

Just this week the Washington Post reports that Congress plans to revisit minimum wage requirements for recipients in public service jobs. Can my colleagues believe it? We argued vigorously on the floor that people should take responsibility for themselves, they should go to work, get off welfare. And yet we want to pay those individuals who get off welfare less than a minimum wage.

There is not an American in America who disagrees that for work, good work, equal work, equal pay, minimum wage. The Lutheran Services in America organization spends \$2.8 billion serving 2 million needy people in over 3,000 locations. They know what poverty is all about. They know what serving the poor is all about. And they want them to be paid minimum wage.

They also know the dignity of being a human being, someone who has pulled themselves up by the boot straps, a welfare mother transitioning from welfare to work. And then we want to denigrate and deny her humanity and pay her below the minimum wage. What a disgrace.

Congress, get in the real world and pay the minimum wage for all working Americans.

CONGRESS SHOULD PASS MEANINGFUL COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM LEGISLATION

(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, in his State of the Union Address, President Clinton called on the Congress to pass campaign finance reform by July 4 this year. But today, exactly 1 month before the deadline, the majority leadership still has not acted.

Mr. Speaker, on July 4, 1776, the American colonists declared their independence from England's tyranny. It is time now for Congress to declare independence from the tyranny of big money and special interests.

Mr. Speaker, we have 30 days left to prepare for this day. Let us hold hearings, let us write meaningful legislation and pass comprehensive campaign finance reform. Let us truly light a firecracker for democracy on this July 4.

CONGRESS MUST CONSIDER HONG KONG AS IT DEBATES MFN FOR CHINA

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, the House has begun this very important debate on whether or not we are going to grant most-favored-nation trading status to the People's Republic of China. The question that we have to ask ourselves is where do the 5.5 million free-

dom loving people of Hong Kong stand on this. Because, frankly, if one is in Hong Kong, this is much more than simply a debating exercise.

Hong Kong is a beacon of hope and prosperity and freedom to Asia. As it is transferred to Chinese control in just a couple of weeks, the five and a half million residents face an uncertain future. We have a moral obligation to consider them as we debate MFN.

One unquestionable fact, Mr. Speaker, regarding this MFN debate is that Hong Kong adamantly opposes the United States' cutting off trade with China. Maintaining MFN bolsters Hong Kong's economic value to China, reinforcing their claim to separate treatment. Maintaining trade will also calm the economic concerns of the Hong Kong people at a time when they are worried about their political freedoms.

Chris Patton said it best, "For the people of Hong Kong there is no comfort to the proposition that if China reduces their freedoms, their jobs will go to the United States."

GOP LEADERSHIP MUST NOT DELAY ONE MINUTE LONGER IN PASSING SUPPLEMENTAL EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS BILL

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

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, it was January when the Governors of three Midwestern States, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota, declared natural disasters in their States because of heavy snow. Residents of these States first faced the deadly dangers of terrible snowstorms and then tragically lost their homes and possessions to the ensuing floods.

It has been months of pain and suffering for these people in these States and their leadership, who have turned to the Federal Government for the assistance promised in our programs of emergency relief. There remain more than 5,000 citizens who are homeless, without relief, who need financial assistance now.

Why does the GOP leadership continue to play games with the supplemental emergency appropriations bill for even one minute? Apparently, the Republican leadership does not care about these folks. Democrats do care. We support a clean emergency appropriations bill.

To my Republican friends I say let us pass a supplemental emergency appropriations bill without the controversial nonemergency provisions. Let us pass a clean emergency appropriations bill today.

CONGRESS MUST PASS MEANINGFUL CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM OR BE EMBARRASSED TO FACE VOTERS IN 1998

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, the 1996 elections involved more money, more TV ads, and more players than ever before. Not just candidates, but political parties and outside groups saturated the airwaves with political ads. What was the result? The lowest turnout in over 70 years.

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We know that 90 percent of the public wants fundamental campaign finance reform. We need to get big money out of campaigns. We need more accurate reporting, more accountability and more restrictions on campaign expenditures.

Loopholes have become highways for moving campaign funds. Outside groups participate in elections without adequate disclosure of their identities or their interests. The gentleman from Arkansas [Mr. HUTCHINSON] and I co-chair a bipartisan freshman task force trying to find common ground on this issue. I hope and believe we will come to a conclusion during this month. Then we must pass meaningful campaign finance reform or be embarrassed to face the voters in the 1998 elections.

THE MONEY LAUNDERING AND FINANCIAL CRIMES STRATEGY ACT OF 1997

(Ms. VELÁZQUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, the explosion of finance crimes, money laundering, credit card fraud and counterfeiting is draining our communities of valuable resources.

For that reason, I introduced H.R. 1756, the Money Laundering and Financial Crimes Strategy Act. Under this bill Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies will at last be able to coordinate their efforts to combat this rising criminal tide.

The effect of this criminal activity is chilling. In my district there is a section of Roosevelt Avenue in Jackson Heights, Queens, that prosecutors and investigators call Ground Zero. That neighborhood is home to many hard-working families. It is also an area where an exploited wire transfer industry sends up to \$1.3 billion in illegal drug money abroad.

