

has signed off on corridor H and will review it, of course, again following the environmental impact statement. At that time, probably within the next few months, it will issue its final record of decision, or ROD. Then following that, the State can begin real estate acquisition and appraisal and, hopefully, go to bid at the end of the year.

I say this because corridor H is probably the single most important highway project, not only for West Virginia, but, I think, for this region of the country; 114 miles in West Virginia that are so crucial to not only opening up the eastern part of our State to the west but also then being a natural corridor that continues on out as once people get to Weston and then can continue north and then west toward the Ohio area or south and then west to Kentucky and points west.

Corridor H, I believe, is economically feasible. Indeed, the Appalachian regional studies demonstrate that countries that have a four-lane corridor of this magnitude see job creation three times that which is projected in counties without such a project.

This is a major east/west highway, and so my hope is that we can, with this completion of the environmental impact statement, I realize this is not going to make everyone happy, but with the completion of this environmental impact statement that we can get on about the business of building corridor H. It has been too long in contention, and at least in the West Virginia section it is important that this highway be completed and so to complete the Appalachian corridor system that has promised so much to our State.

So, Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to keep you up to date on this important project as it moves ahead. I encourage everybody to be involved in the public comment period, and I look forward to seeing this project actually go to bid sometime at the end of the year in the segments that have already been approved and where these issues have been resolved.

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

[Mr. MCINTOSH 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 gentlewoman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

#### MONEY AND POWER INFLUENCE ON GAMBLING LEGISLATION

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

tleman from Virginia [Mr. WOLF] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, money and power. That is the influence too often on Capitol Hill when it comes to the legislative process.

Money and power.

The American people more and more every day hold this institution in disrepute because of the influence they see wielded by special interests whose bottom line is money and power.

That influence has been evident throughout the legislative history of a bill to create a national commission to study what a front page article in today's Washington Post calls the "explosive growth in legalized gambling." And today, as Post reporter Blaine Harden reports, "Nevada-based gambling interests working with prominent Republican lobbyists" have "sabotaged" a bipartisan effort in Congress to pass legislation to establish a National Gambling Study Commission.

Money and power.

Those special interests are poised to effectively neuter legislation that would provide information to the American people on the effects of what has become a \$40-billion-a-year industry that generates, according to the Post article, "six times the revenue of all American spectator sports combined." Think about that. Six times the revenue of all spectator sports combined. And when you add to spectator sports revenue other leisure activities for which American spend their money, such as movie box office totals, theme parks, cruise ships, and recorded music, that combined total is over \$3 billion less than gambling revenues in a year.

As our colleagues will recall, we unanimously passed a responsible and fair National Gambling Study Commission bill in the House on March 5. There was bipartisan support for the legislation which has over 140 House cosponsors and which garnered the support of family interests groups across America and major newspapers including the Atlanta Journal and Constitution, Boston Globe, Chicago Sun-Times, Cincinnati Enquirer, Dallas Morning News, Los Angeles Times, Houston Chronicle, Philadelphia Inquirer, USA Today, Portland Oregonian, New Orleans Times-Picayune, Indianapolis News, and Washington Post, among others.

But money and power have an insidious way of spreading their tentacles of influence and the gambling interests unleashed their money and power and were ready this morning with killer amendments to the gambling study bill in the Senate that would have made a mockery of the legislation. Perhaps the light of the Post article today shone too brightly on this disgraceful show because the Senate bill was pulled from the markup.

But the fingerprints of the gambling industry are all over the current effort in the Senate to stop the National Gambling Study Commission. Gam-

bling interests last year set up the Washington-based American Gaming Association headed by Frank Fahrenkopf, former chairman of the Republican National Committee, who the Post report says is being paid over a half million a year for his work. He, in turn, hired Kenneth Duberstein, former top adviser to President Ronald Reagan, and other Republican Party and Presidential aides, as well as a former Democrat Member of Congress and the former chief floor counsel to then Democrat Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, among others, to carry the water for the gambling industry and wield its money and power influence.

