

rightfully honor this famous American who has changed the landscape of American literature.

Before I conclude, I would like to thank the 35 Members who have already signed on to this bill as original cosponsors. I hope that more of my colleagues will sign on in the near future in support of Zora Neale Hurston.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida [Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN PREVENTION LEGISLATION

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

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, everyone is pleased that the budget agreement has been reached between the White House and the Congress, and that does call for applause across the Nation, but there still looms the possibility of a shutdown in Government, I hasten to say, and that kind of shutdown can do more to unravel the budget agreement that we have reached than any other single event that I can conceive at this stage of the budget proceedings.

Now, I have been trying for almost 10 years now to convince the Congress that we ought to have in place a permanent solution to the possibility of a Government shutdown; namely, that at the end of the fiscal year, September 30, if the appropriations process has not been completed, those bills that have not yet been finally formulated would simply turn over the next day and adopt last year's instant replay type of figures so that we would have last year's budget go into effect until a new budget can be prepared and adopted. This instant replay would prevent a Government shutdown.

It was outrageous, in my judgment, to have heard on the floor, when this proposition passed during the disaster relief fiasco that we underwent, the claim that if we passed the Gekas antishutdown legislation it would mean the cutting of funds. I have just finished saying, Mr. Speaker, that if my bill would be adopted, at the end of the fiscal year, if we do not have a budget, last year's figures would obtain.

So there would be no cutting of funds. It would be maintaining the same funds as last year, and then the negotiators proceed on their merry way to prepare a new budget. At any given time after September 30 a new budget could go into place, and that vitiates the instant replay that would have gone into place.

The other outrageous claim that has been made against our bill is that it creates a disincentive to negotiate. But the truth of the matter is that both sides need a new budget, so that at the

end of September 30, those who want increased spending will have a chance to negotiate, those who want to cut spending will have a chance to negotiate, but in the meantime, last year's figures will obtain.

What is wrong with my proposition, I fear, is that it makes good sense. Therefore, it has very little chance of passing this Chamber on its own. But I do believe that now that we have passed this budget, or that we have reached a budget agreement, and that there would no longer be the disincentive to reach a budget because we have reached a budget agreement, that perhaps we can begin to focus on the antishutdown legislation as a permanent solution.

Not just for 30 days as a continuing resolution, not for 6 months or a year, but to put it in place for all time, so that every year when the budget looks like it will go down in flames around September 30, that we will have this fallback lifesaving mechanism to prevent a Government shutdown and all the bad consequences that flow.

After all, Mr. Speaker, this is a truism as well; that risking a Government shutdown really does cut back on funds. Cuts funds. Why? If the Government shuts down, all the mechanisms that get the Social Security checks out, the visas, the national parks, all the services that our constituents rightfully demand, all of those come to a halt. Indeed, then there is a cut in services, a cut in funding, a cut in appropriations.

That is the real risk that we have; that the Government will shut down. Not the risk that some appropriations will be less than last year's, but rather whether or not we shall have Government continue to present the benefits that are necessary to maintain the budget and to maintain what is expected of us by our constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I hope to continue to raise this issue at every convenient forum between now and September 30, and I hope that the leadership and the President see fit to reconsider the matter at a time to be set aside in the month of September. After all, the President, even as he vetoed this legislation, said that the goal of preventing Government shutdown is an admirable one. I hope that he will sign such a shutdown prevention piece of legislation to meet that goal.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CIA

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

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Central Intelligence Agency. On September 18, 1947, the National Security Act went into effect creating the CIA.

As America entered the cold war, that act recognized the critical need

for intelligence about our foreign adversaries, while attempting to balance that with a constitutional mandate that an intelligence service remain within the bounds of democracy.

In 1977, in order to monitor and safeguard that critical balance, this House established the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, which I have the honor to chair today. By its very nature, much of the work done by the agency will remain anonymous, but we must not make the mistake of interpreting that anonymity to mean that the CIA has had no triumphs, nor can we allow ourselves to forget the men and women who have served there and know much sacrifice and even tragedy.

