

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I will not object, I just want to say to the minority leader that this is a highly unusual request for us to begin debate and finish a rule and then postpone the vote subject to the general debate starting. We certainly are going to agree with the unanimous-consent request out of courtesy to those in the western part of the country, but I just want it understood that this does not set a precedent; that in the future we are going to have to work these things out in advance, and there could very well be votes earlier than 5 o'clock on Mondays in the future.

And having said that, I appreciate the gentleman's unanimous-consent request and will not object to it.

Mr. GEPHARDT. If the gentleman will yield, I would like to make a short statement and perhaps ask a question.

The point I would like to ask is: With this unanimous-consent request, I assume we have accomplished not having a vote until at least 5 o'clock? Is that correct?

Mr. SOLOMON. Absolutely, and it would be up to your side to call a vote, and as I understand it from your unanimous-consent request that we could interrupt the 2 hours of general debate at any point subject to your decision to call for a vote, but you would not be doing that prior to 5 o'clock. Was that your unanimous-consent request?

Mr. GEPHARDT. That is correct.

Mr. SOLOMON. We certainly concur with that.

Mr. GEPHARDT. I made the unanimous-consent request with the express purpose of making sure we did not have a vote until after 5 o'clock.

Mr. SOLOMON. We would certainly, in agreeing to that, hope there would not be a need for a vote on a previous question, and we would hope that we kind of have that understanding, although I know the gentleman could not guarantee it.

Mr. GEPHARDT. That is correct.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM HENRY HADDIX

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, 50 years ago a small group of Marines raised a flag on a far away island in the Pacific Ocean—Iwo Jima. The scene was immortalized for all Americans in the famous photo and memorial statute near Arlington Cemetery.

The battle for Iwo Jima paved the way to victory over Japan. It was not without cost—6,000 Marines were killed. Pvt. William Henry Haddix was one of these who made the supreme

sacrifice of his life. Today when we think of the veterans who died in those wars, our minds play tricks on us. We sometimes imagine those soldiers as old and wise, but most were very young like Bill Haddix. Bill left behind a young wife Etta, and two small children.

He also left behind a beautiful and precious legacy. Just days before he died he had written his wife and family. Private Haddix's daughter—Susan Haddix Harrison from Jackson, MI—Susan is here in the chamber with us today and has generously shared his deeply moving and meaningful letter with me and I share it with you. The letter includes a poem by Private Haddix about his experience on Iwo Jima. Interwoven in the fabric of the words are the golden threads of faith in God and duty to country.

IWO JIMA

I have landed on an island
in the Pacific salty air
where heat, rain, mud and bugs
are an everyday affair.

The nights are long and dreary
as the pale moon lights the sky,
and I lie awake a thinking
as the hours creep slowly by.

Where men must go on fighting
for land that must be won
In dirt, grit, slime and sweat
beneath the burning sun.

I can't help but dream of home
and the ones I love so dear,
It makes a man cuss the day
he ever landed here.

All luxuries are forgotten
In this land so far away
and it takes a lot of guts
for the guy who has to stay.

I pray for you my darling
every single night
and know God will care for you
because you're living right.

When we meet our enemy
be it day or night
It's do or die for that poor guy
for we fight with all our might.

Should I ever receive a call from God
I know darn good and well,
That I'm bound to go to heaven
for I've served my time in Hell.

WILLIAM H. HADDIX,
*Private, 28th Replacement
Draft, Co B,
3rd Marine Division.*

□ 1450

Private Haddix did not ask that he may live. He was prepared to die if need be. All he asked is that he may be ready if he was called. And he asked that his sacrifice may not be in vain.