Just what did the gambling interests get for their high-priced and well-placed cadre of lobbyists? They have managed to rewrite the gambling bill that was ready for markup today in the Senate with amendments which would turn the study commission into a library study group with no power to convene investigative hearings, no power to subpoena information, no authority to do any original research and confined to only reviewing information that already exists, and with a limitation to only make recommendations on Indian and Internet gambling.

And one more amendment from the gambling interests: the Commission is directed not to examine the economic impact of gambling on businesses, political contributions, the relationship between gambling and crime, a review of the demographics of gamblers, a review of law enforcement, a review of State, Indian and Federal gambling policy, advertising or other issues the Commission chairman may deem appropriate.

And a final amendment: for what is supposed to be an objective commission charged with the responsibility of studying the full effects of gambling on American society, the gambling interests successfully pushed their way to the study table with the amendment to provide that individuals with an interest in the gambling industry should be appointed to the Commission.

With these amendments, the National Gambling Study Commission may as well convene at the library and chat about the books the gambling interests check out to read. This is a sham and a disgrace and an insult to the American people who are being suckered in by an industry which thrives when it operates in the shadows, much like roaches which find their way around in the dark. When the light shines though, the gambling interests, much like the roaches, scurry to hide.

Money and power.

High-priced lobbyists and political connections at work to thwart an attempt to provide basic information to cash-strapped local and State governments being drawn into the promises of easy money from legalized gambling. Why are the gambling interests spending millions of dollars in political contributions and lobbying campaigns to

stop a national study of gambling's effects on America? Why are they trying to stop a bill that will allow an objective, comprehensive, and impartial legal and factual assessment of gambling, a bill that does not outlaw gambling, that does not tax gambling, that does not regulate gambling?

Why would they turn a blind eye to the stories of poor mothers playing the slots with their children's lunch money, or teenagers so addicted to gambling that they prostitute their girlfriends to pay off their mob debts, or the accounts of Americans who are so distraught over their mounting gambling debts that their only perceived recourse is suicide.

From what information we have gathered today, we see a picture of gambling hurting people and businesses. How many suicides and near misses does it take to make the case? How many bankruptcies and broken homes? How many failed careers, failed marriages and broken dreams are needed to register on the misery meter?

What is the gambling industry afraid of? What is driving their effort to stop this national commission to study the explosive influence of gambling on the American culture?

Money and power.

Consider these facts:

In Missouri, the gambling lobby spent \$11.5 million, mostly raised from out-of-state companies, on a successful 1994 referendum to allow slot machines in casinos. According to an Associated Press report by Jim Drinkard, "after failing in its first attempt to legalize slot machines on Missouri riverboats, the gambling industry took no chance and spared no expense." Following a pattern that has been repeated across the country, Drinkard reported that it hired the chief strategist for then House Democrat majority leader, considered to be Missouri's most visible politician, paying her \$218,750 to help win passage of the 1994 referendum.

In Louisiana, the gambling lobby contributed \$1.07 million to State legislators in 1993 and 1994, \$1 out of every \$5 given to lawmakers and three times as much as was given by the petrochemical industry.

In Florida, the gambling lobby spent \$16.5 million on an unsuccessful referendum campaign to legalize casinos in 1994, only \$1 million less than the Republican and Democrat gubernatorial nominees spent in the Governor's race combined.

In Connecticut, four gambling groups spent \$4.9 million over the last 4 years in an unsuccessful campaign to lobby the State for a casino.

In my own State of Virginia, gambling lobbyists spent over \$1.1 million over 2 years to convince the general assembly to legalize casinos.

In Illinois, the gambling lobby contributed \$1.24 million to candidates for State office between July 1, 1993, and June 30, 1994. Also in that State at one point gambling interests in Illinois had under contract people who formerly

were Governor State senate president, house majority leader, attorney general, State police director, circuit judge, Chicago mayor, and two U.S. attorneys. The former head of the State gaming regulatory board now lobbies for a major gambling group and at least three former board officials are on casino payrolls.

