE, AND LEGAL

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

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, is the issue Henry Foster's nomination to be Surgeon General? No, that is not the real issue. What is really going on? This nomination has become the battle ground over abortion rights.

President Clinton could not have put it better. Abortion should be safe, legal, and rare. Yet the Foster nomination has been seized upon by those who would criminalize choice. They see it as a chance to further their extreme agenda.

Now we learn that last fall the Senate Republican Campaign Committee gave tens of thousands of dollars to the Right to Life Committee. The purpose: to increase the number of votes to criminalize choice.

□ 1415

Let us get it straight—safe, rare, and legal.

MISLEADING INFORMATION FROM THE WHITE HOUSE ON THE CRIME ISSUE

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

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, the President never ceases to amaze me. He has this incredible habit of setting up these ridiculous straw men for the express purpose of making him look good when someone knocks them over. He has misled us on the issue of Social Security, and now he is trying to mislead us on crime.

The President says he will veto any bill that goes back on his promise of 100,000 new police officers, but like most Clinton promises, the 100,000 new policemen were a hoax from the start to the finish. As Republicans made clear last year during the debate on the crime bill, the Clinton bill would only result at most in 20,000 new cops.

Today I placed a phone call to one of the mayors in my district, the mayor of Calumet City. Last year his city received a grant, a \$1 million grant to fund 13 new police officers. Now, he says, the realities or the strings of the President's program have set in. His city council has only been able to find funding for its 25-percent share, the match it has to put up, for 6 out of 13

of those officers. The local share totals \$800,000 over 3 years.

Calumet City's problems highlight the problems of the President's program. It is not working. It must be changed.

CONFIRM DR. FOSTER

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say that the nomination of Dr. Henry Foster as Surgeon General of the United States is a choice of great vision.

This nomination should not and must not be about how many abortions Dr. Foster has performed. Those who oppose a woman's right to choose must take that fight somewhere else. Every woman in America has the right to choose—that is the law of the land. Dr. Foster has done nothing wrong.

Dr. Foster has done a great deal that is right. He has become a leading authority on reducing infant mortality and preventing teen pregnancy and drug abuse.

This is a man who has spent a lifetime working to improve the lives of others. It is clear to me that Dr. Foster should be confirmed as Surgeon General. There are no more questions that need to be answered. Dr. Foster should be confirmed and he should be confirmed now.

U.S. MILITARY FORCES FACED WITH BUREAUCRATIC U.N. LEADERSHIP

(Mr. BRYANT of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BRYANT of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, the study of recent military conflicts and peacekeeping missions have led to two conclusions: First, in the case of major conflict, the massive presence of U.S. forces is necessary to defeat the aggressor or to contain the threat; second, our American forces must be given the necessary military means and freedom of action to accomplish these goals. Operation Desert Storm has rightly been held as a prime example of a U.S.-led international military force.

Unfortunately, the hope and the lessons of Desert Storm have been lost as we have squandered them away in Somalia and even more in Bosnia.

Over 40 years NATO has successfully preserved the peace and freedom of its members against a threat by the Soviet Union and its allies, but instead of celebrating our success, NATO today must confront a crisis that tears at the very fabric of that alliance.

At the heart of this problem is the fact that in Bosnia, NATO cannot act without the consent of the United Nations and its local representative. An inflexible, time-consuming dual military command structure also have proven to be an invitation to disaster.

The Armed Forces of the United States are the preeminent fighting machine in the world today. They are the best trained, best skilled, best equipped, and best led.

Mr. Speaker, the brave young men and women in the Armed Forces deserve better than to be placed under the command of foreign nationals acting on behalf of the United Nations in a faceless bureaucracy. That is why the National Security Revitalization Act is so important.

THE CRIME ISSUE LEADS TO THREATS OF PARTISANSHIP

(Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, last week the Republican Party put through a bill to change last year's bill providing prison construction funds. They said last week that we had given the States too much discretion and we needed here in Washington to tell the States more what to do.

Today and tomorrow they are going to put through a bill that is exactly the opposite. They are going to try to undo what we did last year regarding money for prevention and for police because they say it does not give the States enough freedom.

What is the common threat? Why were they for restricting the States last week and for untying the States this week? Because they fear that President Clinton and the Democratic Congress has this year succeeded, and they are desperately eager for partisan purposes to undo that success.

That would not be so bad if it were not for the consequences. In my district and in districts all across this country police officers have been hired for what they thought was a 3-year period under the Clinton plan of last year. For partisan purposes, the Republican program would disrupt that. It would say to the people who hire policemen and the policemen hired that they are not going to have the assurance of the 3 years.

Mr. Speaker, surely they can find other areas in which to express their partisan desires.

