

and Mr. PAUL was very disturbed that the gentleman from Texas had made these kinds of comments. He left the lunch to go call the gentleman from Texas so that you get together and talk this out. As we were leaving the lunch room, we found that the gentleman was down in the well of the House attacking one of his colleagues from Texas.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from Texas is watching now, I would welcome him to come to the floor of this House. I will be glad to stay here.

I think this is an issue that should receive a public debate. I think the public has a right to know why he fears the Government is going to bomb him and why he thinks David Koresh and his Branch Davidians committed no crimes. He may be offended by what I said in response to his comments. I am more offended by what he said. I think rape, arson, and murder are very serious crimes. I did see the program before I made the comments.

Mr. DELAY. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is a friend of mine. I think it is unfortunate that we are even having this conversation. Because at least the Texas delegation has always been able to speak to each other privately. And if they could not resolve their differences, they always, they could take the opportunity of going to the press very seldom. In fact, I do not even remember in the 12 years I have been in the House that a Member from Texas attacked another Member from Texas from the well of the House. I appreciate the time.

PATENT TERM RESTORATION ACT

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

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, just to add a little bit or shed a little bit of light on this, we have a wide diversity of opinion here in the House of Representatives just like in the United States of America. We have a wide diversity of opinion. That is one of the great strengths of the United States of America.

I see my friend, the gentleman from New York [Mr. SERRANO], over there. We have a lot of disagreements, but we know that we can respect each other's opinion even though we have some mighty differences of opinions. I happen to agree, interestingly enough, I happen to agree that some of the things that happened in Waco, TX, and some of the actions taken by the FBI have been very questionable and indeed would make honest people worry some about what is going on in the FBI. Expressing that should be no reason, and for other people to sort of think that that is sort of an oddball opinion. That is not an oddball opinion at all.

I think we can respect each other, for I know that some people have come to

me from the minority communities over the years and have expressed to me that law enforcement is attacking them in a different way than they would be attacking people in the majority Caucasian community. I have to admit some of the times I have dismissed some of those criticisms. But I will have to admit also that there are some things that have happened in recent years that have sort of given me a different point of view to take some of those charges a little more credibly and to listen to them and to think maybe there is something to these criticisms.

So let us hope that in things as volatile as this, where life and death matters are being discussed, we do maintain a civility.

One major issue that is going to be happening here in Congress and we are involved in right now deals with the patent issue. I am fighting a major fight along with 50 other Members of the House who have cosponsored my bill to maintain a guaranteed patent term for the American people and to ensure that our patent rights are not diminished in order to create some global trading system. Some people want to create a global trading system at the expense of the rights of the American people because they think everybody is going to be better off because of it. That is their point of view.

The American people better understand that we have got these globalists who are trying to eliminate the right, certain patent rights that the American people have enjoyed since the founding of our country. H.R. 400 is a bill that is coming through Congress right now, I call the Steal American Technologies Act, which greatly diminishes the patent rights of the American people and thus in the long run will make America technologically inferior, undercut our prosperity, and our national security.

Our technological superiority is what has made us a prosperous and secure country. I am asking my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring H.R. 811, which is my bill to restore the patent rights of the American people, and to oppose H.R. 400, the Steal American Technologies Act, which, among other things, get this, H.R. 400 does this: mandates that every patent application, whether it has been issued or not, will be published for the entire world to see after 18 months.

That means every copycat, every one of America's competitors and adversaries will have every one of our secrets, all the details. They will probably be into production of our new technology ideas even before the patent is issued to our own inventors. This is lunacy.

Yes, some people have a right to the other opinion because maybe it is a good thing in order to create a global market, but they are trying to create a global market over the well-being and prosperity of the American people and diminishing the rights of the American people. I ask my colleagues to join me

in supporting H.R. 811, the Patent Term Restoration Act, and opposing the Steal American Technologies Act, H.R. 400.

Mr. Speaker, I believe when the American people understand this move by the multinational corporations to diminish our patent rights in order to create a global marketplace, the people will rise up. They will call their Congressman and they will call their Senator to ensure that, if you want a global market, do not do it by diminishing the guaranteed rights we have had since the founding of our Nation and that has ensured us to be the technological leader of the world.

This is a big fight. It is the little guy versus the big guy. But also when we have a debate like this, it is important for us to sit down here and slug it out on the issues. In this particular case, should we have a guaranteed patent term, H.R. 400, the Steal American Technologies Act, says no. Should we have the right of confidentiality so when a man submits a patent, whether it is confidential, H.R. 400 says no, they are going to publish it for the whole world to see.

Should we have a strong working patent office as part of our Government, which H.R. 400 would corporatize.

Defeat the Steal American Technologies Act, H.R. 400. Support H.R. 811, the Patent Term Restoration Act.

BALANCING THE FEDERAL BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. ROGAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of both the balanced budget and the balanced budget amendment. It is important to distinguish between those two subjects because often in our debates in the House, we confuse the two.

We really are talking about two individual issues. First, are we going to have a balanced budget? Second, are we going to write in the Constitution the obligation of the Federal Government to do what virtually every State in this country has to do, and certainly every family in this country must do?

I was touched a few minutes ago by the litany of speeches from my colleagues on both sides when the subject of children was brought up. As the father of two 4-year-old twins who are sitting at a television set not too far from this Chamber listening to their father's maiden speech on the floor of this House, I certainly am very proud to be a dad, and am moved as a policymaker to do what is good for my children and the children of our country. But as proud as I am to have my 4-year-olds able to watch me as a Member of the House address this body today, I take no pride in the fact that on the day they were born 4 years ago,

they inherited almost \$175,000 in taxes that they will have to pay over their lifetime as their portion of the national debt. This is because we have failed as a nation to balance our budget.