Today, we salute Private Haddix and all the men of honor and courage who fought beside him five decades ago. We should always remember their bravery, their honor, and their dedication to our Nation. Our most precious inheritance is freedom, but we should remember that it was not free to those who earned it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BATEMAN). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Mis-

souri [Mr. VOLKMER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. VOLKMER 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 Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. GOSS 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 Ohio [Ms. KAPTUR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

WIC: A HEALTH PROGRAM

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support efforts to streamline Government programs to make them more efficient and cost effective. However, as we implement these reforms, we must make sure our efforts are in the best interest of the individuals these programs are meant to serve. Cutting costs should not mean cutting corners.

So, as we work diligently in the days ahead to trim the size of our Government and reduce Federal spending, I don't want to focus only on what is broken or at least expendable. I also want to look at what is working.

When initiatives do work, we should take that knowledge and experience and apply it in other areas. One proven program which deserves our attention is the supplemental food program for women, infants and children—or WIC as it is better known.

Many people may think of WIC as a welfare program but it is really a public health program. WIC is designed to influence a lifetime of good nutrition and health behaviors. It provides specific nutritious foods to at-risk, income-eligible pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, infants and children up to 5 years of age.

WIC has a 20-year track record of providing effective, cost-efficient services to some of the Nation's most vulnerable citizens.

Since 1974, WIC has grown from a program operated by a handful of local health departments, hospitals, and community organizations to one serving more than 6 million people through a network of approximately 9,000 clinics nationwide. In my home State of Florida, WIC serves all 67 counties and over 312,000 clients each month.

WIC results in significant increases in the number of women receiving adequate prenatal care and enhances the

dietary intake of pregnant and postpartum women, improving their weight gain.

For infants, WIC prenatal benefits reduce low and very low birth weights. WIC lowers infant mortality rate by 25 percent among participating Medicaid beneficiaries.

For children, WIC participation leads to higher rates of immunization against childhood diseases. The immunization rate in Pasco County, FL, is almost 100 percent and this rate is attributed to the WIC Program. WIC also reduces anemia among children.

WIC children are more ready to learn as compared to those children not in WIC. Four- and five-year-olds participating in WIC have better vocabularies and digit memory scores than children not participating in WIC.

Numerous studies have shown that WIC is not only a successful prevention program, it is cost effective. WIC is a Government program that actually saves money.

Every dollar spent on pregnant women in WIC produces between \$2 to \$4 in Medicaid savings for newborns and their mothers. In 1992, WIC benefits averted \$853 million in health expenditures during the first year of life of infants.

WIC should be a model for entrepreneurial government. In 1994, \$1.1 billion in rebate revenue was generated from the manufacturers of infant formula, allowing 1.5 million more participants to be served. Local WIC agencies coordinate their services with other health and social service programs as needed. By coordinating these services, the WIC Program is able to reduce the number of bureaucracies a family must deal with. H.R. 4, the Personal Responsibility Act, currently includes the WIC Program in a nutrition block grant. I am concerned that if WIC is included in this block grant, the program will lose critical components that make it a success today.

In closing, I would like to include as a part of this statement a letter I received from one of my constituents, Clara Lawhead, who is the director of the Pasco County, FL, WIC Program.

A partial quote from that letter says:

WIC is helping us to shape our future by helping to produce healthier children. WIC is not only vital to maintaining and improving our current health as a nation, but will be absolutely instrumental in creating a healthy population for the next century.

I have seen what the WIC Program can do for children and their mothers. We must make sure our reform efforts do not erode the ability of a proven program like WIC to provide essential services to women and children.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to very carefully review proposals that reform our Nation's nutrition programs as we craft final welfare reform legislation.

The letter referred to follows:

ODESSA, FL, January 31, 1995.

Congressman MICHAEL BILIRAKIS,
Longworth House Office Building, Washington,
DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN BILIRAKIS: Recent legislative proposals threaten the survival of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, known as WIC. WIC provides access to maternal, prenatal and pediatric health care services for a targeted high risk population. It is a prevention program designed to influence a lifetime of good nutrition and health behaviors. WIC provides quality nutrition education and services, breastfeeding promotion and education and food prescriptions to qualified participants. WIC is administered through area health agencies and coordinates services with other maternal and child health care. More than 70 evaluation studies have demonstrated the effectiveness of WIC and proven medical, health and nutrition successes for women, infants and children.

