

So it is not inconsistent. I think it is consistent with a good welfare reform system, a good minimum wage, so increase the minimum wage as we move people to work. I appreciate the gentleman's remarks.

ARMS EMBARGO IN BOSNIA

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

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, during his recent circumnavigation of the planet, President Clinton told the G-7 summit leaders that they should join with him in urging Russia to put the squeeze on Iranian mullahs who are shipping arms, in particular shipping arms to the Hezbollah guerrillas in Lebanon.

While the President was calling on our allies to pressure Iran, and while the President and the Clinton administration were calling the Iranian terrorists, quote, "the main source of international terrorism," and while publicly condemning Iran's shipment of arms to the Hezbollah guerrillas in Lebanon, Bill Clinton was secretly and simultaneously conniving at even bigger Iranian arms shipments to Bosnia.

Let us look at the history of this. On May 30, 1992, the United States imposed an arms embargo on the former Yugoslavia. The United States supported it, and when spy photographs showed Iranian 747's unloading illegal arms shipments in Zagreb, our State Department told us and told the world that we raised hell.

That was the United States' policy that candidate Bill Clinton opposed. Candidate Bill Clinton said he supported lifting the arms embargo in Bosnia, not so that Iran could sell weapons to the Bosnian Moslems, but rather so they could receive support from United States allies like Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

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As President, he promised when he was a candidate, he would lift the unfair United Nations arms embargo against Bosnia. But once in office, Bill Clinton completely changed his mind. He broke that pledge, broke that promise, and opposed lifting the arms embargo.

He reversed his position because, he said, it would be wrong for any international arms shipments to go to Bosnia. It would "Convert a complex ethnic war into an American responsibility. The United States must, therefore, oppose any international arms shipments to Bosnia."

The Congress, however, voted to lift the arms embargo and sent the President a bill. It was not quite unanimous, but it was hugely bipartisan. Democrats and Republicans in the House and Senate sent the President a bill so that we could, through our allies, help the Bosnian Moslems to defend themselves. The President vetoed that bill. He said

nobody, not Turkey, not Saudi Arabia, none of our friends, least of all the United States of America, could help arm the Bosnian Moslems.

The President assured not only Congress, but the American people and allies, like Britain and France, that he was staunchly opposed to lifting the arms embargo. And without telling even our own Joint Chiefs of Staff, it now develops the President secretly let it be known in Iran that the United States would not oppose huge, illegal arms shipments to the Bosnian Moslems.

Huge quantities of weapons, accompanied by Iranian intelligence agents and mujahedin rebels, were thus shipped into Bosnia, by a regime that the Clinton administration publicly was branding as the financier, the armorer, the trainer, the safe haven, and inspiration for terrorists. These are the people that the secret Clinton policy, that Bill Clinton himself, secretly was introducing to Europe.

As the U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense was using those exact words I just quoted, the financier, armorer, trainer, safe haven, and inspiration for terrorists, the description of Iran, he was using those exact same words in his testimony to Congress. His boss in the White House, Bill Clinton, knew that up to eight cargo jets each month were taking off with Iranian arms bound for Bosnia. There can be no question that this was duplicitous.

Right now congressional committees are preparing to investigate this sordid matter, to determine whether laws were broken governing illegal covert operations and governing failure to report truthfully to the Congress.

But while it remains to be seen whether and, if so, which laws were broken, there is no question that the President broke his word to this Congress and to the American people. There can be no question that the President broke his word to France and to England. In briefs prepared for John Major and Jacques Chirac at the G-7 Summit, unknown to the President, they had incontrovertible proof that the President had lied publicly to them.

It is incumbent upon this Congress to take this matter with the utmost gravity and to investigate it so that we can restore the good word of the American people around the world.