Children born today and children born tomorrow will have an even higher amount of debt that we will impose upon them if we fail in our obligation as policymakers.

What is the effect of this great debt that we keep accumulating year after year? The effect is that more and more of our tax dollars that could be going for important services such as public safety, hospitals, infrastructure, Medicare, Social Security, and some of the key programs that we support on a bipartisan basis, will be drained. A greater percentage of what we send to Washington is going to go to pay the interest on the debt rather than to serve the people that we have been elected to represent.

I heard a number of speakers a few minutes ago in this body talk about the fact that our national debt today is over \$5 trillion. I suspect there are very few Members of this body who know how many zeros go after the "5" to make so great a number. But here is a very cogent example: If a person opened a business on the day that Christ was born almost 2,000 years ago; and if their business skills were so terrible that on that first day they lost \$1 million; and if every day thereafter they lost \$1 million to the present day, we would not even hit 1 trillion dollars.

Yet we as a nation are now laboring under almost \$5.5 trillion worth of debt. What does that mean in real terms? It means that every single day that the sun rises on this building, the American taxpayers are forced to pay \$750 million in interest on this burgeoning debt.

One of the bipartisan things we have been able to agree on is that we will balance the budget by the year 2002. If we pass a balanced budget in this Congress, we will not have a balanced budget in 1997. We will not have one for 5 more years.

As of today, America has not had a balanced budget in 28 years. Now we are talking about having our first balanced budget after 33 years.

What would it take for us as a nation to pay off this debt? We would not only have to have a balanced budget, we would have to balance it to the point where we had a \$200 billion surplus. Not for 1 year, not for 2 years, but for almost 30 years.

We have not balanced the budget in almost 30 years. We would have to not only balance it, but have a huge surplus every year for 30 years to pay down this debt. And I use that example just to accentuate how much we owe as a nation and how we cannot continue to allow this debt to cripple our children's and our grandchildren's future.

We owe it to future generations to be responsible. We need to pass a balanced Federal budget. To insure it remains in balance,

we need to place that obligation in the Constitution. This is why I rise in support of these two worthy measures, and urge my colleagues to join me in supporting them.

□ 1315

REPORT ISSUED ON ARTS AND HUMANITIES IN THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. CAPPS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, our former colleague, Dr. John Brademas, has issued a report on the condition of the arts and the humanities in this country. I want to thank Dr. Brademas and the committee and the support they have received from President and Mrs. Clinton for this very thoughtful, excellent report.

Truly, the strength of our country is dependent on the way we engage education and the way we give responsible cultivation and stewardship to the arts and the humanities. I urge that this report be taken seriously and that Congress give proper support to two superlative agencies, the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

I think that our vitality as a Democratic society, as a learning society, is dependent upon the respect we exhibit for our cultural arts, our literature, our historic records and the other products of the creative spirit. I commend Dr. Brademas and the committee for this report and I urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to support its recommendations.

HEALTH INSURANCE FOR AMERICA'S CHILDREN

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, over the last couple of years congressional Democrats have been focusing their attention on addressing some of the most important health care challenges facing this country. Last year Congress took a small but important step in the right direction when it passed the Kennedy-Kassebaum health insurance reform bill. Because of that bill, citizens who change jobs will continue to receive health coverage, insurance companies may no longer deny individuals health coverage when they switch jobs due to preexisting medical conditions.

Although congressional Democrats were happy to see Republicans join us in passing this important piece of legislation, we did emphasize at the time of the bill's passage that we believed much more needed to be done. And as a result of this belief and as a result of the GOP's refusal to consider any other health issue other than portability,

Democrats immediately set about to build on the momentum the passage of the Kennedy-Kassebaum bill created by pushing for legislation that would make health care available to every child in this country.

There are now about 10 million uninsured children in the United States. To combat this problem, Democrats incorporated a children's-only health care plan into their family-first agenda. The plan was not only developed because Democrats believe our children deserve better health care, it was developed because of the recognition that today it is increasingly harder for even those parents with jobs to secure health insurance for themselves let alone for their children.

Unfortunately, we have not made any progress on this issue because the Republican majority has refused to allow our plans to move forward. We are 2 months now, 2 months, into the 105th Congress, and the Republicans who are the majority do not have anything of major importance for the Congress to consider. Unlike Democrats and the President, they do not have a plan to ensure that all children have access to health care nor do they appear to have any intention of letting our plan move forward.

The American people sent us here to develop legislative solutions to societal problems, such as providing health care to uninsured children. Every day we waste is a day another sick child goes without health insurance and we cannot continue to let this happen for moral as well as financial reasons.

A couple of days ago I brought the House's attention to a report that was issued by the New York City public advocate, Mark Green. It basically talked about the growing number of New Yorkers who are living without health insurance.

I know today that I am joined here on the floor with one of my colleagues from New York, Mr. SERRANO. The report, as the New York Times put it, quote, is filled with disturbing information that has implications for the entire country.

We are going to be talking with my colleagues from New York and from Texas about this report this afternoon. And although it does deal with New York City, I need to stress that the phenomena and the conclusions and findings that it comes to really apply all over this country, to every State and every city.

With respect to children, the report found that between 1990 and 1995, the proportion of uninsured children in New York City rose 6 percent. In 1990, 14 percent of children had no health insurance. By 1995, that figure was 20 percent. One out of every five kids in the largest city in the country has no health insurance.

Overall, the report found that the number of uninsured children under age 18 in New York City rose from 277,500 in 1990 to 323,800 in 1995, a one-sixth increase, more than twice the increase in the adult population.