WIC has proven its cost effectiveness in the past and will continue to present the public with cost savings in the future, unless this legislation, which would severely limit the WIC Program, is passed. Because of the WIC Program, for example, Medicaid costs were reduced on average from \$12,000 to \$15,000 per infant for very low birthweight prevented. In 1990, the federal government spent \$296 million on prenatal WIC benefits, averting \$853 million in health expenditures during the first year of life. Every dollar spent on pregnant women in WIC produces \$1.92 to \$4.21 in Medicaid savings for new borns and their mother. These are incredible examples of the savings that the WIC Program brings to our country each year.

Even more important to the American public than the cost savings are the incredible improvements to the health of our infants and children. Infant mortality during the first 28 days was reduced with WIC participation in four out of five states. The infant mortality rate has been reduced by 25% to 66% among Medicaid beneficiaries participating in WIC. WIC significantly improves breastfeeding rates, immunization rates of children and children's diets. WIC reduces the rates of anemia among children. Four and five year olds participating in WIC in early childhood have better vocabularies and digit memory scores than children not participating in WIC. WIC is helping us to shape our future, by helping to produce healthier children. WIC is not only vital to maintaining and improving our current health as a nation, but will be absolutely instrumental in creating a healthy population for the next century, unless this legislation is allowed to pass with WIC included.

Congressman Bilirakis, it would be in the best interest of all Americans, both young and old, if the proposed legislation, called the "Personal Responsibility Act" and a "Medicaid Swap" were not allowed to be approved, with WIC included, by the United States Congress. Unlike most of the institutions mentioned in these pieces of legislation, the WIC program is not a welfare program, rather a supplemental nutrition program. The participants of WIC include middle class Americans, a part of society which can ill afford more benefits removed from their grasp. Americans across our great country hope that you and the other members of Congress will have the insight and knowledge to defeat the inclusion of WIC in the proposed legislation.

Sincerely, your friend and ally,

CLARA H. LAWHEAD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman 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.]

UNITED STATES-CHINA SATELLITE AGREEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California [Mrs. SEASTRAND] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise questions about the Clinton administration's recent initialing of a trade agreement with the Government of China regarding commercial space launch services.

Commercial space is a growing industry right here in the United States of America. It is an industry with tremendous potential for creating jobs and stimulating local economies. It is also an industry where America is in danger of falling further behind our international competitors.

The original 5-year agreement between the United States and China expired on December 31, 1994. The new agreement expands the number of Chinese launches for international customers to geosynchronous Earth orbit [GEO] through 2001 and requires that Chinese launch prices be on a par with Western launch providers. According to an official with the U.S. Trade Representatives's Office, on a par essentially means that the Chinese can offer a price up to 15 percent lower than the going international rate.

In the initialed agreement, the administration has also established disciplines for satellite launches into low Earth orbit and detailed conditions under which increases in quantitative limit may occur to address shortages in the supply of launch services for U.S. satellite services and users.

The agreement was also initialed 1 week after the explosion of a Chinese March 2E rocket that destroyed a \$160 million Apstar-2 satellite.

What does all this mean? As I'm sure the administration knows, the United States has a burgeoning commercial space market that holds tremendous potential for the U.S. economy. As I indicated on the floor February 3, the French already control roughly 60 percent of the commercial space market. Others, most notably the Chinese and the Russians are closing in fast.

Where the United States has its best opportunity to take the lead in commercial space is in the newly emerging low Earth orbit satellite market. I am concerned by the administration's seeming desire to turn this market over to the Chinese. Ambassador Kantor believes that this agreement carefully balances the interests of the U.S. space launch, satellite, and telecommunications industries.

Mr. Speaker, I disagree with Mr. Kantor's assessment.