

reach out to the African American community, to the other communities which make up that portion of America that we call Los Angeles.

Linda Wong, a Chinese American of fantastic reputation, is chief financial officer of Rebuild L.A., the organization created to make sure that we could, after the aftermath of the unrest in Los Angeles, go on to rebuild this great city. She has worked tirelessly for many years as a lawyer defending so many people, not just Asian/Pacific islanders, but many people through her public interest work as an attorney, and now she is also someone who is working as a trustee of the Los Angeles metropolitan project, which is a \$100 million educational reform movement in Los Angeles.

The honorable Delbert Wong, Chinese American resident, is the first superior court judge in the United States, a fantastic jurist, someone who would be just the epitome of what we would want to see in our courts. He is someone who is Los Angeles bred.

One last friend, Dr. Haing Ngor. Some of you may remember this Cambodian American because he is the individual who won the Oscar for best supporting actor in the film, the Killing Fields. He has unfortunately left us because of his brutal murder, a tragic death, but he too was an Asian American of renown. Throughout his lifetime Dr. Ngor never gave up his work to someday obtain peace in Cambodia.

I want to thank the Speaker for the opportunity to say to all those people who have represented this country so well and will continue to do so whether they are of a particular ethnicity, or race in this case, we are talking about the Asian/Pacific islander community, that what make America great is the fabric that keeps us together. The Asian/Pacific islander community is among the various communities that make this Nation so great, and I wish to extend to all those people my congratulations and my thanks for the greatness that comes through those people.

REPEAL OF 4.3-CENT GAS TAX ILL-ADVISED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. SKAGGS] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, the House later today will be voting on legislation designed to repeal, supposedly temporarily, although I think we should be skeptical of that, repeal the 4.3-cent-a-gallon gasoline tax that was enacted just a few years ago. I just want to register my concerns in opposition to what I believe is a very ill-advised move that the Congress seems determined to take. Not that any of us want to see consumers paying more for gasoline or other products. But we should be under no illusions as to what this will do that is beneficial, and,

more importantly, what it will do that is really not in the national interest, if we repeal this 4.3-cent-a-gallon tax.

The premise, of course, is that somehow the huge increase that we have all experienced at the gasoline pumps over the last couple of months, 20 cents a gallon or so, in most places around the country, is being driven by a 4-cent-a-gallon tax that was enacted several years back. I think that premise of course falls of its own weight, upon any kind of examination at all.

It makes no sense to me whatsoever, as we are trying gamely to get the Federal budget balanced, to go out of our way to eliminate one of the things that has provided a success story over the last 3 years in cutting the deficit in half; namely, that 4-cent-a-gallon gas tax that was part of the 1993 budget package. That has succeeded in cutting the deficit in half over the intervening 3 years.

Now, either we are going to have to make up that revenue of about \$3 billion for the rest of this year, or over \$30 billion over the next 6 years, by raising taxes somewhere else, or we will aggravate that budget balancing problem that is such a demanding one for us to begin with.

Mr. Speaker, I would rather see us stay the course, get the budget into balance, not give up this modest increase in the gasoline tax that has, I think, made a good contribution to that fundamental fiscal responsibility mission of the Congress over the last 3 years.

Somehow in this we have also lost sight of what was supposed to be our respect for markets and the way that they operate in a free enterprise system in this country. I think it is almost unanimously held by people that follow this part of the energy market that what we experienced with this increase in gasoline prices was the natural result of the way refiners had kept making heating oil later than usual this year and then got into a crunch as the driving season kicked in. We always see an up tick in gas prices about this time of year. So to think there was some conspiratorial element in this, I think is misplaced.

That, in a reverse twist, means even if we repeal the gas tax, I am not sure we will see a tremendous impact on the pocketbooks of most American consumers. The natural fluctuation in energy prices, in gasoline prices, will more than eclipse this change in the tax level. Just as we never noticed it when it kicked in, because gas prices back when this gasoline tax increase took effect were fluctuating by much more than 4 cents a gallon through the natural forces of the market.

I am not sure the consumers will see significant benefit in this. It really, I am afraid, is an exercise in election year appeals to some of our most understandable, but not necessarily our best instincts, that we of course love to pay a little bit less per gallon for gas.

But let us look at a little longer term. We all know that we are going to

have to face up to the real demands for energy conservation in this country sooner or later. We are going to have to face up to the fact that we cannot continue relying on huge quantities, millions of barrels of oil a day, imported from elsewhere in the world. This very, very modest effort at dealing with an energy conservation objective as well as a budget balancing objective in the gas tax increase of 1993 is now merely going to be tossed aside.

Mr. Speaker, I hate to think of how many years are going to have to pass before this Congress has the courage, and it took some courage in 1993 to vote for that very modest gasoline tax increase, before we have the courage again to realize that an essential component of sane energy policy in this country is going to be conservation and an inevitable component of that is going to be pricing.

