

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

[Mr. POMEROY 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 Pennsylvania [Mr. WELDON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania 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 New York [Mr. TOWNS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. TOWNS 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 Hawaii [Mrs. MINK] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. MINK of Hawaii 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 Tennessee [Mr. DUNCAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

WE ARE NOT ADDRESSING THE ISSUES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado [Mrs. SCHROEDER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I just came to the floor because my calendar says it is March 6.

My whole problem is I cannot figure out when we are going to get our work done.

It seems to me, if it is March 6, that means we are almost halfway through this fiscal year, we still have four bills that have not been signed, we still have the debt ceiling issue, we still have the fact that we can shut Government down at any moment, and what we are hearing from the primaries out there, where the people are really being able to speak, is they think we have missed the whole boat, that this issue is really about the average American family and how they keep the middle-class American working standard.

So, Mr. Speaker, let us talk about that, what that is and how we have not done anything for that.

Mr. Speaker, the American people feel we have really missed the boat, we have missed the core challenge, and that is helping America's working fam-

ilies, the ones who work, the ones who get up every morning, the ones who are struggling like mad, the ones who feel like one of those hamsters in a wheel where they run faster and faster every year, their tongues are hanging out, and yet they feel they do not get out of the bottom of that wheel.

Now one of the things that we have not done that would help, we are going to see a lot of photo ops with these people, but these people really do not care about photo ops. They really care about some policy that would help them. Let us start with the minimum wage.

The minimum wage is the lowest it has been in 40 years. When I went to college, I was able to work my way through college. College tuition has gone way, way up, and the minimum wage has stayed way down here. It is almost impossible for a young person today to work their way through college and finish before they are 80 years old. So the minimum wage is terribly important to try and help people to be able to support themselves better.

Let us look at medical care. Medical care is very critical. We have got the Kennedy-Kassebaum bill moving in the Senate, but we do not see it moving over here. I am the proud cosponsor. I hope many more people become cosponsors. But that, too, helps working families to try and hold that pillar of medical care underneath them and their families as they feel it crumbling.

There is another whole area; that is student loans. People would like to see that pillar be held up because everyone knows their young folks are only going to go as far as their education takes them, and getting an education is terribly costly, especially in this day and age. So doing anything to the student loans is very unfair, and it makes it topple.

When you look at Medicare and Medicaid, those are two other areas that really harm the average working family because especially if the average working family has a child that is handicapped or whatever, they need to be depending on Medicaid to make up the difference. They may have elderly parents who desperately need Medicare, and without Medicare and Medicaid then the families got to dig deeper in their pockets to make this all work.

You know, part of the stress on these young families and part of their frustrations with this body is rather than having pictures they would like a minimum wage increase, they would like an insurance bill, they would like the guarantee that their pensions are not going to be played with. Several times this year we have seen bills saying that corporations could do with their pensions what Orange County, CA, did with their funds. That does not make you sleep very well at night. They want to be sure education is guaranteed in the future, and they want to know there is a future.

I think we really need to roll up our shirtsleeves and get to work here. I

mean here we are. Yesterday we were out early; here we are today, we are out early. I do not know what we are doing. We have not gotten the budget done, we have not gotten our work done, and we are not addressing the issues that voters all over America, in State after State as these primaries roll through, say are front and center. They are saying please listen to us. We are the ones that support the Government; why does the Government not support the policies we want?

You know we are going to lose their support of the Government. That is one of the things that feeds the cynicism so much. We will lose their support of the Government if we are not listening to them and providing those policies.

So I just want to say I am sure where everybody lives there will soon be a photo op near them with politicians running around trying to have pictures taken with little kids, with working people, in front of a hospital deploring hospital costs, whatever. But when you see that photo op, think about how does it translate into policy, how does that person vote, what do they cosponsor? That is the reality. The picture is not the reality, the record is the reality, and I think working men and women are going to be looking for those records, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

□ 1530

THE GOVERNMENTS OF SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT, JAPAN, AND EUROPE OWE THE UNITED STATES A RESPONSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EVERETT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut [Mr. GEJDENSON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, the tragedies in Israel over the last several weeks are something that all of us have to pay close attention to. I am proud that the American Government and President Clinton have led the effort to try to build a real and lasting peace in the Middle East. But many of our friends in countries who have benefited from America's generosity and America's courage have not only not helped us in this struggle for peace, but have actually supported the opponents of peace in the Middle East.

Mr. Speaker, today I will be sending letters to the Governments of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to ask them what they are doing to try to stop the attacks on innocent Israeli civilians by Hamas. I will be sending the same letter, virtually, to the Governments of France, England, Germany, and Japan. Their continuing trade with Iran, dealing with Iran as if it was one of the civilized nations of the world, continues

to provide for them the wherewithal to continue their support for the terrorists in Hamas.

In Jordan and Egypt we see different kinds of governments. They, along with the Israelis and the leaders of the PLO, Mr. Arafat and others, have struggled to build a peace in a region of the world that has seldom seen peace. We should also remember and applaud their efforts: The courage of King Hussein, the leadership and the courage of President Mubarak and his predecessor, Anwar Sadat.

In Israel, the Israelis have lost so much in their leadership, in their citizenry, in the wars and terrorism. Their courage in continuing in this peace process is truly remarkable. But the question has to be asked, the Saudis and Kuwaitis are regulars in this capital asking for assistance and protection, but what have they done to assist the peace process? What have the Saudis and Kuwaitis done to try to stop Hamas and its violence on innocent civilians?