HELPING WORKING AMERICANS THROUGH AN INCREASE IN THE MINIMUM WAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleagues continue to refuse to allow a vote on the minimum wage. It was only minutes ago in this body that they once again rejected a democratic effort to bring the minimum wage increase to the floor for a vote. I

might add that in that vote were 15 Republican colleagues who only days ago, along with a few others, who said that they were splitting with their leadership; they believed that we ought to pass a minimum wage, and that that vote ought to be brought up in this body. Fifteen of them, when they had the opportunity, they would have made the difference in the vote, so that the people's House, the House of Representatives, could have voted to raise the minimum wage a mere 90 cents.

As a matter of fact, because I was watching the clock, when there was about 220 votes, that is enough in order to defeat the opportunity to bring the vote up, several of them hung back, waited until it was lost, and then cast their vote against bringing it up. Talk about profiles in courage? Real courage. But it is nice to get the press accounts in the last few days of how you break with leadership and call for a minimum wage. And when you have the opportunity which this body afforded only a few minutes ago, they took a walk. I am sure that their constituents are going to take a hard look at this vote.

I have bad news for those who oppose a fair minimum wage. We are not done. We will be back, again and again and again, until we see the minimum wage increased in this country.

We will not give up, because there is a lot at stake in this minimum wage debate and in this vote. This debate is not about yet another way for my Republican colleagues to reward the rich and the powerful in this country. It is not another perk for those in power or a payoff to some special interest lobby. What is at stake here is whether or not this Congress will honor and reward hard work and tell the hard working men and women in this Nation that we care about what you do, we honor what you do, and we know what a difficult struggle it is every single week to scramble, to pay those bills, to make sure that your kids can go to college. And then, my God, after these years of work, that you can have a decent and dignified and secure retirement.

We will tell minimum wage workers that we respect that valiant struggle. The minimum wage is already at a 40-year low. It continues to plummet in value. And what we do is we discourage people from working. We say to people, go ahead, be on welfare.

That is crazy. We want to reward work in this country. That is what it is all about. That is what the people are about, that is what my folks are about. They worked hard. They worked hard to be able to send me to school. And people who are doing that ought to understand that those who they elect are going to reward that hard work.

Who are the typical minimum wage workers? The typical minimum worker is a woman. Almost two-thirds are adults, 20 years of age or older. Do not let them get away with saying the minimum wage workers are teenagers. They are not. That is not true.

The average minimum wage worker brings home half of his or her family's earnings, and about 40 percent of this Nation's minimum wage workers are the sole bread winner of their family. A full-time minimum wage worker makes \$8,500 a year. It is less than what people on welfare do get today in this country.

Think about it. An increase in the minimum wage would help working men and women who are providing the only source of income for their families, and we could honor their hard work. These are the ordinary folks, average people, waiters, waitresses, people who wash the dishes. They are struggling everyday.

Do you know that when the Government shut down in December, the Members of this body, Members of Congress who make over \$130,000 a year, they got more in that period of shutdown than a full-time minimum wage worker makes in an entire year?

It is wrong. Raise the minimum wage. Let us do it now. Let us bring this up for a vote.

TRIBUTE TO DORIS PIKE, VOLUNTEER AND LAWMAKER'S WIFE

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

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because earlier this week the world got just a little bit dimmer with the passing of a wonderful woman from Riverhead, Long Island, by the name of Doris Pike.

Mr. Speaker, many people remember Doris Pike as the very pleasant, engaging wife of former Congressman Otis G. Pike, who so ably served Long Island in this body from 1961 to 1979.

But Doris Pike in her own right was a woman of note. She was an educator, somebody who devoted over 25 years as a volunteer, teaching immigrant students English. For 25 years she took those immigrant students, those with various different languages, 14 different languages, I believe, and she taught them English at Patchogue-Medford High School and later Riverhead High School.

She was married to a distinguished Member of this body who in his own right was extremely popular and had a dynamic and strong personality. But Doris Pike herself developed her own persona among the people of Long Island. They came to know and love her because of her many acts of charity, her volunteer work, her great sense of humor.

As her husband Otis Pike said, she was a most unpretentious woman. He recalled an evening when they were invited to the White House, for example, when she wore a beautiful long evening gown and decided that with that gown she was going to wear her bedroom slippers. When questioned by her husband, she said nobody looks at your feet anyway. As the Congressman re-

membered, in fact, they went to that White House affair, and indeed nobody looked at her feet anyway.

