

POSTPONING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF VETO MESSAGE ON H.R. 1561, AMERICAN OVERSEAS INTERESTS ACT

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the order of the House of Monday, April 15, 1996, further consideration of the veto message on H.R. 1561 be postponed until Tuesday, April 30, 1996.

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

There was no objection.

LET US WORK TOGETHER TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

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

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, yesterday President Clinton drove a few miles from the White House and picked up a few logs for Earth Day to try to show his dedication to the environment. I have to ask, why is this President trying to make the environment one of his key campaign issues? He has no monopoly on concern for the environment, just exaggerated rhetoric.

It seems that ever since the Democrats became an endangered species here in Washington, they have turned up the heat on their big-lie campaign in an attempt to take back the majority in Congress. It just so happens that their shameful big-lie campaign is now politicizing the environment.

Mr. Speaker, I want a clean and healthy environment for my children and grandchildren. I support using modern technology and scientific evidence to make sure our environmental protection laws are effective. Mr. Speaker, let us work together to protect our environmental resources, not use them as pawns in cheap political games.

LET US NOT BE MEAN-SPIRITED

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

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, the radical Republican majority is still bent on cutting educational funds, especially title I funds. It is mean-spirited. Who does it impact on? Not the local school districts, but it impacts on children; children, preschool children in the first and second grade; children like the two that I visited with and many others in my district while I was out there. These young children, without these reading skills, will be destined to a future that they will not be able to participate in in this great society of ours because they will not be able to read.

The Republicans say that we do not need those funds for title I. I say we do.

I say that the future of this country is bound by the education that our children receive, and it is necessary that they have the skills of reading and math, and that is what title I provides.

I say to the Republicans, let us not be mean-spirited.

DEMOCRATS SIT BACK AND DO NOTHING TO SAVE MEDICARE

(Ms. DUNN of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DUNN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, this morning's New York Times carried a disturbing report that I believe deserves notice. The banner reads "New Medicare Trust Fund Data Show Unusually Large Shortfall."

Mr. Speaker, the article says the Medicare hospital insurance trust fund lost \$4.2 billion in the first half of the current fiscal year, since the first of October, which suggests that the financial condition of this program is even worse than what was projected by the administration last year. During all of fiscal year 1995 the Medicare trust fund lost \$35.7 million, when it should have been a surplus. But now, just in the first half of this year, Medicare has lost over \$4 billion.

Last year Bill Clinton vetoed the Congress' Medicare Preservation Act, which would have reformed Medicare. The issue is clear, Mr. Speaker. Liberals would rather sit back and do nothing to save Medicare and then demonize conservatives for their good faith effort to deal with the problem. I think it is outrageous that the other party would risk our parents and grandparents to score political points.

MAYBE THE TYPES OF JOBS BEING CREATED ARE TO BLAME

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, Medicare trust funds lost another \$4 billion. Payroll contributions keep going down. Maybe it is the type of jobs that are being created.

Check this out: How about a handkerchief folder, a drawstring knotter, a hooker inspector, a pantyhose crotch closer machine operator supervisor, a muff winder, a fur blower, a wizzer operator, a brassiere cup molder fitter.

Evidently, Mr. Speaker, when American workers become muff winding brassieres fitters, and fur blowing wizzer operators, the Medicare trust fund will continue to lose money. Maybe we better take a look at the issue and also take a look at these jobs that do not pay a whole lot of money.

How about a drawstring knotter? That is really a goal in life.

SHORTFALL GROWING IN MEDICARE HOSPITAL TRUST FUND

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to read from the front page of this morning's Cincinnati Enquirer in my district. It says, "Losses Hit Medicare Trust Fund. \$4.2 Billion Shortfall Growing." The article quotes a special assistant to President Clinton, who says the new numbers indicate the need to move forward, balance the budget and enact some changes in Medicare that will strengthen the trust fund. Well, no kidding. This from the same administration that for the last year has been opposing every effort to do just that.

Now that President Clinton's own team that has belatedly figured out that the Medicare trust fund is going bankrupt, perhaps the President is ready to abandon his campaign rhetoric finally and join those of us in Congress who have been working to save Medicare for this generation and for future generations of American citizens. Maybe it will stop the shameless "medicare" campaign and we can work together to save Medicare.

LET US PASS AN INCREASE IN THE MINIMUM WAGE NOW

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

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, what issue is supported by 85 percent of the American people? What issue is supported by 61 percent of Republican voters? Increasing the minimum wage.

So why do we not do it cleanly, without amendments that will clutter the issue?

Mr. Speaker, the last vote to increase the minimum wage occurred in 1989, and due to inflation much of this increase has been eroded. Who does an increase in the minimum wage help? Twelve million Americans. Sixty percent of these are adults over 25 years old; mainly women.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a teenager-plus issue. It is an issue that affects all Americans.

Twelve million Americans would benefit from an increase to \$5.15 an hour, including 100,000 New Mexico workers.

Raising the minimum wage is a critical step in moving people from welfare to work. Someone can make more on welfare than they can by working right now. Is \$8,400 a year sufficient to help a family? The answer is "no," Mr. Speaker.

Let us end the politics, let us pass a minimum wage bill. Let us move on to health care. Let us leave a lot of these issues that need to be done uncluttered with many amendments. Let us pass an increase in the minimum wage now.

CRIME: A SERIOUS ISSUE IN OUR COUNTRY TODAY

(Mrs. CUBIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute).

