

China markets weapons. These weapons of mass destruction could easily be used against American troops if the United States were to become involved, as in the Persian Gulf war, in protecting national security obligations abroad.

Certification that China is in compliance with its nonproliferation obligations is not only undeserved, it is dangerous. By allowing the Chinese to obtain American nuclear technology, the administration will aid China in further destabilizing already volatile regions such as the Middle East, where U.S. troops will be called in to reinstate order. The Clinton administration cannot and will not be allowed to sacrifice the safety of American troops simply to record a public relations victory.

COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WEBB SCHOOLS

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 1997

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, in 1922, in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains, Vivian and Thompson Webb opened the Webb School of California, an all boys high school dedicated to developing men of character. In 1981, the Vivian Webb School for girls was established to reinforce the traditions of service, leadership, and honor upon which the school was founded. As the Webb Schools celebrate their 75th anniversary on October 25, I want to recognize the faculty and staff for their commitment to educational excellence and the highest standard of academic achievement.

The Webb Schools have provided several generations of students with a strong foundation for leadership, personal advancement, and ethical and social responsibility. Many of the schools' 3,080 alumni have gone on to distinguished careers in business, government, medicine, education, media, the law, and the arts.

Today, the academic curriculum offers students from 12 States and 11 countries a choice of 71 different courses in English, literature, mathematics, languages, history, fine arts, and the sciences. Of the Webb graduates, 100 percent go on to 4 year colleges and universities, including such highly selective institutions as Harvard, Stanford, Yale, Columbia, Duke, Georgetown, Pepperdine, Purdue, Northwestern, Princeton, Dartmouth, Amherst, Boston College, Boston University, the Claremont Colleges, UCLA, USC, and UC Berkeley.

Webb students have a combined SAT median score of 1320, and they excel in State, regional, and national competitions. Webb students received the 1994 Tapestry Award from Toyota Motor Corp. for designing a multimedia exhibit explaining the physics of dinosaur motion. A team of students placed second in the 1996 Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Awards, the largest K-12 science contest in the world, with a design for a self-powered artificial heart. Webb students also placed first in California and third in the country in the 1996 National Physics Bowl, and they finished in the top 10 nationally in the 1996 and 1997 National French Contests.

An example of the technical skill and creativity of Webb students can be seen in the Web site they created on the Internet at www.webb.org. The Webb Schools are committed to the application of computers and related technologies in education to prepare their students for the academic rigors of post-secondary education, and to ensure that they can compete and prosper in the 21st century information economy.

Mr. Speaker, in June, I had the honor of giving the commencement address to the Webb School of California's 1997 graduating class. I told the students that they will always be able to think back to the day of their graduation and draw upon the inspiration of a job well done. Today, as we approach the 75th anniversary of the Webb Schools, I want to echo those sentiments to the faculty, staff, and alumni. They have done a tremendous job of carrying out Vivian and Thompson Webb's founding vision of an institution dedicated to distinguished academic achievement, and unwavering ethical behavior and personal responsibility.

TRIBUTE TO ALVIN R. BELL

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 1997

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Alvin R. Bell, a constituent of mine who for the second straight year participated in CIVITAS@Bosnia and Herzegovina, an intensive program from August 1 through August 17, 1997, designed to train teachers from throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina with materials and methods developed to educate for democracy. Mr. Bell was part of a team of 20 American educators who were assigned to 16 locations throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the Republic of Srpska; the Americans teamed with 18 teachers from the Council of Europe in nine of these sites. This education for democracy program reached 550 teachers from both entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The summer training program was developed by the Center for Civic Education as part of a major civic education initiative in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The goals of the program are to provide teachers with the tools necessary to help prepare students and their communities for competent and responsible citizenship, including participation in elections and other opportunities to take part in the political life of their communities. Achieving this goal will contribute to the reconstitution of a sense of community, cooperation, tolerance, and support for democracy and human rights in this war torn area.

I am also pleased to announce that the curricular materials being used for the program in Bosnia and Herzegovina have been adapted from the we the people * * * the citizen and the Constitution foundations of democracy, and the project citizen programs, which are supported by Congress and used in schools throughout the United States. Initial reports evaluating the summer program indicate that materials (selected and adapted by educators from Bosnia and Herzegovina) and teaching methods were enthusiastically received and will be adapted for use in classrooms in both entities of the country.

