

I join in the President's strong condemnation of this latest terrorist attack and welcome our Nation's determination to help bring to justice those responsible for this cowardly act. I also join in extending our Nation's deepest sympathy and concern for the families of all those killed or injured in the service of their country.

FAMILIES FIRST

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, last weekend I met with parents, children, and community leaders from my district, those who attended the Stand for Children march in Washington this month. Their overwhelming message was that it is time to reorder our Nation's priorities and it is time to put our children and families first.

That is the same message, Mr. Speaker, that Americans across the country are sending, and I am proud that the Democrats have responded with a realistic and commonsense agenda that puts families first, ahead of special interests.

That is right, our agenda is not about crown jewels, tax giveaways, or corporate and military pork. Rather, it is about practical changes we can make to improve the lives of families, changes like fully implementing the safe and drug-free schools program, providing \$10,000 tax deductions for education and job training, and making college a reality for more Americans.

Mr. Speaker, we blocked the Gingrich-Dole cuts to education, Medicare, and the environment. It became clear what Democrats are against.

COST OF GOVERNMENT DAY

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

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, next week, on July 3, Americans will be preparing to celebrate our independence from the British empire over 200 years ago. They will have another reason to celebrate next week; July 3 is the day in which we become independent from having to work for the Government.

It is a sad fact, but a true fact that July 3 is the day in which the cost of all levels of government will finally be paid for. An even more amazing fact, it is not only taxes but also government regulations that we must pay for. In fact, regulations cost more to the average American citizen than the taxes that we pay.

I am happy to join with Senator COVERDELL in the other body and the gentleman from Texas, Majority Whip DELAY, in this body to be an original cosponsor of Cost of Government Day. I would urge all of my colleagues to join us in this resolution.

Let us tell the truth to the American people: Government costs too much, it spends too much money and it wastes a lot of the money that it spends. Let us begin to cut back on taxes, cut back on regulations, and have Independence Day from Government not on July 3 but sometime much earlier in the year.

MOST-FAVORED-NATION STATUS

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

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, the decision that Congress will make today with regard to most-favored-nation status represents an important step in defining our future trading relationship with China.

We are deciding today whether or not the United States will continue what I believe has been a constructive policy that encourages change with China while firmly expressing United States concern about human rights, protection of our intellectual property, and our desire to curb nuclear proliferation.

For the largest private employer in my State, the Boeing Co., renewing MFN with China is absolutely critical. In the period between 1992 and 1994, Boeing recorded \$5.3 billion in sales to China, representing one of the largest single positive influences in improving our balance of trade. In fact, one in every ten commercial jetliners made by the Boeing Co. during this period was sold to a customer in China. These jet sales supported 48,500 jobs in the United States for each of these years.

The jobs I am speaking of are not just at Boeing facilities, but at 4,500 commercial suppliers. That is why we should continue to support MFN.

U.S. MILITARY MUST EXPLAIN ITSELF

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

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, a video reached my office this week that shows scenes of meetings between senior U.S. military officers, including the head of the U.S. Atlantic Command, General Sheehan, and Cuban dictator Castro's senior general, Perez-Perez.

The video reflects a private coziness of the Clinton administration with the Castro regime, not-so-subtle reassurances by the administration that the United States would not stand on the Cuban people's side if the Cuban armed forces sought to liberate Cuba from Castro.

The tape also reflects, in all its sickening ignominy, the immorality of the Clinton administration's policy of forcefully repatriating Cuban refugees.

I believe that a number of things that the video shows merit serious congressional inquiry, and if the U.S. military officers involved do not volun-

tarily meet with Members of Congress to explain themselves, as we have requested, they should be compelled to do so.

REPUBLICAN MAJORITY STIFLES DEBATE ON GRANTING CHINA MFN STATUS

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

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, today Congress will debate the issue of granting a special request to the President for a waiver to grant most-favored-nation status to China. This is an important issue to the American people. Nothing less is at stake than our economic future, our national security, and our democratic principles.

That is why it is so distressing to see the absurd rule that the Republican majority has put forth for this legislation. They want to railroad this legislation through the House in an untimely fashion. Our tradition has always been to have the Fourth of July week for our constituents to express their views to Members. Many constituents cannot afford the expensive trip to Washington, DC, that the business community has readily available to them.

What is the Republican majority afraid of? Are they afraid of the truth? Are they afraid of 100,000 young people gathered in Golden Gate Park to promote a free Tibet? Are they afraid that our colleagues will learn the facts about United States-China trade and that it is a job loser for the American worker?

It is absolutely a shame that on this most important issue the Republican majority is moving to stifle debate.

EITHER FIDEL CASTRO IS OUR ENEMY OR HE IS NOT

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, south Florida was shocked earlier this week when a video was released showing top United States military officials exchanging gifts and pleasantries at the Guantanamo Naval Base with Cuban general and known Cuban assassin, General Perez-Perez.

At one point the chief of the U.S. Atlantic Command refers to the Cuban thug as "My General," while another tells Castro's communist partner that a plaque he received as a gift from him would be put in a place of honor.

I propose that if we must exchange gifts with Castro officials, let us give them an indictment for their criminal acts and a key to free jailed political dissidents. Let us give them a reproduction of the Statute of Liberty and a ballot, symbols of freedom and democracy.

