

I want to make sure my children and grandchildren do not have to go to war. There is only one way to keep that from happening, and that is to have a very, very strong defense. That is our best bet to keep our children out of war.

Following that, it only makes sense, one could only conclude that if you are interested in the 21st century for your children economically, so they can have a good job, have a good standard of living, you could not possibly not be interested in them having clean water. You could not possibly not be interested in them having clean air. What good will it do for them to have a good job and pay only reasonable taxes if they cannot drink their water or breathe their air?

Mr. Speaker, I know that there is a lot that has been said about this Republican Congress in terms of the environment, but I believe that if we can get past those who wish to reach political gain, those who wish to make money out of this argument, we can in this Congress pass environmental laws that will clean up this country and keep it cleaned up, as opposed to continuing to sink millions and millions and millions of dollars into bureaucratic redtape and into the pockets of our trial lawyers.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate having the opportunity this afternoon to get this off my chest.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. JONES) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. GUTKNECHT, for 5 minutes, on March 28.

Mr. SHADEGG, for 5 minutes each day, on March 27, 28, and 29.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes each day, on March 27, 28, and 29.

Mr. MICA, for 5 minutes each day, on March 27 and 28.

Mr. CANADY of Florida, for 5 minutes, on March 27.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. SKAGGS) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. OBEY.

Mr. KILDEE.

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida.

Mr. HALL of Ohio.

Mr. MANTON.

Mr. FAZIO of California.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. JONES) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mrs. MYRICK.

Mr. MANZULLO.

Mr. COMBEST.

Mr. GILMAN.

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut.

Mr. GALLEGLY.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. NORWOOD) and to include extraneous matter:)

Ms. WATERS.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii.

Mr. GALLEGLY.

Ms. SLAUGHTER.

Mr. LIGHTFOOT.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1459. An act to provide for uniform management of livestock grazing on Federal land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Agriculture.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 27, 1996, at 2 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2293. A letter from the Chairperson, National Council on Disability, transmitting the Council's annual report volume 16, fiscal year 1995, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. 781(a)(8); to the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities.

2294. A letter from the Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting GSA's investigation of the costs of operating privately owned vehicles based on calendar year 1995 data, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 5707(b)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

2295. A letter from the Chairman, National Endowment for the Humanities, transmitting the annual report under the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act for fiscal year 1995, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

2296. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting a report entitled "Agency Compliance with Title II of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995," pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 1538; to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

2297. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting notice on leasing systems for the Central Gulf of Mexico, sale 157, scheduled to be held in April 1996, pursuant to 43 U.S.C. 1337(a)(8); to the Committee on Resources.

2298. A letter from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting the Department's evaluation of oil tanker routing, pursuant to Public Law 101-380, section 4111(c) (104 Stat. 516); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2299. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the 1994 national water quality inventory report, pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1315(b)(2); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2300. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General of the United States, transmitting a report entitled "Child Victimizers: Violent Offenders and Their Victims," pursuant to Public Law 103-322, section 320928(h) (108 Stat. 2133); jointly, to the Committees on the Judiciary and Economic and Educational Opportunities.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 5 of rule X and clause 4 of rule XXII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred as follows:

By Mr. SHUSTER (for himself, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. MOLINARI, and Mr. WISE):

H.R. 3159. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 1997, 1998, and 1999 for the National Transportation Safety Board, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ARCHER (for himself, Mr. BLILEY, Mr. GOODLING, Mr. HYDE, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. FAWELL, Mr. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. HASTERT):

H.R. 3160. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve portability and continuity of health insurance coverage in the group and individual markets, to combat waste, fraud, and abuse in health insurance and health care delivery, to promote the use of medical savings accounts, to improve access to long-term care services and coverage, to simplify the administration of health insurance, to reform medical liability, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Commerce, Economic and Educational Opportunities, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CRANE (for himself, Mr. GIBBONS, and Mrs. KENNELLY):

H.R. 3161. A bill to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (most-favored-nation treatment) to the products of Romania; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 3162. A bill to facilitate efficient investments and financing of infrastructure projects and new job creation through the establishment of a National Infrastructure Development Corporation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Banking and Financial Services, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Washington (for himself and Mrs. SMITH of Washington):

H.R. 3163. A bill to provide that Oregon may not tax compensation paid to a resident of Washington for services as a Federal employee at a Federal hydroelectric facility located on the Columbia River; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Washington:

H.R. 3164. A bill to exempt defense nuclear facilities from the Metric System Conversion Act of 1975; to the Committee on Science.

By Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut:

H.R. 3165. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to make funds available for surface transportation projects on roads functionally classified as local or rural minor collectors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. NEY:

H.J. Res. 168. Joint resolution waiving certain enrollment requirements with respect to two bills of the 104th Congress; to the Committee on House Oversight.

By Mr. FUNDERBURK (for himself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. SCARBOROUGH, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HILLEARY, Mr. JONES, Mr. COX, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mrs. CHENOWETH, Mr. UNDERWOOD, Mr. SALMON, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. BONO, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. SOLOMON, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. BAKER of California, Mr. POMBO, Mr. COOLEY, Mr. EHRlich, Mr. COBLE, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. ISTOOK, Mr. BREWSTER, Mr. BUYER, and Mr. ROHRBACHER):

H. Con. Res. 154. Concurrent resolution to congratulate the Republic of China on Taiwan on the occasion of its first Presidential democratic election; to the Committee on International Relations.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 4 of rule XXII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 218: Mr. ZIMMER and Mr. ROSE.
H.R. 1073: Mr. TORRES, Mr. PETRI, and Mr. ENSIGN.
H.R. 1074: Mr. TORRES, Mr. PETRI, and Mr. ENSIGN.
H.R. 1202: Mr. SHAW.
H.R. 1713: Mr. BARR.
H.R. 1916: Mr. BRYANT of Texas and Mr. BLILEY.
H.R. 2086: Mr. BLUTE.
H.R. 2270: Mr. HYDE.
H.R. 2400: Mr. DAVIS, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. WILSON, Mr. LIVINGSTON, and Mr. CRAMER.
H.R. 2510: Mr. McHALE.
H.R. 2578: Mr. McHALE.
H.R. 2579: Mr. SKAGGS, Mr. GUNDERSON, Mr. MONTGOMERY, and Mr. HEFLEY.
H.R. 2585: Mr. MILLER of California and Ms. JACKSON-LEE.
H.R. 2636: Mr. KING.
H.R. 2856: Mr. VOLKMER.
H.R. 2919: Mr. HOUGHTON and Mr. DOYLE.
H.R. 2925: Mr. STEARNS, Mrs. MYRICK, and Mr. NEY.
H.R. 3002: Mr. BREWSTER, Mr. KING, and Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska.
H.R. 3103: Mr. FORBES, Mr. HORN, Ms. MOLINARI, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. NEY, Mr. HOBSON, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. HOKE, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. LONGLEY, Mr. McHUGH, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. GILCHREST, and Mrs. FOWLER.
H.R. 3106: Mr. FROST, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 3119: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas and Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 3148: Mr. TORRICELLI.
H.J. Res. 158: Mr. SABO.

PETITIONS ETC.

Under clause 1 of rule XXII,
68. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the Council of the District of Columbia, relative to Council Resolution 11-235, "Transfer of Jurisdiction over a Portion of Parcel 174/15 and Lot 802 in Square 4325, S.O. 85-182,

Resolution of 1996"; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 6 of rule XXIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 3103

OFFERED BY: MR. GUNDERSON

AMENDMENT NO. 1. At the end of the bill add the following new title (and conform the table of contents accordingly):

TITLE V—PROMOTING ACCESS AND AVAILABILITY OF HEALTH COVERAGE IN RURAL AREAS

Subtitle A—Medicare Program

SECTION 501. MEDICARE RURAL HOSPITAL FLEXIBILITY PROGRAM.

(a) MEDICARE RURAL HOSPITAL FLEXIBILITY PROGRAM.—Section 1820 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395i-4) is amended to read as follows:

"MEDICARE RURAL HOSPITAL FLEXIBILITY PROGRAM

"SEC. 1820. (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Any State that submits an application in accordance with subsection (b) may establish a medicare rural hospital flexibility program described in subsection (c).

