

this Republican budget an innovative new effort to empower education and schooling with new dynamic programs responsive to the current needs of our constituents. School systems and educators should not be forced to choose which students receive the aid they require and which must go without that assistance. All students must have the opportunity to succeed, and it is the responsibility of Congress to join with localities and States to ensure that each student receives a quality education. The budget package proposed by the Republican majority in Congress falls very short of the investment needed to ensure that our students are receiving the help they require to succeed and prosper today and tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California [Ms. WOOLSEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

DISAPPEARANCE OF CHERYL ANN BARNES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida [Mrs. THURMAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity today to talk about something that happened earlier this month in Sumter County, FL, which is in my district.

On January 3, Cheryl Ann Barnes, a 17-year-old high school senior, disappeared. Cheryl is a white female, 5-foot-4-inches tall, and has brown hair and brown eyes. At the time of her disappearance, Cheryl was driving to school in her 1988, metallic grey Mazda 626. The license plate number is RQP74X.

Mr. Speaker, I took this time today to talk about Cheryl's disappearance for a number of reasons. First, despite the continuing efforts of law enforcement and the Sumter County community, 21 days have passed since Cheryl was last seen driving to school. I am hoping that someone watching on C-SPAN today may have seen Cheryl's car somewhere recently and will contact me or the Sumter County Sheriff's Department.

Second, the problem of missing children is a national issue. Just recently, President Clinton issued an Executive order making it easier for pictures of missing children to be posted in Federal buildings.

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Getting information out regarding Cheryl's disappearance has not been a problem. In fact, the Barnes family and the Sumter County sheriff's department say they have been very gratified by the level of cooperation that they have received from all missing children's organizations. And yet 21 days have come and gone without any word about Cheryl's whereabouts.

I cannot imagine the agony Cheryl's grandparents, William and Shirley Barnes, are continuing to experience daily or her older sister Sheila Burgess or many of her friends. Cheryl is one of those students who is a friend to everyone. She is a devoutly religious young woman who is very active in school and community activities. They think it would be totally out of character, according to those who know Cheryl, for her to have run away or left voluntarily. That is just not a possibility. In fact, the last time Cheryl was seen, she had made one stop about four blocks away from her high school; then she disappeared.

Again, I am asking that if anyone has seen someone resembling Cheryl, 5 feet, 4 inches tall and about 120 pounds with brown hair and brown eyes, to please call me or the Sumter County sheriff's department at 904-793-0222. I know that the Barnes family has still a lot of hope that Cheryl will one day return. I hope someone listening today can help make that happen.

I also know that the Barnes family would like me to let people know within the Sumter County area how much they have appreciated the support that they have received, the countless hours that they have spent in their searches, and certainly all of law enforcement's help in trying to get this done.

If anybody might have or is asking or needs any kind of information or a picture or anything, please do not hesitate to either call me or, as I said, the Sumter County sheriff's department at 904-793-0222 and we will be glad to get this information. Any businesses that would like to have these pictures, remembering this is a nationwide search, this is not just in the State of Florida, any help that any of you can give us, we would appreciate it.

I thank the Speaker for letting me have this opportunity to get out this information that is extremely important to this Nation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS DELEGATE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HUTCHINSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Guam [Mr. UNDERWOOD] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced the Northern Marianas Delegate Act, to provide for a nonvoting Delegate to the House of Representatives to represent the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands became the newest territory of the United States and an American commonwealth in 1976. This commonwealth is comprised of the northern islands in the Mariana Island chain, the principal islands being Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Guam is also a part of the Mariana Island chain, and it is fitting that the people of Guam have the honor today to share in the

introduction of this bill for our Pacific neighbors, and for our brothers and sisters of Chamorro heritage in the Northern Marianas who share Guam's indigenous identity.

It is important that the Northern Marianas be accorded representation in Congress, not just for fair and just representation of an American community whose interests are affected by the actions of Congress, but more importantly for what the people of Northern Marianas can contribute to the Nation through their Delegate.