This repugnant display of camaraderie of a top official of a totalitarian

military regime which recently murdered in cold blood American citizens and which continues to harm the United States at every opportunity, is not only a disgusting sight to behold, but an insult to the thousands of men and women of our military who risk their lives every day to defend the principles of freedom and democracy we proudly enjoy in this Nation.

Either Fidel Castro is our enemy or he is not. Let us have these officials explain these actions to us.

REPUBLICANS PLAN TO PREVENT VOTE ON PRIVILEGED RESOLUTION REGARDING GINGRICH COMPLAINTS

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

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on August 5, 1987, the gentleman from Georgia, Representative NEWT GINGRICH, offered a privileged resolution on the House floor. The Gingrich resolution directed the Committee on Ethics to expand the investigation into another Member of the House, Representative Fernand St. Germain.

At that time no one moved to table the Gingrich resolution in 1987. The House was permitted to fully debate the resolution in 1987, and the House took an up or down rollcall vote on the resolution in 1987.

Times have apparently changed. When the gentleman from Florida, Representative JOHNSTON, offered a similar resolution to ask the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct to do the same thing with respect to the case of Mr. GINGRICH, the Republican leadership plans to table the resolution immediately, the Republican leadership plans to block all debate on the resolution, and the Republican leadership plans to prevent a vote on the resolution.

My, how things have changed and, my, how the people's House has changed.

NO GLASS CEILING FOR WOMEN REPRESENTATIVES

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

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I am often asked by women in my district if there is a glass ceiling in this Congress for women who serve here, and I tell them no, there is not a glass ceiling as far as I am concerned.

I tell them that I am reminded of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. Remember, Fred Astaire was a spectacular dancer, but some people forget that Ginger Rogers had to do everything he did, except she had to do it in a long dress, high heels, dancing backward, with a smile on her face.

The point of this friendly jibe is that we as women oftentimes have to work

differently or harder, but we are working toward the same goal side-by-side with the gentlemen in this body.

Some Members would have us believe that women are some sort of a third political party, that there are a special set of issues that only women care about. One of my colleagues recently claimed that there was a war against women in this body. Such a charge is hollow rhetoric. The real issue is that the most important concerns women have are really no different than all Americans.

NEWTGATE

(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, if a Member of this House was involved in a \$6 million tax fraud scheme and the Ethics Committee knew and did nothing, what would that be?

If a Member of this House set up and used tax exempt organizations for partisan political purposes and the Ethics Committee knew and did nothing, what would that be?

Well, Mr. Speaker, these are exactly the charges hanging over Speaker NEWT GINGRICH. The Ethics Committee has been sitting on these charges for 6 months and doing nothing. They even refuse to send them to the outside counsel investigating the Speaker.

To answer the question, Mr. Speaker, What would it be? It would be, it is, a scandal. Newtgate is truly the biggest scandal and coverup in this town.

IN SUPPORT OF THE RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL OF MFN STATUS FOR CHINA

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, for 15 years now, we have given MFN status to the Chinese. And rather than getting better, the situation is worsening: we now have a \$30 billion trade imbalance, human rights abuses are on the rise, Chinese companies continue to steal America's intellectual property, military spending is increasing, and anti-American sentiment is rising throughout China.

Not only do we tolerate such behavior from China, but by granting MFN status—by voting against this resolution—we actually condone the behavior of the Chinese. We tell them to continue the systematic killing of their children and the state-sponsored abortions; we tell them that America condones communism, hostility, and oppression; we support and fund their Army through our trade imbalance; and we ignore the theft of millions of American dollars in intellectual property. We standby and we do nothing, and our apathy is just as bad as our involvement; it is, in simple terms, the American seal of approval.

My colleagues, we have the opportunity today to send a message to the world that America will not support a rogue nation, that we will not condone terrorism, oppression, and intolerance. Today, we have the opportunity to affect a change in China's policies, and to tell the rest of the world: America allies itself with only those nations who advance and encourage fairness, the nations who foster democracy, and those nations who embrace freedom.

My colleagues, I urge you to do the right thing: Vote for the resolution of disapproval; vote against MFN for China.

THE COMMITTEE SHOULD GET ON WITH IT

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

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, it is almost the Fourth of July, and today many of us will be leaving to go home. I know we are going to be giving wonderful speeches about this country, about this country and how we believe it is a government of laws and not of men, that no man is above the law.

Well, thank goodness for the gentleman from Florida [Mr. JOHNSTON], because he is going to give us a chance to prove we mean that before we leave here today because today he will be offering a resolution that says to a certain committee that has all sorts of charges piled up in front of it that they have been sitting on like nesting hens, very serious charges that go to the core of this democracy saying to that committee, get on with it. Even if this person against whom these charges are being leveled is the Speaker of this House, we must act.

So if we are going to give those speeches later on next week, we better be prepared to vote today to show we mean it.

THE AMERICAN WORKERS TAX BURDEN

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, next week on July 4, the American people will celebrate 220 years of independence from Great Britain, but they will also celebrate the fact that their liberation from \$3.3 trillion in total costs and regulations that it takes 6 months to pay. It was not always so.

If we went back to the 1960's, we would see that the Federal tax rate then was 12 to 13 percent. It has doubled since then to 25 percent. When we add the regulations cost, when we add the State cost, it brings it up to almost 50 percent.

Now that is the cost of increased Government spending. That is why some of us fight to reduce wasteful Government spending on this floor. Let us reduce the burdens which we have