According to figures compiled by the Center for Responsive Politics, a non-partisan research group in Washington, over the past few years the gambling industry overall gave at least \$4.5 million to the Republican and Democrat parties and their candidates for Federal office, including \$1.8 million in "soft money"—unregulated, unlimited contributions to party committees donated since 1991.

These money and power brokers have been at work since House passage of the national gambling study bill to negate any responsible, fair or objective effort in the Senate to pass similar legislation. And with their money and power, as today's Washington Post headline proclaims: "Don't Bet on a U.S. Gambling Study."

How much longer will the best interests of the American people take a backseat to the influence of money and power in Washington?

Money and power.

□ 1530

#### GRAPES OF WRATH

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

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, every country has the perfectly legitimate right to respond to terrorist attacks upon its borders and its people, regardless of whether those attacks were provoked or not. Such has been the case in southern Lebanon, the home of my grandfathers, where Israel has undertaken Operation Grapes of Wrath in order to end the terrorist Hezbollah attacks across the border into northern Israel.

This tit for tat, this eye for an eye, this cycle of violence has gone on for well over a decade now. Ever since Israel's bombardment into southern Lebanon, and indeed, into Beirut itself in 1982 to rid Lebanon of the PLO, they have occupied what they have called a buffer zone in southern Lebanon in order to protect its northern borders.

This Israeli occupation has led to the growth of Hezbollah, or Party of God. This Lebanese group has sought to end this occupation, and therefore has undertaken needless, uncalled for, unprovoked terrorist attacks into northern Israel. These have been undertaken, and in the past have been guided by unwritten agreements by which Israel and Syria, the two main power brokers in the region, have agreed not to attack each other directly. Therefore, Hezbollah operates as a proxy for outside powers, in this

case obviously financed and trained by Iran and given the green light by Syria to operate in Lebanon.

In order to end these attacks, Israel undertook Operation Grapes of Wrath. As I say, every country has that perfectly legitimate right to respond to terrorist attacks across its border. Today we saw a dramatic change in its operation. We saw a dramatic turn of events in which innocent civilians who have been killed over the last week or so of this operation escalated into which the death count now stands at close to 100 innocent civilians killed in an Israeli bombardment of a U.N. base camp in southern Lebanon, these innocent civilians having tried to flee, according to Israeli warnings beforehand, in order to prevent harm to themselves.

Whether it was a mistake, whether it was just another message being sent in the long list of messages in which Lebanon is used as a chessboard in which outside powers play their game in Lebanon, remains to be debated, and is currently being debated in the highest echelons of Israeli government.

President Clinton, much to his credit and however late it may be, has, within the hour, from St. Petersburg, Russia, called for a cease-fire in the Middle East. He has issued his sympathy to the families of those innocent civilians killed in today's state-sponsored terrorist act, and he has called for a cease-fire to take place, I hope, immediately. The President is to be commended for this call, however late it is in coming.

But the final resolution, the final resolution of this conflict will only occur when a peace treaty is reached between those two main power brokers, Israel and Syria. It is time to quit using Lebanon as a chessboard. It is time to quit using the lives of innocent civilians, women and children, in order to send political messages to one party or another.

Let us hope that, as has happened in the past in the Middle East, with this outrageous action today and with this uncalled for action, that perhaps it will be the last salvo and we will see a true breakthrough and peace occur.

That peace will occur when the Lebanese Army, which in my opinion is quite capable of disarming Hezbollah, disarming them completely, put it in writing if need be, as Israel is demanding, with Syria guaranteeing the safety of Israel's northern border along with the Lebanese Government, and assurances that Hezbollah will stop these attacks once they are fully disarmed, and second, and at the same time, and no waiting until on down the road to see what happens, but at the same time, then I call upon the Israelis to recognize U.N. Resolution 425 and withdraw their forces from southern Lebanon at the same time.

Let us put it in writing. Let us do it, however, by unwritten agreement or whatever, but this is the only solution to the current eye-for-an-eye, tit-for-