Alvin Bell is a teacher at Findlay High School in my hometown of Findlay, OH. Mr. Bell has guided five different teams of students to Washington, DC, to participate in the we the people * * * the citizen and Constitution national finals. This impressive academic competition simulates a congressional hearing and provides students an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend Alvin Bell for his dedication and commitment during the CIVITAS@Bosnia and Herzegovina summer training program. His work is helping to achieve the overall objective of building democracy in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

ETHICS

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, October 8, 1997 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

REFORMING THE HOUSE ETHICS PROCESS

The House recently passed reforms of its procedures for considering charges of misconduct against a Member. The reforms were based upon the recommendations of a bipartisan task force set up in the wake of the highly contentious, widely criticized handling of the ethics charges against Newt Gingrich last year. The reforms make some modest improvements, but overall are a disappointment.

CURRENT PROCESS

One of the major responsibilities of the House of Representatives is to police its Members to make sure that their actions are not bringing discredit upon the House. This is a key responsibility; the American system of government depends upon the confidence of the people in their elected representatives.

Since the 1960s, the House has considered charges of Member misconduct—such as accepting bribes, misusing campaign funds, or lying to investors—through its Standards of Official Conduct Committee. This is the only bipartisan committee in the House with equal numbers of Democrats and Republicans. It reviews charges of misconduct, launches investigations, and recommends to the full House whether and how a Member should be punished. The full House then makes the final decision on disciplining the Member.

Over the years this system has worked reasonably well, but in recent years the process has become increasingly politicized, with charges often brought against Members for political purposes and with the Standards Committee increasingly deadlocking along partisan lines.

REFORMS

The reform package passed by the House made some modest improvements to the process, but also had serious flaws.

On the plus side, it would make the operations of the Standards Committee less partisan, by allowing both the chairman and ranking minority member to set the Committee's agenda and by making the staff nonpartisan. It also expedites consideration of complaints, lessens the time burdens on Committee members, and helps to protect the rights of an accused Member by guarding against leaks of confidential matters at the early stages of an investigation.

But overall I voted against the package. Since the Committee was set up, outside groups have generally been able to file charges against Members if they believe there is good evidence of possible misconduct that should be investigated. Some important cases have been brought before the Standards Committee in this way, including the charges against Speaker Gingrich that resulted in his being reprimanded by the full House and paying a \$300,000 penalty.

Under the new Committee rules, however, people outside Congress can no longer file complaints with the Committee, even if they have personal and direct knowledge of egregious conduct by a Member. Now only a Member of the House could file charges against another Member. I believe the new rules make it even harder to hold Members accountable for serious misconduct. By this action the House does further damage to the integrity of the institution.

INVOLVING OUTSIDERS IN INVESTIGATIONS

I was also disappointed that the reform package failed to include a bipartisan proposal that I had introduced to involve outsiders in the investigation of charges against Members.

Under my proposal, the Speaker and the Minority Leader would jointly appoint a pool of "independent fact-finders" to be called upon by the Standards Committee to help in ethics investigations as needed, on a case-by-case basis. These individuals would be private citizens, and might include, for example, retired judges, former members, or just ordinary citizens. The findings and recommendations of these independent fact-finders would be reported back to the full Committee, which then makes recommendations to the full House. The basic idea is to restore credibility to the process by involving outsiders at a key point in the consideration of the charges against a Member—investigating the evidence and making recommendations on possible discipline—with the final judgment on the case still resting with the full House, as it must under the Constitution.

Our current process has simply lost too much credibility with the public and the media. There have always been inherent conflicts of interest when Members judge fellow Members—either to protect a friend or Member of the same party or to go after an opponent for political purposes. But in recent years those tensions have come to the forefront, as the ethics process has become highly partisan, bitter, and contentious.

Various other professions are increasingly calling on outsiders to help them police their membership—to reduce the tensions, stalling, and conflicts of interest. Several state legislatures, for example, are now successfully using independent ethics panels to help consider charges of misconduct against legislators. The House should do the same.

However, the House leadership opposed the idea of allowing outsiders to help investigate Member misconduct—perhaps fearing a loss of control over the disciplinary process—and it was not allowed to be considered by Members on the floor.

CONCLUSION

The unfortunate fact is that the House usually moves to reform its ethics process only after a major ethics scandal or a widely perceived failure of the system. The major problems we experienced with the Gingrich case gave us a rare opportunity to make some serious reforms that go to the heart of our difficulties in policing ourselves and, in turn, help restore credibility to the institution of the Congress. We should have passed more meaningful reforms.