"(b) APPLICATION.—A State may establish a medicare rural hospital flexibility program described in subsection (c) if the State submits to the Secretary at such time and in such form as the Secretary may require an application containing—

"(1) assurances that the State—

"(A) has developed, or is in the process of developing, a State rural health care plan that—

"(i) provides for the creation of one or more rural health networks (as defined in subsection (d)) in the State,

"(ii) promotes regionalization of rural health services in the State, and

"(iii) improves access to hospital and other health services for rural residents of the State;

"(B) has developed the rural health care plan described in subparagraph (A) in consultation with the hospital association of the State, rural hospitals located in the State, and the State Office of Rural Health (or, in the case of a State in the process of developing such plan, that assures the Secretary that the State will consult with its State hospital association, rural hospitals located in the State, and the State Office of Rural Health in developing such plan);

"(2) assurances that the State has designated (consistent with the rural health care plan described in paragraph (1)(A)), or is in the process of so designating, rural non-profit or public hospitals or facilities located in the State as critical access hospitals; and

"(3) such other information and assurances as the Secretary may require.

"(c) MEDICARE RURAL HOSPITAL FLEXIBILITY PROGRAM DESCRIBED.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—A State that has submitted an application in accordance with subsection (b), may establish a medicare rural hospital flexibility program that provides that—

"(A) the State shall develop at least one rural health network (as defined in subsection (d)) in the State; and

"(B) at least one facility in the State shall be designated as a critical access hospital in accordance with paragraph (2).

"(2) STATE DESIGNATION OF FACILITIES.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—A State may designate one or more facilities as a critical access hospital in accordance with subparagraph (B).

"(B) CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION AS CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITAL.—A State may designate a facility as a critical access hospital if the facility—

"(i) is located in a county (or equivalent unit of local government) in a rural area (as defined in section 1886(d)(2)(D)) that—

"(I) is located more than a 35-mile drive from a hospital, or another facility described in this subsection, or

"(II) is certified by the State as being a necessary provider of health care services to residents in the area;

"(ii) makes available 24-hour emergency care services that a State determines are necessary for ensuring access to emergency care services in each area served by a critical access hospital;

"(iii) provides not more than 6 acute care inpatient beds (meeting such standards as the Secretary may establish) for providing inpatient care for a period not to exceed 72 hours (unless a longer period is required because transfer to a hospital is precluded because of inclement weather or other emergency conditions), except that a peer review organization or equivalent entity may, on request, waive the 72-hour restriction on a case-by-case basis;

"(iv) meets such staffing requirements as would apply under section 1861(e) to a hospital located in a rural area, except that—

"(I) the facility need not meet hospital standards relating to the number of hours during a day, or days during a week, in which the facility must be open and fully staffed, except insofar as the facility is required to make available emergency care services as determined under clause (ii) and must have nursing services available on a 24-hour basis, but need not otherwise staff the facility except when an inpatient is present,

"(II) the facility may provide any services otherwise required to be provided by a full-time, on-site dietitian, pharmacist, laboratory technician, medical technologist, and radiological technologist on a part-time, off-site basis under arrangements as defined in section 1861(w)(1), and

"(III) the inpatient care described in clause (iii) may be provided by a physician's assistant, nurse practitioner, or clinical nurse specialist subject to the oversight of a physician who need not be present in the facility; and

"(v) meets the requirements of subparagraph (1) of paragraph (2) of section 1861(aa).

"(d) RURAL HEALTH NETWORK DEFINED.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, the term 'rural health network' means, with respect to a State, an organization consisting of—

"(A) at least 1 facility that the State has designated or plans to designate as a critical access hospital, and

"(B) at least 1 hospital that furnishes acute care services.

"(2) AGREEMENTS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Each critical access hospital that is a member of a rural health network shall have an agreement with respect to each item described in subparagraph (B) with at least 1 hospital that is a member of the network.

"(B) ITEMS DESCRIBED.—The items described in this subparagraph are the following:

"(i) Patient referral and transfer.

"(ii) The development and use of communications systems including (where feasible)—

"(I) telemetry systems, and

"(II) systems for electronic sharing of patient data.

"(iii) The provision of emergency and non-emergency transportation among the facility and the hospital.

"(C) CREDENTIALING AND QUALITY ASSURANCE.—Each critical access hospital that is a