The American relationship with the Northern Marianas began just over 50 years ago when American forces fought on the beaches of Saipan and Tinian, and at great human cost, expelled a colonial power that had acquired these islands as part of a Pacific empire. The Americans, in the years to come, established the seeds of democracy that have resulted in this new American commonwealth. This commonwealth, whose roots to America are traced to a violent military encounter in World War II, is the first American soil acquired by conquest in this century. That the people of the Northern Marianas have freely chosen to become a part of the American family is a great credit to the United States; that they do not enjoy any participation in the national political process as citizens discredits our commitment to democratic principles.

Today the American citizens who live in the Northern Marianas contribute to the Nation and participate in the life of our Nation in all the same ways that every other American citizen does in his own community. They pay taxes, serve in the military, and work hard for the progress of their communities. They are part of the fabric of our great Nation.

Participation in this American democracy is not based on a particular citizen's tax contribution to the Treasury and it is not based on a preordained size of a community. It is based on a community's commitment to our democratic form of government and our Nation. Our American citizenship has as its foundation a promise of fair and equal treatment by our Government and that promise extends to Congress where fair and equal treatment demands that the Northern Marianas be represented by a Delegate.

The bill that I introduced today mirrors the legislation which granted Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands representation in 1972 and the legislation which granted American Samoa representation in 1980. The Northern Marianas will join the ranks of Delegates representing these islands, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia, and the Northern Marianas will add its voice to those who represent American citizens who do not reside in the 50 States, but who do reside in a diverse group of American communities on American soil.

In introducing this bill today I commend the work of the resident Representative of the Commonwealth of

the Northern Mariana Islands, Mr. Juan N. Babauta, and his staff. I also commend the unity of purpose in the leadership of the Northern Marianas expressed by senate joint resolution No. 9-6 of the Ninth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, the majors of Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands, and the municipal councils of Saipan, Tinian, Rota in the adoption of resolutions requesting the U.S. Congress to grant delegate status to the resident Representative to the United States. I further commend the leadership of the Hon. Jesus R. Sablan, president of the Senate of the 10th Commonwealth Legislature and the Hon. Crispin I. Deleon Guerrero in their support of this bill. I hope that the House of Representatives and the Senate will act on this legislation in this session, and I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Northern Marianas Delegate Act.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. UNDERWOOD. I yield to the gentleman from American Samoa.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentleman from Guam for being the chief sponsor of this important legislation. I think it is not only long overdue but, as the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Native Americans and Insular Affairs, I think it is most needful that the Congress should address this very important issue of true representation by our fellow American citizens that live in the Northern Marianas. I would like to ask the gentleman for just a couple of responses to one question that I have.

I think it is needful that the American people need to know how important these islands were in World War II, even at this point in time. The fact that this covenant that was signed between the leaders and the people of the Northern Marianas and the United States Government still to this day holds a very important strategic importance to our security interests in that part of the world. I would ask the gentleman if this is still true.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Absolutely. As a matter of fact, Saipan, which is the principal island, is most identified to the people of this Nation as a battleground but, of course, their importance continued dramatically even after World War II, serving as a CIA base and providing military support for a number of years.

FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING IS LEAKING RADIOACTIVITY INTO SOUTH PACIFIC

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, since September of last year, France has resumed detonating nuclear bombs in coral atolls in the South Pacific, de-

fying worldwide protests against this crime against nature and against the lives and welfare of some 27 million men, women, and children who live in the Pacific region.

In deciding to resume nuclear testing, the French President Jacques Chirac promised the international community there would be no environmental consequences from their nuclear tests, as radioactive substances would not be discharged into the ocean and the surrounding areas.

Mr. Speaker, despite the intense fears of millions of residents in the Pacific, France's nuclear bomb detonations over the past 30 years are laying the foundation for a major environmental tragedy like Chernobyl. The French Atomic Energy Agency has repeatedly stated that radioactive substances from their nuclear tests are trapped in the ground and there is no danger of radioactive contamination.

