

It is without question, Mr. Speaker, that we expect to have a brilliant future for the people of China, diplomatically, culturally, economically, and politically.

Our problem is not with the people of China, but with the actions of the repressive Chinese Government, a Government that continues to stifle dissent, to imprison those who dare to speak out, to worship as they please, to organize or to disagree. Eight years ago, the brave men and women who demonstrated for democracy did so in the spirit and the footsteps of our Founding Fathers.

They quoted Thomas Jefferson. They built a monument fashioned after our Statue of Liberty. They looked to the United States as a beacon of hope and of freedom. We looked and still look to them for their courage, their idealism, and their dedication to the establishment of basic human rights and respect for basic human rights.

Tonight in Washington, DC, there will be a demonstration outside the Chinese Embassy. It will be a coming together of many of the groups who have worked in solidarity, human rights groups, labor rights groups, workers rights groups, religious rights groups who have worked together since the time of the Tiananmen Square massacre to call attention to the severe repression that continues in China still today.

□ 1245

As I said earlier, we will gather to honor the pro-democracy activists as we recognize their legacy and the legacy that they obtained from our Founding Fathers. We cannot and must not abandon them in their cause of freedom, both where it is missing and where it currently exists. Where it currently exists, of course, is in Hong Kong, and I will move on to that in a moment.

It is quite clear that by imprisoning those that speak out for democracy, China's leaders have imprisoned part of all who speak out for democratic freedoms. These men and women are the past. The rulers of Beijing are the past. The brave men and women of 1989 and of 1978 and of all the outbursts of freedom, big and small, over the decades in China are the future.

In a few short weeks the world will watch as freedom where it exists now in China, in Hong Kong, is tested. We must maintain our commitment to the people of Hong Kong and to their civil liberties and basic human rights.

In yesterday's paper, Mr. Speaker, it was reported that in Hong Kong there was a huge protest demanding the freeing of the prisoners arrested at the time of the Tiananmen Square massacre. Thousands of people in Hong Kong rallied as the turnover approaches and makes such demonstrations illegal. This rally was first a response to a statement made by a leader in Hong Kong, who said "Forget about Tiananmen Square," and these young

people turned out to say we will not forget about Tiananmen Square. So, again, thousands of people turned out with posters that said "Forget Tiananmen Square? Never."

Mr. Speaker, in observation of the 8-year anniversary. I once again want to call to the attention of our colleagues a book called "The Courage to Stand Alone", written by Wei Jingsheng. Wei Jingsheng has been called the Sakharov of China, and this book was written in a prison cell by him. It is a moving book by the paramount leader and symbol of the ongoing struggle for democracy and human rights in China.

They say the most painful part of being a political prisoner, a prisoner of conscience anywhere, is that your prisoners tell you that nobody cares about you, that nobody knows you are in prison or cares about why you are there. And one thing I want to make certain is that those political prisoners arrested for their peaceful demonstration of their rights at the time of the Tiananmen Square massacre know that they have not been forgotten, all of them, including Wei Jingsheng, indeed a champion of democracy throughout the world.

I would like to read more from the book but my time has expired. More on the subject later. But let us all come together, regardless of what we think about our policy to China, to commemorate the courage of those who gave their personal freedom and indeed their lives for the cause of democratic freedom in China.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NETHERCUTT). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the House stands in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

May Your blessings, gracious God, that brighten every place and give peace to every soul, be with all who seek Your presence and ask for Your favor. We seek to trust our own strength and yet we know we can be weak; we wish to endorse our own wisdom, and yet we know our ignorance; we say we pursue justice, and yet we can miss the mark. O loving God, as You have created us and nurtured us along life's way, so fill our hearts with those blessings that show us the way of

truth and the meaning of life. This is our earnest prayer. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). Will the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. STUMP] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. STUMP 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.

DISPENSING WITH CALL OF PRIVATE CALENDAR

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the call of the Private Calendar today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

INTRODUCING RESOLUTION TO DENY MOST-FAVORED-NATION TRADING STATUS TO COMMUNIST CHINA

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

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, today I and a bipartisan group of Members of the House, including Democrats and some of the Republican leadership, are introducing a resolution to deny most-favored-nation trading status to Communist China.

Once again we have witnessed the utter failure of granting favorable terms of trade to China. Here is what it has brought us over the last year:

The purchase of Russian missiles specifically designed to take out American ships and kill American sailors;

A \$40 billion trade deficit, approaching \$50 billion now, mostly caused by the importation of slave-labor goods in this country;

Attempts to buy influence and use U.S. elections and conduct economic espionage against the United States of America;

A renewed crackdown on religion and preparations for a crackdown on liberties in Hong Kong;

But most of all, continued missile and chemical weapons shipments to Iran and Pakistan that will someday kill tens of thousands of innocent human beings, including soldiers who will be called to the rescue, as they were in the Persian Gulf.

I would ask Members to support this resolution when it comes to the floor.

PASS A STRAIGHTFORWARD DISASTER RELIEF BILL NOW

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans decided to go home for Memorial Day vacation last week, even though they still have not provided disaster-stricken families with the emergency funds needed to rebuild their lives. It has now been more than 2 months since the President sent disaster relief legislation to Congress; yet Republicans still have not finished their work and passed the bill.