Otis Pike, I join with him and his daughter Lois and his sons Doug and Rob, in mourning the passing of this most generous and wonderful woman, Doris Pike. She was a long-time trustee of Dowling College, and she so believed in the value of education that she set up on her own Doris Pike College Fund, in which she attempted each year to fund the tuition expense of one student.

In her office at home, she had a sign that said "A teacher affects eternity. She can never tell where her influence stops."

My colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, Doris Pike was a woman of great stature, and she in her own way has affected eternity, and we will mourn her and we will miss her.

TIME TO VOTE ON A MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas, Mr. GENE GREEN, is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in just a few minutes we will be going to the budget agreement that I want to congratulate not just the majority Members, but also the whole Congress, because we finally have a budget agreement that, and I know I have heard this morning a lot of my colleagues on the Republican side talking about how it saves the tax dollars, and it does, and that is great. But it also restores a great many of the devastating education cuts that we have been talking about on this floor for months and months.

What it does is it shows us we can have a balanced budget in 7 years, just like the President talked about, and still have investment in education and job training and those issues that we know are not just for today, that they are for next year and 5 years from now.

But the reason I asked for 5 minutes this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, is to talk about it is time to have a clean vote on the minimum wage increase.

Working Americans support an increase in the minimum wage. In fact, the latest poll I saw showed that 83 percent of Americans support an increase in the minimum wage. In fact, just today I see reported that we are not going to have a vote on this floor on a minimum wage increase. I think that hurts not only the Congress, but the majority, but I also think it hurts a lot of good, hard-working people in our country who are trying to struggle on \$4.25 an hour.

Americans know the real value of the minimum wage has declined in the past 15 years and the minimum wage earners have not seen an increase since April 1, 1991, 5 years ago, Mr. Speaker. During that time, with inflation 3 percent a year on the average, we see that percentage increasing.

We have a bipartisan bill that has been introduced by some of my majority Republican colleagues, 20 Members I understand, and I am a cosponsor of that bill, to increase the minimum wage. Yet we see that we are not going to have a vote on it. I know some Members on the majority Republican side are disappointed just like those of us on the Democratic side.

There is a proposal though, not the bipartisan bill, but there is a proposal we heard about, and again in speeches today from the majority, that the minimum wage would remain at \$4.25, but we would continue to talk about a Federal Government subsidy for employees with families. So what we are seeing is an increase in this big Government in Washington. We have heard now for over a year, a year and 4 months, how we need to not have big Government in Washington. Yet we are going to, instead of businesses who can earn, who are depending on those people making \$4.25 an hour to produce a product, we are going to subsidize them from this big Government in Washington.

It is like the world turned upside down, Mr. Speaker. I just do not understand it, just being a Member from Houston and understanding that the minimum wage, typically you earn that. We do not need any more subsidies for people who have families. We want a decent wage for a decent job being done, and to get these people off welfare.

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The biggest problem I think we have, and the majority has to explain, is how a person making \$4.25 an hour working 40 hours a week is still eligible in my district for welfare benefits. What we need to do is, if we increase the minimum wage to \$5.15 an hour, a person working 40 hours a week would then no longer be eligible for welfare. They would actually be able to work their way off of this subsidy that they may be receiving and the expanded subsidy I hear the majority party may be talking about.

That is what is wrong. We need to make sure that they can earn that money to keep themselves, get themselves off welfare. And that is why it is amazing to me that instead of just increasing the minimum wage to where businesses will pay their employees a minimum wage reasonable enough to get them off of welfare, that we are coming up with ways that the government can subsidize it and say, well, we really need to do even more on an earned income tax credit, or do even more for providing for these families.

These families want to work and earn a living. They do not want the government to provide it, and that is why it is so important that we provide for a livable wage for the minimum wage. America's families are working harder than ever and we know that. We see the polls. We see what is happening.

The disparity between the highest paid people in our country and the lowest paid is getting higher and higher.