

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-

tality 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.

WAIVING A REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 4(b) OF RULE XI WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS REPORTED FROM THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Mr. SOLOMON (during the special order of Mr. EHRLICH) from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-216) on the resolution (H. Res. 201) waiving a requirement of clause 4(b) of rule XI with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered printed.

□ 1745

ACCORD ON TAX CUTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. EHRLICH] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my good friend, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. MCINTOSH], who will be joining us shortly on the floor. The gentleman from Indiana [Mr. MCINTOSH] and I certainly extend an invitation to our colleague, the gentleman from Washington [Mr. METCALF] as well to join us in a very important day, Mr. Speaker.

We have an agreement. We just came off the steps of the House of Representatives and told the American people a lot of the things that we have been debating over the last 3 years in this town.

I notice I am joined now by my colleague, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. MCINTOSH], my good friend.

Mr. Speaker, days like today get us thinking about where we came from and where we are and where we are going. Because in politics, Mr. Speaker, you cannot always get what you want. Sometimes you can get what you need, to paraphrase the rock and roll song.

Today, people of different political philosophies came together and signed an accord. Included in that accord are many things we have debated on this House floor over the last 3 years, many items in the Contract with America, many items that brought the last couple of freshman classes to this town, particularly the 104th freshman class, of which the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. MCINTOSH] and I are members.

I cannot help but thinking about President Reagan and President Bush today, tax cuts from President Reagan. President Bush was the victim of some demagoguery of such class warfare rhetoric about cutting capital gains for rich people and the class warfare we see on this floor time and time again on a daily basis. Yet, we bring the American people a significant capital gains tax cut.

Is it zero? No. Should it be zero? In my view, and in the view of many of us,

yes. But is 28 down to 20 a step in the right direction? You better believe it. And that is the nature of dividing government. The folks that control this Congress are pretty much to the right of center philosophically. The folks that control that big house down the street are to the left of center.

We have vastly different views of the role of government in our lives. We have a vastly different philosophical orientation. Yet today, we have come before the American people with an agreement.

I am really happy to be joined by my really good friend, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. MCINTOSH], one of the leaders of this Congress, 105th Congress. I keep thinking of the 104th Congress. And we are going to talk about a few specific items, a few specific initiatives in this particular package.

I know my friend from Indiana [Mr. MCINTOSH] wants to make a few words of introduction, as well.

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, today is a tremendous day. We have seen people from all generations of politics come together for an agreement where the American people are the winners.

The gentleman from Maryland [Mr. EHRLICH] and I were fortunate enough to come in in the 1994 elections with that freshman class, now sophomore class. The gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON], chairman of the Committee on Rules, has been here quite a bit longer. But all of us can celebrate.

Frankly, I think we do need to say thank you to President Clinton for agreeing to sign this legislation, thank you to Speaker GINGRICH, thank you to leader TRENT LOTT, and thank you to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARCHER] and the others who have worked to negotiate out this bill.

It is the American people who are the winners in the bottom line. We came here with the promise to cut taxes and shrink Government. We came here with the promise to change the way Washington does business. I do not want to tell my colleagues that we have accomplished everything in this bill. But we have made a tremendous step forward. In particular, I was delighted to see that we are now going to have the \$500 tax credit for children become part of the law in this land so that families who need that money will be able to benefit from that.

I would like to share with my colleagues, if I may, Mr. Speaker, an example of a family that I know from my hometown of Muncie. It is a young man and his wife who have worked hard to get ahead in this country, Gerald Hunt and Debra Darnall. They make about \$30,000 a year. Gerald and Debra work in their own independent business. He is a contractor. They will benefit from this plan because they have two daughters and their daughters will qualify them to get \$1,000 more each year in their take-home pay because the Government will not be taking it in taxes.

What does that mean for the Darnalls? It means a lot, I will tell my

colleagues that. It means six bags of groceries each week will be paid for by this tax cut that we are going to pass this week, 2 months' worth of groceries in all, real dollars to fill their gas tanks. At about 20 bucks a week, that is 50 weeks, the whole year, that they can put gas in their gas tanks because the Government is not taking that money out the Darnalls' paycheck; new school clothes for Kellie and Ashlee, who will grow out of their school clothes every year and need that \$1,000 in order to help them. Or if the Darnalls decide to start saving today in order to send their two daughters to college, we now have a new savings plan that will allow them to put aside money for those two girls to go to college and not have to pay taxes on the interest that that money earns in that savings account.

This new IRA for education will mean that literally millions of Americans can afford to send their children to college who may not have had any hope to do that for a better future. I am very proud of what we have done today. Those are just a few of the details in our tax bill.

I look forward in the next hour to working with the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. EHRLICH] in explaining to the American people what all of us, Democrats, Republicans, all Americans can be proud of the work that is being done today in Washington to finally cut taxes for working families in this country.

I look forward to having a discussion with the gentleman from Maryland [Mr. EHRLICH] now about the details of that.

Mr. EHRLICH. It is easy to discuss these issues with the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. MCINTOSH] because we agree and it is nice.

Mr. MCINTOSH. If the gentleman would yield, the great thing, though, is that President Clinton is going to sign this bill and our colleagues across the aisle are going to help us pass it. So it is not going to be a partisan rancor. We won the day, I think, on some of these issues. We are going to have a tax cut finally, but we won by joining together and all sides agreeing to go do that for the American people.

Mr. EHRLICH. Reclaiming my time, could we have received odds on this tax cut being signed 6 months ago, I think the odds would have been very long. I think the American people will wake up tomorrow somewhat surprised that this deal got done, and not only that there was an agreement made, but that the agreement was made with numbers that are not phoney, real numbers and real tax cuts and real entitlement reform and real policy initiatives, not the phoney stuff we see coming out of this town so often.

There are two taxes that I know are near and dear to the heart of my friend from Indiana [Mr. MCINTOSH], and they have been near and dear to my heart. We have campaigned on these taxes, as two Members who pride themselves on