

dedicated men and women who choose to serve in the Guard and Reserve.

If we continue to ask these troops to do more with less, more operations and contingencies with less equipment, less training and fewer troops, we will see significant problems with recruiting, retaining the same caliber people that we choose to serve in this All Volunteer Force. Our Armed Forces, Mr. Speaker, are more than just Active Forces. They are a total force component comprised of Active, Reserve and Guard members.

EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE

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

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to call on my colleagues to join me in support of educational standards of excellence for our Nation's students and parents and communities. As a former State superintendent of schools in North Carolina, I have seen firsthand how much progress can be achieved when we aim high in education and give our children and teachers the tools they need to get the job done. I call on this House to go on record in favor of this commonsense approach to improving education in America.

Last week I participated in an educational town hall meeting with the Vice President in my home area. The voice I heard from North Carolina students and citizens came through loud and clear. An America needs educational standards of excellence.

Mr. Speaker, I have drafted legislation in support of voluntary standards of educational excellence. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this important legislation.

BE FAIR TO OUR NATION'S POLICE AND FIREFIGHTERS

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I will be introducing a bill that is aimed at benefiting our Nation's police officers and firefighters. My bill will rescind the dollar limitation on police and firefighter benefit laws allowing these employees to collect the money that they have rightfully earned by contributing to their benefit fund, to their pension fund.

Currently, under section 415 of the Tax Code, police officers and firefighters are not eligible to collect the funds that they have earned and instead are required to retire with benefits generally based on the percentage of their highest 3-year salary average. Regrettably the average in most instances does not exceed 65 or 75 percent. Thus many officers living along the east coast or in large metropolitan

and surrounding suburban areas throughout our Nation are forced to work past their general retirement age in order to afford the high cost of living in these areas.

This bill will not initiate a tax revenue loss. In fact, under my bill, we would gain Federal revenues due to the disbursement of previously uncollected funds to retirees.

I invite my colleagues to support this measure. Let us be fair to those who day in and day out place their lives on the line for our protection.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL

(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, it is time to stop the political games. The Republican leadership's failure to pass a clean supplemental appropriations bill is denying our troops in the field the resources they need to carry out their mission. The supplemental appropriations bill provides \$2 billion to pay for our operation in Bosnia. If we do not enact this bill swiftly, their readiness will suffer.

I am holding letters from Secretary of Defense Cohen, and the Chiefs of Staff of the Army and Air Force, which describe the effects on the military of the Republicans' failure to pass a clean bill. Training is curtailed. Maintenance is delayed. Rotations are canceled. Inventories are drained. Our soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen need a clean supplemental appropriations bill.

Mr. Speaker, there is a time for partisan politics and there is a time to put it aside. But when Americans are hit by a natural disaster, we must act together and act quickly. When American troops need our help, we must do our job and do it today.

Let us support our troops in Bosnia and our people at home. Pass a clean supplemental.

VOTE "NO" ON CAMPBELL-GREENWOOD

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today two diametrically opposed resolutions will be on the floor, in the next order of business dealing with population control. The Campbell-Greenwood substitute, which is a substitute to a bill or amendment that I am offering along with the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. OBERSTAR], the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. HYDE], and the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. BARCIA], promotes abortion on demand overseas and not family planning.

The Campbell-Greenwood amendment does not add any pro-life conditions to current law. Rather, it blurs the distinction between abortion and

family planning in U.S.-supported programs overseas. It allows U.S. dollars to go to the U.N. Population Fund, the UNFPA, even though that organization continues to support China's brutally enforced one-child-per-couple policy, and to nongovernmental organizations that are engaged in a crusade for abortion on demand around the world.

My amendment does not reduce family planning by even one penny. It conditions those funds to those organizations that are all about family planning and not about abortion promotion. I urge a "no" vote on the Campbell-Greenwood, a "yes" vote on Smith-Barcia-Hyde-Oberstar.

IN OPPOSITION TO REPUBLICAN AMENDMENTS TO DISASTER RELIEF BILL

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, there are people in the Midwest who are suffering. Their homes have been destroyed by floods and they need our help. The Democrats in Congress have an emergency spending bill that will help them put their shattered lives back together.

We want to help these victims but the Republicans will not let us.

Instead, the Republicans are attaching language to a flood relief bill that would stop an accurate count of minorities in the census. The Republicans are so afraid of an accurate count of minorities that they are willing to let flood victims suffer.

Mr. Speaker, the Republicans do not mind playing politics with the American people. They already shut down the Federal Government twice. Now they are fiddling while the Midwest drowns.

THE NEED TO FUND FEDERAL JUDGESHIPS IN MIDDLE FLORIDA

(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, I want to make my colleagues aware of a crisis existing in the middle district of Florida. The current Federal case load is one of the worst in the country. The population continues to increase. If no additional judgeships are approved, by 2005 there will be only one-third of the State's Federal judges assigned to two-thirds of the State's population.