REPEAL RAMSPECK

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

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to end a powerful, but little-publicized perk associated with Congress. My bill will repeal the Ramspeck Act, which for 55 years has quietly allowed former congressional and judicial employees to burrow into the civil service—given priority consideration over all other applicants, and full seniority when hired—upon the retirement, election defeat, or

death of their employer, Today the Ramspeck Act is a 55-year-old solution to a problem that no longer exists—namely the hiring and retention of congressional staff. I think we all agree that we have hard-working, dedicated staff, and this is in no way meant to denigrate them or the work they do. But to give any applicant for a Federal job such preferential treatment is wrong—and I hope my colleagues will join me in working to end this practice which smacks more of who you know than how good a job you can do.

THE CASE AGAINST BLOCK GRANTS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, last year, Congress made a promise to put 100,000 new police officers on our streets. Today, Republicans are ready to break that promise. The Republican crime bill does not devote a single dollar for cops on the beat. Instead, it creates block grants to the States, which may sound like a good idea, but we have been down this road before.

The last time we tried a similar block grant program for law enforcement, States used the grant money to buy land, cars for politicians, jet planes, financial investments, and to pay for consultants.

By contrast, the crime bill we passed last year is already working to put more police in our neighborhoods. My hometown of New Haven, CT, has nine new officers on the beat, already.

Our local law enforcement, our mayors, our chiefs of police, and our sheriffs have all thanked us for the cops on the beat program. Members of Congress have a choice to make today. Will you stand with law enforcement, or will you stand with the practitioners of politics-as-usual? Stand with the cops, pass the Conyers-Schumer amendment.

SUPPORT URGED FOR THE NATIONAL SECURITY REVITALIZATION ACT

(Mr. CHAMBLISS asked and was given permission to address the House and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, this week the House will take up H.R. 7, the National Security Revitalization Act. H.R. 7 represents a vital statement of priority and policy for the future of this Nation's military.

H.R. 7 offers a much needed policy redirection in the area of U.N. peacekeeping operations. Too many Americans have experienced the painful costs associated with the ever-expanding peacekeeping role of the United Nations.

This country has raised and trained the most effective military machine the world has ever known. And yet, how can we allow our sons and daughters to be put under inferior command and control?

H.R. 7 restricts the President's ability to subordinate U.S. troops to U.N. command and control by requiring Presidential certification of such an arrangement and by restricting the funding required for U.S. forces engaged in U.N. operations.

We owe it to our military men and women to pass H.R. 7 and resist weakening amendments.

BIPARTISAN SUPPORT FOR THE CRIME PACKAGE WELCOMED

(Mr. JONES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, while in my congressional district this past weekend, constituents expressed both their pleasure and astonishment that elected officials were able to keep a campaign promise. Citizens appreciate the swift and successful manner which the crime legislation has passed through the House.

People appreciate the bipartisan support the crime package has and will continue to receive. They overwhelmingly support the new crime bill which: First, Controls the endless number of death row appeals; second, extends the good-faith measure under the exclusionary rule; and third, ensures that convicts serve at least 85 percent of their sentence.

Today, we will debate the Local Government Block Grant Act which grants local communities greater control in the battle against crime.

I can assure you that law enforcement, as well as the taxpayer, appreciate this help to fight crime. The Contract With America is helping to rebuild the public's trust in Congress.

WORLD STILL THREATENED BY NUCLEAR WEAPONS, DEFENSE REVITALIZATION NEEDED

(Mr. SCARBOROUGH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, the big lie has been spread over the past few years across this country that the world is a safe place to live in now than it was 5 years ago. Well, the fact of the matter is there are as many nuclear weapons in Russia today as there were before the Soviet Union broke apart, and in China they have the second fastest growing economy in the 1980's in all of Asia, and they are using their new found economic power to rebuild their military machine.

In the next 5 years it has been estimated that countries will have an intermediate range missile capability to launch nuclear weapons across continents.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to take part in H.R. 7, a bill that not only will strengthen our national defense but finally take power away from the United Nations and return it where it belongs, back with the Armed Forces of the United States.

IN SUPPORT OF GIVING BLOCK GRANTS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO FIGHT CRIME

(Mr. HOKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, if President Clinton needs any proof that his crime bill is misguided, he only needs to look out the window right here in Washington, DC, where the police chief has come out in support of the Republican idea to give block grants to local government. He knows the truth of what Republicans have been saying for years—that Washington simply does not have all the answers. This one-size-fits-all approach to crime control is completely wrong and contrary to whatever disinformation or misinformation we may have heard from the other side of the aisle.

It is a very simple system. The local communities get to use this money for one of four purposes—more cops, more equipment, police in schools, or prevention. So they get to use this for prevention programs as long as they have law enforcement officers involved in them. The DARE Program will not go away. In fact, it is the perfect program that could be used in this way. This is something that ought to be supported. Clearly, it is being attacked by the President for the wrong reasons, and all he has to do is listen to Chief Thomas in Washington.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 521

Mr. BEILENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of the bill, H.R. 521.

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

There was no objection.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote 118 on passage of H.R. 668, the Criminal Alien Deportation Improvements Act, I was unable to be here due to travel constraints.

Had I been able to vote, I would have voted "yea."

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW ENFORCEMENT BLOCK GRANTS ACT OF 1995

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 79 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 79

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for