Out at Langley at the headquarters of the CIA is a small courtyard under the oak trees that contains three panels of the Berlin Wall. On the eastern side of those panels there is nothing but the cold, gray face of cement, but on the western side there is color, vibrancy, and the inscription "and the wind cries freedom."

Those panels and that wall, Mr. Speaker, never had to be toppled by the tread of our Nation's tanks or stained by the blood of our infantry; they were, instead, breached throughout the cold war by our Nation's eyes and ears, the CIA. Through their bravery and creativity, the officers of the CIA carved a window through that wall that this Nation used during the perilous times of the cold war and ultimately relied upon to bring down the wall's demise.

The contribution of CIA officers to our national security, however, has come with a significant cost, because at the entrance to Langley is another less well-known wall on which there are now 70 gold stars. These stars, Mr. Speaker, are for those officers of the CIA who died while serving our Nation as our eyes and ears, in Vietnam, Latin America, Europe, Eurasia, Africa and elsewhere during the cold war.

We can acknowledge publicly the dedication and sacrifice of some of those officers, such as Bob Ames, who was killed in the bombing of our Embassy in Beirut, tragically, or Bill Buckley, who died in Lebanon under torture by the terrorists. The work and lives of others must remain anonymous stars on that wall and be remembered privately. Those stars, Mr. Speaker, are a measure of the courage and cost required to keep our Nation informed of the threats against it.

The end of the cold war has required the CIA to undergo a tremendous shift. New methods and focuses are needed to meet the challenge before us today. While no transition of this magnitude is ever without its bumps in the road, from my vantage point as chairman of the body's oversight committee, I am pleased to report the CIA is responding quickly and ably to the new threats of the post-cold-war world.

Since the Berlin Wall came down, those threats against our Nation have multiplied. Narcotics traffickers ship ever-increasing amounts of cocaine and

heroin into the United States; rogue states continue to acquire the components of weapons of mass destruction; foreign terrorists now target Americans at home as well as abroad; and indigenous forces threaten U.S. soldiers on multilateral missions abroad.

To address these threats, the CIA has helped the Colombian Government break up the Cali drug cartel, and enabled United States law enforcement authorities to intercept drug shipments. It has discovered several attempts by rogue states to acquire weapons of mass destruction and supported diplomatic efforts to foil those attempts. It has helped law enforcement authorities around the world identify and, in some cases, arrest several notorious terrorists, including Carlos the Jackal in Sudan, the alleged trade center bombers in the Philippines, the head of the Shining Path in Peru, and those involved in the bombing of Pan Am 103; and supported United States Forces in Panama, as well as the Persian Gulf, Somalia, Rwanda, Haiti, Bosnia, and other places.

So, Mr. Speaker, CIA officers performed vital and often perilous service as our eyes and ears during the cold war, and continue to do so in our efforts today against foreign drug lords, rogue states, foreign terrorists and those who would harm U.S. troops abroad and those of us at home.

The panels of the Berlin Wall at Langley are a recognition of the contribution of these officers. The stars on the entrance wall there are a reminder of the cost of their contribution. The officers of CIA serve their country and make their sacrifices with no expectation whatsoever of public acclaim. For the 50th anniversary of the founding of the CIA, Mr. Speaker, I am proud to commemorate their lives and their work with these few humble words.

SPECIAL ORDER CONCERNING THE VISIT OF PRESIDENT HEYDAR ALIYEV OF AZERBAIJAN

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

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, tonight I have requested some time to bring to the attention of my colleagues an important visit to Washington which is taking place right now. Tomorrow President Heydar Aliyev of Azerbaijan will meet with President Clinton at the White House to discuss United States-Azeri relations and the ongoing negotiations concerning the situation in the Caucasus. This visit has serious implications for our policies and interests in the region, and I am hopeful that it will be used to further the interests of peace.