My colleagues, the effects of these crimes reach far beyond New York, Texas, California. Yet Congress has done little. As a partner in this war, it is time for Congress to send a clear message to these criminal organizations by cosponsoring H.R. 1756.

PASS A CLEAN DISASTER RELIEF BILL NOW

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

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, Americans are generous, compassionate, giving people. When disaster strikes, they respond by pitching in to do whatever is necessary to save lives and to reduce suffering. I saw this in my southern Ohio district as recent flood waters created disasters in 12 of my 14 counties. I was inspired by their efforts, proud to be their representative.

Tragically, this Congress has not followed the model set forth by those who have actually suffered these natural disasters in Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky, North Dakota and other States and communities throughout this great Nation. It is almost beyond belief that we were sent home for a week's recess rather than staying here to pass the disaster relief bill. It is past time we stop playing games.

I call upon the Republican leadership of this House to remove the superfluous provisions from the disaster relief bill so that the people can get the help they need. This House needs mature, responsible leadership. The American people and the disaster victims deserve nothing less.

COMMEMORATING EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OF TIANANMEN SQUARE MASSACRE

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

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, today we remember the victims of the Tiananmen Square massacre and those brave souls who so valiantly fought for human rights in China.

Eight years ago today the world was shocked to witness the brutal suppression of individual freedom and liberty in Tiananmen Square. A massacre which is still not acknowledged by the authoritarian leaders of China seared their memory. The images of that massacre are imprinted on our consciousness. Who can forget the image of the lone man before the tank?

We must not forget those who lost their lives for the cause of freedom. We must not forget those still imprisoned who have lost their liberty in pursuit of this basic human right. It is said that the most excruciating form of punishment that captors can inflict on their political prisoners is to tell them that no one remembers or cares about them or their cause, that they are forgotten. Every time we raise our voices, we give strength to the brave men and women, we keep hope and freedom alive.

The spirit of Tiananmen Square lives on. We remember the martyrs of the spring of 1989. We remember the advocates of democracy who languish in China's prison and labor camps. We remember Wei Jingsheng. We remember the lone man before the tank.

We are here today to show the world that the seeds of democracy sown in 1989 are still alive and that they will inevitably burst forth in a full flower-

ing. One day soon, the goddess of democracy will reign again in Tiananmen Square. But today we must all say to the rulers in Beijing, we shall never forget.

RELIEF FOR DISASTER VICTIMS

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

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, in Maine we have had floods and disasters, and this Government has responded very appropriately and very expeditiously. At a time now where the Dakotas and Minnesotas have been in disaster and declared disasters, Congress has been struggling in order to get adequate relief to the people left homeless and the thousands of people left without answers.

The very basic function of our Government is to be there for people in these very dark hours. I think it is totally irresponsible on the part of this Congress to have recessed while this job was not done. Paving roads on public lands, automatic continuing resolutions, and samplings of census and other extraneous material should not be added to this emergency appropriation.

There are thousands of people who are left homeless. There are many thousands of individuals and businesses that are looking for answers. Our Government should be there at this time, and we should not clutter it with unnecessary, unrelated extraneous materials. What we need is a clean supplemental appropriation measure and we need to pass it as soon as possible.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1757, FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 1998 AND 1999, AND H.R. 1758, EUROPEAN SECURITY ACT OF 1997

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 159 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 159

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 1(b) of rule XXIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1757) to consolidate international affairs agencies, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and related agencies for fiscal years 1998 and 1999, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confirmed to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on International Relations. After the general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered by title rather than by section. Each title of the bill shall

be considered as read. The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may: (1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be fifteen minutes. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered on the bill and amendments thereto of final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. After disposition of H.R. 1757 it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 1758) to ensure that the enlargement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) proceeds in a manner consistent with the United States interests, to strengthen relations between the United States and Russia, to preserve the prerogatives of the Congress with respect to certain arms control agreements, and for other purposes. The bill shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the Chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on International Relations. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit.

SEC. 3. (a) In the engrossment of H.R. 1757, the Clerk shall—

(1) await the disposition of H.R. 1758 pursuant to section 2 of this resolution;

(2) add the text of H.R. 1758, as passed by the House, as new matter at the end of H.R. 1757;

(3) conform the title of H.R. 1757 to reflect the addition of the text of H.R. 1758 to the engrossment;

(4) assign appropriate designations to titles within the engrossment; and

(5) conform provisions for short titles within the engrossment.

(b) Upon the addition of the text of H.R. 1758 to the engrossment of H.R. 1757, H.R. 1758 shall be laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOBSON). The gentleman from Florida [Mr. DIAZ-BALART] is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HALL], pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 159 provides for the consideration of two bills dealing with foreign policy reform. The first bill, H.R. 1757, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, fiscal years 1998 and 1999, is to be considered under an open rule providing for 1 hour of general debate, equally divided and controlled between the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on International Relations.

The rule further provides for consideration of the bill for amendment under the 5-minute rule, considering the bill by title rather than by section, and each title shall be considered as read. Also, under this open rule, in