These governments, these feudalistic governments, cannot buy their security by financing the fundamentalists who will attack women and children with bombs in schools and marketplaces and bus stops. The governments of the Western World, France, England, Germany, and Japan, they cannot hold their head high in the international community while they continue to do business with Iran, the country that is singly most responsible for the terrorism in the Middle East.

Syria wants to be included in the family of nations. It needs to end its support for Hamas, and the operation of Hamas within its borders. We as Americans are happy to lead. We are happy to take on more than our share of responsibility. But again, I cannot emphasize enough, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are there today solely because of American courage, solely because of American action, and solely because of American guarantees for their freedom.

The Saudis and the Kuwaitis do nothing to stop the financing of this terrorist organization. Their governments need to respond with actions that show they can be trusted as friends and allies, not just as those who need our assistance. France, England, Germany, and Japan want to be leaders of the world. They want to be the kind of partners that America looks for in running this world, in leading the world toward a better place for all the people of the world. They continue to provide the financial support for Iran that enables Iran to support and subsidize terrorism globally.

We in America must demand from these countries some action. We must demand more than just rhetoric and rhetorical responses to this kind of savagery. The Government of Saudi Arabia and the Government of Kuwait owe the Americans a response. They owe the world a response, the world that turned to their rescue to end the terrorism of Hamas in the Middle East.

France, England, Germany, and Japan are wealthy enough nations that they could join with us in isolating the Government of Iran until they are ready to act like a civilized and responsible nation. Nations do not kill children. Nations do not finance an organization that places bombs in civilian areas. We need to lead and we need these countries to join us. I will await their responses.

RUBY RIDGE: JUSTICE UNSERVED

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

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, the issue of values seems to be paramount in everybody's mind, values with regard to those held dear by our country, by individuals, and by families. But values really come from where we place the value on human life and how we appropriate the protection of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness from government. Today those values seem to be misappropriated, so I am going to speak to you today, Mr. Speaker, with regard to an incident that occurred in my district, and the serving up by the Government of an award for that incident.

Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to publicly address a growing concern that I am hearing more and more of from my constituents, and from people all around the country—the continuing misappropriation of values by our Federal Government. I am not talking necessarily about the values, as typically described by the media, but the most basic value of how we as a government regard the individual's ability to safely live his life in an atmosphere of freedom and liberty, with mutual respect as each individual peaceably pursues happiness.

My most recent concern arises out of what appears to another poor decision made by a Federal law enforcement agency in the wake of what has come to be known the tragedy at Ruby Ridge, ID. I am talking about the recent issuing of the highest awards of valor to Federal marshals involved in a shootout on August 21, 1992 that ended up with the deaths of 14-year-old Sammy Weaver, and deputy marshal Bill Degan.

Mr. Speaker, I find it incomprehensible that after years of investigations by both Congress and the Justice Department about significant questions regarding the conduct of Federal agents involved in the Ruby Ridge disaster, the U.S. Marshals Service has chosen instead to hand out awards rather than sort out their mistakes and punish wrongdoing to ensure that such deadly mishaps don't happen again.

Mr. Speaker, I attended much of the hearing in the Senate Subcommittee on Terrorism, Technology, and Government Information that was chaired by Senator SPECTER. I listened very attentively to the testimony of Randy Wea-

ver, and the U.S. marshals on their take of the events leading up to that fateful day of August 21, 1992. The committee listened to Randy's description of how agents from the U.S. Federal Marshals Service for a 16-month period executed an extensive surveillance of his home that included hundreds of hours of filming the everyday proceedings of his family with satellite powered cameras, setting up command centers in the homes of neighbors, and sending many undercover agents posing as supporters to the Weaver home.

In addition, the U.S. Marshal's Service initiated military reconnaissance like missions to determine what would be the best way to invade the Weaver home. U.S. marshals on one of these missions excited the family dog by throwing rocks at it.

The committee listened to Randy's agonizing unscripted depiction of how he made the most regrettable decision of his life when he sent his 14-year-old son Sammy down the road with a rifle to see what the dog was barking at—and how those agents shot a young boy's dog at his feet, and how a Federal marshal, dressed in a terrifying paramilitary uniform, jumped out of the bushes and yelled "Halt"—and how these events led to a gun battle that ended with the tragic death of Federal Marshal Degan, and of the young boy Sammy—shot in the arm and in the back—as he ran frantically up the road yelling "I'm coming home Dad!" Randy and his wife Vicki, no longer caring if they were fired at, went down the hill to retrieve the small body of their son.

While a Justice Department investigation did find evidence that U.S. marshal Larry Cooper fired the shot that killed 14-year-old Sammy Weaver, the report failed to determine who actually fired the first shot. Kevin Harris, a friend of the Weavers, who was involved in the gunfight, testified before the committee that U.S. marshal Arthur Roderick fired the first shot, which killed Weaver's dog. The marshals claimed that Harris fired the first shot, which mortally wounded U.S. deputy marshal Bill Degan.

Mr. Speaker, the Senate committee determined in their report that Harris' testimony was more plausible because Dean had fired seven rounds before he died. For the marshals' testimony to be true, Degan would have had to fire all seven shots after he was mortally wounded. The Senate committee also found it hard to understand why, if Kevin Harris had actually fired the first shot, the other marshals had not shot him dead in his tracks for killing Degan.

Mr. Speaker, what was even more disconcerting was hearing U.S. marshals Roderick and Cooper propose during the Senate hearing that Randy Weaver was responsible for shooting his own son. This suggestion contradicts all of the facts and evidence which point to Cooper as being the only one who could have shot Sammy. Even the Government's position during