Although we were not successful this time in including outsiders in the process, I be-

lieve that House movement in that direction is almost inevitable. I agree fully with the new Chairman of the Standards Committee, who said that next time the "use of non-House Members will be a fait accompli". Involving outsiders in the ethics process is not a panacea, but it is a significant step in the right direction. It means more openness in the spirit of good government, and it reflects confidence within the House that it is able to withstand the scrutiny.

IN HONOR OF ALOYSIUS HEPP

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Aloysius Hepp, recipient of NASA's Exceptional Achievement Medal. Dr. Hepp, a senior materials scientist at Cleveland's NASA Lewis Research Center, received the Exceptional Achievement Medal for his significant support of the socioeconomic business programs in the small business, technical, and procurement arenas.

Dr. Hepp graduated from Carnegie Mellon University as the top chemistry major in his class. After earning a Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dr. Hepp spent a year with NASA Lewis before moving onto stints with the Center for Naval Analyses and the Polaroid Corp. Dr. Hepp returned to NASA Lewis in 1987 to continue his accomplished career. In fact, 5 out of the last 7 years, NASA Lewis honored Dr. Hepp by awarding him the Research Achievement Award. In addition to his position with NASA Lewis, Dr. Hepp serves as an adjunct professor at the State University of New York-Albany and Cleveland State University. Dr. Hepp also spent a year as a visiting scholar at Harvard University.

Dr. Hepp has played an active role in promoting diversity at NASA Lewis and increasing opportunity for minorities in education and business. For example, Dr. Hepp works with a NASA Lewis program to provide high school and college minority students with summer internships. Over the years, these internships have provided a valuable experience to many of Cleveland's youth. In many cases, these students have collaborated with scientists to produce presentations and publications.

The work done by Dr. Hepp is yet another example of the excellent work done by the scientist, engineers, and administrative personnel at the NASA Lewis Research Center. My fellow colleagues, please join me in recognizing the contributions made by Dr. Aloysius Hepp to the scientific community and the community of Cleveland in general.

HONORING KATHY WALLACE OF BELLAIRE, OH

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 1997

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following to my colleagues.

Kathy Wallace, of Bellaire, OH, has been named the Ohio Valley Medical Center's 1997

Ree Cook-Reiter Women's Center Woman of the Year. Kathy is the first recipient of the award which honors women who are devoted to helping their communities.

Kathy is special to many people in the Ohio Valley whose lives she has touched through her caring and giving attitude. Some of those people are residents of the Country Club Retirement Center in Bellaire where she gives weekly manicures. She always has a warm smile and friendly conversation for them. Kathy also donates sweet treats to nursing home residents from the Dairy Queen she owns in Martins Ferry, OH.

Kathy has taught Bellaire and Belmont County about the importance of volunteering and dedication to one's community. She leads by example. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Kathy Wallace for her service to Belmont County, and to congratulate her as she is honored as the first recipient of the 1997 Ree Cook-Reiter Women's Center Woman of the Year. I wish Kathy Wallace continued success, health and prosperity.

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SYMBOLICALLY POST-RATIFIES CONSTITUTION'S 15TH AMENDMENT

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 1997

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, the recently concluded 1997 regular session of the 100th Tennessee General Assembly took a very historic and symbolic action. On April 2, 1997, both the Tennessee House of Representatives and the Tennessee Senate adopted House Joint Resolution 32, "to post-ratify Amendment 15 to the Constitution of the United States of America guaranteeing the right of citizens to vote regardless of race, color, or previous condition of servitude". On April 8, 1997, the Governor of Tennessee officially signed House Joint Resolution 32.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Constitution's 15th amendment is a fundamental legacy from the Reconstruction period following the Civil War. While the 13th amendment abolished slavery in 1865, and the 14th amendment defined citizenship by 1868, it was not until the 15th amendment came along in 1870 that the right to cast a vote was extended to African-American males uniformly in all regions of the Nation. Of course, the 19th amendment, ratified in 1920, further extended ballot access to females of all ethnic backgrounds.

Mr. Speaker, up until just this year, Tennessee was the only State—which had been in the Union both well before the 15th amendment was proposed and long after it had gained ratification in 1870—to have never gone on record, albeit symbolically, in support of this vital section of our Nation's highest legal document. As a matter of fact, a resolution specifically denouncing the 15th amendment was adopted by the 36th Tennessee General Assembly in 1870 and that resolution of rejection had remained Tennessee's only official pronouncement on the matter for the ensuing 127 years. But this embarrassing chapter of history was duly remedied when House Joint Resolution 32 was presented last spring in the Tennessee House of Representatives by the Honorable Tommie F. Brown of