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about a very serious issue in our country today—crime. With all of the freedoms we enjoy in our country today, if we as citizens do not have confidence in our judicial system to keep the criminals off the streets, we do not have total freedom, because we will always be looking over our shoulders or will be too scared to participate in social activities outside of our homes.

Many, many people feel this way today. And who can blame them—when they read stories about Clinton-appointed judges who side with the criminals and blame society. Like the Clinton judge who insisted that the killer had “socially redeeming values,” even though he stabbed his victim repeatedly, shot him twice, and laughed at the victim while he pled for his life.

This is wrong. Our justice system should protect the rights of crime victims—not invent newer and more expansive rights for criminal defendants. Our justice system should distribute justice, not liberal social experiments that coddle criminals.

We need to appoint judges who represent and understand America's values.

STOP PLAYING POLITICAL GAMES WITH THE MINIMUM WAGE

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

Ms. DELAURO. To quickly respond to my colleagues who spoke about Medicare, the congressional Republicans in this body do not want to fix Medicare. They, in fact, want to destroy Medicare. They proposed a \$270 billion cut in Medicare to pay for a \$245 billion tax break for the wealthiest Americans. Do not let us let them get away with it.

Mr. Speaker, on the front page of today's Washington Times, a Republican Senator says of congressional Republicans, “We have no agenda.”

Mr. Speaker, in the spirit of bipartisanship, I want to offer some assistance to my Republican colleagues. For starters, the Republican leadership can schedule a vote on raising the minimum wage in this Nation. Most families are working harder in a mad scramble to pay their bills every single week. They need a raise, and we should raise the minimum wage.

Today the minimum wage is at a 40-year low. Democrats have proposed boosting it by a mere 90 cents, but the Republican leadership continues to block any effort to bring forward a vote on the minimum wage. Let us do it, let us give hard-working Americans the raise that they need to take care of their families.

THE TIME IS RIGHT TO DO RIGHT: RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE

(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, the time is always right to do right. And raising the minimum wage is the right thing to do.

This is not just an economic issue, Mr. Speaker, this is a moral issue. Hard working people deserve the right to earn a livable wage. The minimum wage is at a 40-year low. No one can live, much less support a family, on \$8,400 a year.

Mr. Speaker, stop playing politics with people's lives. Bring a clean minimum wage bill to this floor. Do not load it up and bring it down with your pet programs.

The American people, hard-working people, are watching and waiting. Raise the minimum wage.

CAN THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AFFORD ANY MORE CLINTON-APPOINTED JUDGES?

(Mrs. SEASTRAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, one of the most important things that a President, any President, does during his tenure is to fill the vacant Federal judgeships in the Federal judiciary. The other body does have the responsibility to “advise and consent,” but ultimately, the responsibility for who sits on the Federal bench is the President's.

President Clinton has a miserable track record for appointing judges. His picks are by and large doctrinaire liberals. Let's take the Judge Baer debacle.

Judge Baer, a Federal judge in New York, refused to admit into evidence 75 pounds of cocaine and 4 pounds of heroin even though the person caught with the drugs gave a full confession. His reasoning in the case was faulty at best, and implied that the New York City police were corrupt and wrong for investigating a clear case of probable cause involving a huge amount of drugs.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Clinton has already appointed 25 percent of all Federal judges. Can the American people afford any more?

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COMMENDING PRESIDENT CLINTON'S CALL TO CURB OVERFLIGHT NOISE ABOVE NATIONAL PARK UNITS

(Mrs. MINK of Hawaii asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, yesterday President Clinton announced

his commitment to our national parks by ordering that agencies protect them against noise intrusions from park overflights. I applaud this announcement as it joins a hard-fought battle I have waged for 6 years in the State of Hawaii on behalf of residents adjacent to parks, hikers and other park visitors, and precious indigenous species protected by our parks.

I urge the Federal Aviation Administration and National Park Service to act quickly to respond to the President's directive. For the parks in my State, the President has called for a notice of proposed rulemaking by the end of 1996.

My files are full of petitions and letters protesting noise disturbances caused by fixed-wing and helicopter flights over Haleakala National Park on the Island of Maui and Hawaii Volcanoes National Park on the big island. Some hikers report that they can enjoy no peace in pristine areas because air tour operators seek to impress passengers by flying as close as possible to certain park features. Some have sent me pictures of helicopter tours flying close to canopies of trees above their houses, reporting of noise being generated that rudely awakens their children, drops and shatters dishes from kitchen counters, and denies them peace of mind. Some have presented logs documenting an average of 10 flyovers each day.

The President yesterday provided similar rationale for increased regulation of these flights by saying,

Aircraft flying at low altitudes over national parks can, if not properly managed, mar the natural beauty of the parks and create significant noise problems as well. The intrusion of such aircraft can interfere with wildlife (included endangered and threatened species), cultural resources and ceremonies, and visitors' enjoyment of parks, including the ability to experience natural sounds without interruption from mechanical noise.

I reintroduced legislation in this session of the Congress which aims to provide the relief the President has mandated in the State of Hawaii. H.R. 1369 would restrict flights over Hawaii's National Park System units and create flight-free corridors over certain areas. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1369, which would provide necessary relief for the people of Hawaii. And I once again commend the President for his statement that bolsters my efforts.

I welcome the efforts of the executive agencies, but in reality what is needed is legislative enactment of this protection for our national parks.

THE REPUBLICAN MAJORITY IS HOLDING UP THE BUDGET BY INSERTING ANTI-ENVIRONMENTAL RIDERS IN THE BILL

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, Democrats and Republicans have almost come together on a budget that would