As case loads increase, current judges cannot simply shoulder the additional burden. By failing to create additional positions, we are producing a backlog of cases, increasing legal costs for citizens and undermining the Federal courts.

Lately much attention has been focused on getting tough on crime. We must remember the only path from indictment to incarceration is through the judiciary. It must receive adequate

resources, otherwise the process is brought to an absolute standstill.

Only judges can exercise judicial power. There is no substitute. I urge my colleagues to fill and fund these vacancies and provide much needed help to judges, not only in Florida but across this Nation.

FLOOD RELIEF

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, the Government shutdown artists are at it again. Americans watched with disgust as this House Republican leadership shut down the Government and frittered away one and a half billion dollars of taxpayers' hard-earned money. Well now, this same crowd is in control, and they propose to shut down flood relief moneys to families desperate for assistance throughout the American Midwest.

□ 1015

Even though the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Secretary of Defense say that our troops in Bosnia cannot rotate out in order and cannot come home after placing their lives at risk for our security, they would shut down those funds.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the American people can see that this same shutdown fervor for partisan political advantage is wrong and they can recognize when they look at North Dakota that it is not the only disaster area in this country. One of those disasters is occurring right here, when the needs of the American people are forgotten in the race for partisan political advantage.

DOUBLE STANDARD EXISTS IN THE AIR FORCE

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, it was only 1 week ago that a junior officer in the Air Force was discharged without honor for engaging in an extramarital affair. This junior officer was a woman. Today, 1 week later, a general in the same Air Force is up for promotion to the pinnacle of military responsibility after engaging in an extramarital affair. The general was a man.

Whether this double standard is because of military rank or of gender, it is still a double standard and it is simply wrong. Secretary Cohen said today he wanted to stop the feeding frenzy surrounding allegations in the Armed Forces. I understand his goal and believe he is trying to do what he feels is the right thing; however, if he wants to promote General Gaston to the Chair of Joint Chiefs of Staff, he should invite Lt. Kelly Flinn to rejoin the Air Force as a B-52 pilot.

This morning women all over America are scratching their heads wonder-

ing what kind of double standard exists in the Air Force. The Secretary should rectify that immediately and reinstate Lieutenant Flinn.

FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 1998 AND 1999

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). Pursuant to House Resolution 159 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 1757.

□ 1017

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further 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, with Mr. NEY (Chairman pro tempore) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, June 4, 1997, pending was the amendment by the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SMITH] adding a new title to the bill.

Pursuant to the order of the Committee of that day, debate on that amendment and all amendments thereto will be limited to 1 hour and 20 minutes, equally divided and controlled by the following Members or their designees:

The gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SMITH] for 20 minutes;

The gentleman from California [Mr. CAMPBELL] for 20 minutes;

The gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON] for 20 minutes; and

The gentleman from Michigan [Mr. BARCIA] for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SMITH].

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and let me just begin this debate by saying that today one of the most important pro-life amendments will be up before this Congress.

It is the amendment that separates abortion from family planning in our overseas population control programs. It is a policy that was in effect during the Reagan-Bush years and effectively erected a fire wall between family planning and the promotion of abortion on demand around the world, where approximately 100 countries protected their unborn. And regrettably they are under siege by organizations like Planned Parenthood and others in trying to bring down these laws.

So that is what the amendment is all about. I understand there will be a substitute that, frankly, is a fake, and we will talk about that during the debate.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Is the gentleman from California [Mr. BERMAN] the designee for the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON]?

Mr. BERMAN. Yes, Mr. Chairman, I am.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The gentleman from California [Mr. BERMAN] is recognized for 20 minutes.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

We have 25 speakers, many of whom thought this would be starting at 10:30, so many are probably on their way over at this time.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

Mr. BERMAN. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Chairman. Presently before us is the Smith amendment?

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. That is correct.

Mr. BERMAN. And we are operating under a unanimous-consent request with respect to the Smith amendment, a substitute amendment to be offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. CAMPBELL], and time limits for debate on both of those measures; is that correct?

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. On the Smith amendment and all amendments thereto.

Mr. BERMAN. But at this point, though, Mr. Chairman, the only amendment in front of us is the Smith amendment?

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. That is correct.

Mr. BERMAN. I thank the Chair, and I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Chairman, first of all, a parliamentary inquiry. Is my understanding correct that there will be a unanimous-consent request to divide time?

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The unanimous-consent agreement has already been ordered. The time has been divided.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Further inquiry, Mr. Chairman, before proceeding, and that is whether the Campbell-Greenwood-Lowey amendment is to be the only amendment included during this time period?

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. On the clarification, the time restriction is on the Smith amendment and any amendments thereto.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Further inquiry, Mr. Chairman, if I may proceed, it is my understanding that that is the only amendment; otherwise we might want to divide the time differently.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Chairman, if the gentleman will yield, it is my understanding that presently before us is the Smith amendment, the Campbell-plus amendment will be offered as a substitute to that amendment, and the time limit is for the two amendments together, three 20-minute segments.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman's clarification.