Azerbaijan is rich in oil and natural gas resources and there are numerous United States companies which are actively seeking to assist in the development of these resources. I believe very strongly that United States companies have the technology and

know-how to bring about this development in a way that ultimately would be most beneficial to the Azeri people. But these companies, and their representatives in Washington, have been pushing very hard to reshape U.S. policies in this region. I am very concerned that in their efforts to improve the relative position of Azerbaijan, they would tilt United States involvement in this very sensitive and important region in a way that will have a serious negative impact on negotiations which are currently underway in the region. I have watched with dismay as a campaign to repeal section 907 of the Freedom Support Act has been undertaken by our administration and by those with economic interests in the region, because I believe that this approach is counterproductive—indeed dangerous—to negotiations regarding the future of Nagorno Karabakh. In this regard, the House Foreign Operations subcommittee has worked to provide an evenhanded framework for United States policy which recognizes the need for objective dealings and for improving the climate for democracy in the region. If we tip the scale in favor of Azerbaijan, they will no longer have an incentive to negotiate in good faith on a permanent solution to the Nagorno Karabakh situation. This would be a great tragedy, because the termination of the negotiations brought on by a change of United States policy would almost certainly bring a return of armed hostilities between Armenian and Azeri. The world was horrified by the brutality of the last round of fighting in this tiny enclave, and we as a nation have invested a great deal in efforts to avoid a repeat of that bloodshed.

As the Minsk Group negotiations on the Nagorno Karabakh conflict continue, we must press upon all parties that inherent benefits they will receive from working together and establishing normal relations with one another. I firmly believe that it is in the long-term interests of these countries to find solutions that they can live with, where there will be peace, security, and prosperity for everyone in the region. The building of an oil pipeline in the region could be a tremendous positive force which brings these two old adversaries together and causes them to deal with each other in a mutually beneficial way. Azerbaijan cannot realize its full promise as a source of energy resources or as a legitimate player in the region until it makes peace with its neighbors and develops a better reputation for fair dealing. Armenia cannot wean itself from foreign assistance or fully develop its economy until the blockades it currently suffers under are gone and better relations are established with its neighbors to the East and Southwest. Moreover, both Russia and Iran stand ready to fill the political vacuums in both of these countries that will doubtlessly arise if there are not soon permanent solutions to the problems which plague them both.

Azerbaijan and Armenia both have everything to gain from better relations with one another. The United States must be an honest broker in the region, and must take into account the history of this conflict in evaluating the posture it should adopt toward each of these countries, both in the context of the Minsk Group talks and in one-on-one communications. The time has come for both countries to disregard the old zero sum game men-

talities that has been thoroughly discredited in the post-cold-war world. This would be a win-win situation for both Azerbaijan and Armenia, if only they will look for creative ways to solve their problems and work together. For its part, the United States should continue to push both countries to make appropriate concessions and to work on internal problems which are effecting their external disputes.

I believe both of these countries are important to U.S. interests in the region and we must do all that we can to bring them together, not only for our benefit but for the benefit of the parties as well. I believe that the language we have included in the Foreign Operations bill will bring us closer to this goal by providing for humanitarian assistance to all needy people in the region and allowing democracy building assistance to go to Azerbaijan for the first time. These are important steps in the right direction. I hope that tomorrow when President Clinton speaks with Mr. Aliyev, he will deliver some straight talk about the need to compromise and be a responsible player at home and abroad. I also hope that this visit by President Aliyev will be followed by an invitation to President Ter Petrossian of Armenia. Finally, I hope that in the end, the policies we adopt and implement, and the agreement which is reached by the parties, are driven by concepts of justice, fairness, international law, and an understanding by the parties that such a settlement is ultimately their best hope for the future.

THANKING COLLEAGUES FOR SUPPORTING HOUSE RESOLUTION 191

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

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank my colleagues for the bipartisan 416-to-2 vote in favor of my bill, House Resolution 191, last week. This overwhelming vote was certainly a factor in the European Community's decision to accept Boeing's final offer.

House Resolution 191 made clear that any European Community disapproval of the Boeing McDonnell Douglas merger would have constituted an unprecedented and unwarranted interference in a United States business transaction. It would have threatened thousands of jobs immediately and many thousands more if a trade war had resulted.

Thus, their action raises a disturbing question: How did a foreign consortium get to the point that it felt it had the authority to tell two wholly owned U.S. corporations what they could or should not do?

The House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure will hold a hearing on this whole issue on Friday to look into this specific foreign involvement; whether it was improper and what we must consider if such a situation occurs again. I hope the hearing will be in depth and complete, as these questions demand definite answers.