Last month Republicans loaded the bill up with provisions to freeze spending on education and other priorities for working families, a provision the President warned them would force him to veto the bill.

This emergency disaster relief bill that Republicans are holding hostage would help thousands of families rebuild their lives after a massive flood devastating their homes, businesses, and farms. It also included in the bill emergency funds to keep 360,000 women and children from being kicked out of the WIC child nutrition program.

Mr. Speaker, Democratic leaders and Members of Congress from States hardest hit by this flooding will be gathering today to deliver a simple message to the Republican leadership: Just do it, pass a straightforward disaster relief bill now.

GO FLYERS

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

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker:

There is a place down in Philly called Broad Street.

Where opponents were once turned into minced meat,

These bullies, they skated and were generally hated

By all of those whom they routinely deflated;

The Spectrum was home to these champions of ice,

The Stanley Cup was made theirs not once, but twice,

With Clarkie and Leach and Parent in the net,

Their blood, sweat, and tears we will never forget;

But now here we are in 1997,

The Flyers approaching ice hockey heaven, Eric the Great has shown us the way,

His heart, speed, and talent on constant display;

With well-seasoned Coffee and a Legion of Doom,

The orange and black have shown opponents their tomb,

Super Mario was valiant but nevertheless, He just couldn't beat power with pretty finesse;

Over the Sabers they rode on Snow's bulging shoulder,

And then back to Hextall both wiser and older,

The Rangers and Great One were just out of place,

The only "Mess" that we saw was of Robitaille's face;

The heroics of Brind'Amour, Klatt, and Podein,

Have made all us Flyers' fans stand up and scream,

Here we are in the finals with sights set on the Cup,

Like the 70's, no Russians will mess this dream up;

Big Joel Otto and Therien have merely begun,

To pummel the Wings til their Red starts to run,

And just like the days when the Broad Street Bullies did reign,

The Stanley Cup will belong to the Flyers again.

TIMOTHY McVEIGH HAS ONLY ONE RIGHT LEFT

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, Timothy McVeigh has been convicted of mass murder. A jury will now deliberate whether McVeigh gets life in prison or the death sentence. I say, did McVeigh give any of those 168 innocent victims an opportunity to plea bargain? Did McVeigh give any of those 19 murdered children an opportunity for a life sentence? I ask, did McVeigh in fact give any consideration at all to the innocent victims and the families of those victims? No, Mr. Speaker.

I say that Timothy McVeigh has only one right left. The jury should read Timothy McVeigh his "last rites." Timothy McVeigh should be put to death, period.

Mr. Speaker, an America that allows mass murderers to plea bargain is an America that is turning its back consistently on innocent victims and citizens. I say it is time to stop the record number of graves and cemeteries all over our country.

THOUSANDS OF HIGHER PAYING JOBS: A POSITIVE IMPACT OF THE GAMING INDUSTRY

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, recently the National Gambling and Impact Policy Commission was formed. I am here today to speak about one of the positive impacts the gaming industry has had on our society.

An article recently published in the Las Vegas Sun illustrates gaming's positive involvement in the important issue of welfare reform. Two of gaming's corporate citizens have been producing thousands of jobs for welfare recipients. These companies have been giving American families the confidence of being able to make ends meet without depending on public assistance.

A recent Arthur Andersen study of gaming establishments in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Illinois disclosed that gaming has had a dramatic role in decreasing public assistance in these areas. According to the study, casino companies and the industries that support them paid \$21 billion in wages to more than 700,000 men and women in 1995.

The average casino wage was \$26,000 compared to \$20,000 in other amusement and recreation sectors, \$16,000 in the hotel-motel industry, \$22,000 in the motion picture industry. This means that the men and women working in the small casinos to the large mega resorts and riverboats receive better wages and higher-paying jobs in exchange for their hard work.

This is not just a Nevada issue, Mr. Speaker, this is a national issue. I urge Members' support.

IT IS TIME TO PASS THE EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL BILL

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it has now been more than 2 months since the President sent disaster relief legislation to the Congress, but my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have chosen to dilly-dally, to delay, instead of passing this important bill. They even voted to send the Congress home for 10 days instead of working to get this emergency aid to the families who so desperately need it.

Even worse, the majority has played politics with the disaster relief legislation. Last month they added a poison pill to the bill, a provision that would freeze spending on education and other important budget priorities that in fact help working families in this country. The President has stated that he cannot sign this bill if this provision is included. Yet, the majority has refused to remove it.

It is time to stop playing politics with the lives of American families. It is time to help those victims who are in fact desperately waiting for disaster relief funds. It is time to pass the emergency supplemental bill.

A BALANCED BUDGET AGREEMENT THAT IS DIFFERENT

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

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, in 1985 a balanced budget deal was agreed to amid great fanfare. In 1990 a balanced budget deal was agreed to amid similar exuberance. In 1993 a balanced budget deal was agreed to that was greeted with more high praise from the liberal media. The budget is still not in balance.

Mr. Speaker, what is it about this balanced budget agreement that is different? First, under a Republican Congress, the economic assumptions are