So we are really deluding ourselves if we think this is, first, going to deal with the budget; second, going to help consumers; or, third, is not going to aggravate our energy problems in the long haul.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning business, pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the House will stand in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. WICKER] at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We earnestly pray, gracious God, for all Your blessings—for peace and strength, for justice and mercy and all the values of Your word. On this day we pray for humility in our hearts whenever we seek to speak the truth and when we venture to know Your will. We hold to our views and yet we do not know all; we stand for right and we admit our limitations; we speak to the issues and yet we can miss the mark. Save us, O God, from any arrogance that would blind us from truth or from undue pride which keeps us from Your blessings so that, instead, in all things we will truly do justice, love mercy, and ever walk humbly with You. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 of rule I, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. MARKEY] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MARKEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

PRIVATE CALENDAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is Private Calendar day. The Clerk will call the first individual bill on the Private Calendar.

LLOYD B. GAMBLE

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 1009) for the relief of Lloyd B. Gamble.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 1009

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS.

(a) PAYMENT.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall pay, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to Lloyd B. Gamble of Fairfax, Virginia, the sum of \$253,488.

(b) BASIS.—The payment required by subsection (a) shall be to compensate Lloyd B. Gamble for the injuries sustained by him as a result of the administration to him, without his knowledge, of lysergic acid diethylamide by United States Army personnel in 1957.

SEC. 2. SATISFACTION OF CLAIMS.

The payment made pursuant to section 1 shall be in full satisfaction of all claims Lloyd B. Gamble may have against the United States for any injury described in such section.

SEC. 3. INELIGIBILITY FOR ADDITIONAL BENEFITS.

Upon payment of the sum referred to in section 1, Lloyd B. Gamble shall not be eligible for any compensation or benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs or the Department of Defense for any injury described in such section.

SEC. 4. LIMITATION OF AGENTS AND ATTORNEYS FEES.

It shall be unlawful for an amount of more than 10 percent of the amount paid pursuant to section 1 to be paid to or received by any agent or attorney for any service rendered to Lloyd B. Gamble in connection with the benefits provided by this Act. Any person who violates this section shall be guilty of an infraction and shall be subject to a fine in the amount provided in title 18, United States Code.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ROCCO A. TRECOSTA

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 2765) for the relief of Rocco A. Trecosta.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 2765

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PAYMENT AUTHORIZED.

As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall pay to Rocco A. Trecosta, of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, a former teacher in the Department of Defense Overseas Dependent Schools, back pay in the amount calculated pursuant to section 2.

SEC. 2. AMOUNT OF PAYMENT.

(a) INITIAL CALCULATION OF AMOUNT.—The Secretary of Defense shall calculate the amount that Rocco A. Trecosta would have been awarded had Mr. Trecosta been a member of the plaintiff class in *March v. United States*, 506 F.2d 1306 (D.C. Cir. 1974).

(b) GROSS AMOUNT.—The gross amount for purposes of subsection (c) shall be the lesser of—

(1) the amount calculated pursuant to subsection (a); and

(2) \$10,000.

(c) DEDUCTIONS FROM GROSS AMOUNT.—The Secretary of Defense shall pay to Rocco A. Trecosta the gross amount described in subsection (b) less appropriate amounts for—

(1) Civil Service Retirement;

(2) Social Security;

(3) Federal Employees Group Life Insurance;

(4) Federal income tax withholding; and

(5) any other similar or related deductions.

SEC. 3. FULL SATISFACTION OF CLAIMS.

The payment authorized by this Act shall be in full satisfaction of all claims of Rocco A. Trecosta against the United States for back pay in connection with his service as a teacher in the Department of Defense Overseas Dependent Schools.

SEC. 4. LIMITATION ON FEES.

No more than 10 percent of the payment authorized by this Act shall be paid to or received by any agent or attorney for services rendered in connection with obtaining such payment, any contract to the contrary notwithstanding. Any person who violates this section shall be fined not more than \$1,000.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This concludes the call of the Private Calendar.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain fifteen 1-minutes on each side.

PRESIDENT CLINTON ON WELFARE REFORM: THERE HE GOES AGAIN

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, the President is talking tough on welfare reform again. Remember, this is the President, who as a candidate, promised to "end welfare as we know it." But when this Congress presented him with legislation that truly would end welfare as we know it, Mr. Clinton quickly vetoed it. When Congress once again sent him welfare reform he vetoed it again.

Now his pollsters have apparently told him that it's time to change course again, or, at least appear to change course. He's once again saying the he supports welfare reform. Unfortunately, what he's actually proposed is not even a pale copy of meaningful reform.

Mr. Speaker, talk is cheap. Candidate Bill Clinton made welfare reform a centerpiece of his campaign for the Presidency. It's time for him to keep his word. It's time to stop the political posturing. It's time for him to sign a real welfare reform bill.

CHINA MFN

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, Congress will soon take up the question of whether or not to renew China's most-favored-nation trade status inside this marketplace for another year. I am one Member of Congress who will vote "no," as in no more lost U.S. jobs, no more abdication of the U.S. marketplace, no more trade deficits and no more wishful thinking on our trade policy toward China.

Every year the American public is told that, if Congress votes to renew China's MFN status just one more year, that our trading relationship with China will improve. Well, it has not.

This chart shows over the last 7 years the United States trade deficit with China has increased over 1000 percent, from a deficit of \$3 billion in 1988 to over \$35 billion last year and projected over \$40 billion this year.

At this rate China will even pass Japan shortly in racking up the most red ink with this country. China remains a closed authoritarian Communist regime. Why should Congress add more red ink to this ledger?

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND OSHA

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