Yesterday, France's big lie was revealed.

After a Japanese newspaper broke the story yesterday, media reports confirm that France now acknowledges that radioactive materials have, indeed, leaked into the sea from their recent nuclear tests at Moruroa Atoll. Radioactive iodine-131, which is created by nuclear explosions and causes cancer in humans, was detected by French officials after the tests but was apparently covered up. Only after a French nuclear specialist mistakenly revealed the information during a disarmament conference held right here in Washington last November—that the radioactive leakage was brought to light.

Mr. Speaker, this just confirms what we all know. The French Government cannot be trusted to tell the truth. One wonders what other monstrosities they have been hiding in the name of national interest.

Although the French routinely deny that their nuclear tests threaten the health and safety of Pacific residents or endanger the region's fragile marine environment, documents from France's Atomic Energy Commission confirm that at least three tests in the past have also led to radioactive contamination at Moruroa Atoll. Scientific missions to Moruroa—although severely restricted by French authorities in to their access to test sites, test data and time for study—have verified the presence of radioactive isotopes such as iodine-131, cesium-134, tritium, krypton-85, and plutonium. The presence of these radioactive materials substantiate fears that leakage, venting, and accidental dispersal of radioactive materials have occurred at France's test facilities in the two island atolls in the Pacific.

Despite France's assurances to the contrary, these reports and the events of yesterday confirm that France's underground testing program cannot ensure that radioactive contamination is fully contained.

While France's Defense Minister and Foreign Minister denounce accounts

that Moruroa Atoll has suffered deep cracks and fissuring from the nuclear testing, a confidential French Defense Ministry study directly contradicts them. As reported in today's Washington Post,

The French Government has been aware, at least since 1979, that Moruroa's underwater basalt foundation is fractured in several places.

The report described the effects of an accident in 1979 in which the French detonated a 150-kiloton weapon only 1,300 feet below the surface of the lagoon. The blast was supposed to occur at 2,600 feet, but the bomb got stuck halfway down the test shaft, and the French detonated it there rather than risk trying to move it. The explosion blasted loose more than 130 million cubic yards of rock and coral, causing a tidal wave that injured several French scientists and guards. The document also described underwater avalanches that followed three tests as proof the growing number of tests was posing serious environmental risks to Mururoa Atoll.

Mr. Speaker, with French President Chirac expected in Washington next week, I would ask our colleagues to join me in urging that the French Government stop this madness and immediately cease nuclear testing in the South Pacific.

Mr. Speaker, I've said it earlier and I'll say it again—the French Government has already exploded some 177 nuclear bombs in this atoll in the Pacific, and Prime Minister John Majors of Great Britain and our own President have given only lip service to these acts of atrocity against the marine environment and against the lives of human beings who live in that part of the world.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the following information:

RADIOACTIVE LEAK FOUND AT FRANCE'S MURUROA

TOKYO (Reuters)—A Japanese newspaper said on Tuesday that France had detected a toxic radioactive substance near Mururoa Atoll in the South Pacific after resuming nuclear testing there last September.

Yomiuri Shimbun, quoting unnamed sources close to the Geneva Conference on Disarmament, said the radioactive substance called "Iodine 131" was detected near Mururoa Atoll.

The sources said a specialist from the French Nuclear Energy Agency disclosed the radiation leakage at an unofficial meeting in Washington last November of experts from prospective signatories of a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

The French expert, however, did not make it clear exactly when the radioactive substance was detected.

After making the disclosure, the French expert asked the other participants to "forget what they had just heard," saying the data was "extremely confidential," the sources were quoted as saying.

Quoting one source close to the Washington meeting, Yomiuri said the radiation level of the substance was so low that it would not harm humans.

But when Iodine 131, commonly detected after frequent nuclear tests, is taken into the human body, it could cause cancer, Yomiuri said.

France has defied worldwide protests and conducted five nuclear weapons tests in the South Pacific since last September.