

and the activities that have gone before that, we feel very strongly about this situation. We think this case has dragged on long enough. And if these matters really have not been resolved next week, I want to inform my colleagues that we will continue to object strenuously and Members should make plans accordingly.

Finally, I would like to make one other comment to my friend from Texas, and that is with respect to campaign finance reform. I recall the gentleman from Texas saying that he hoped that he would get to that issue before the end of this session, some comments to that effect, and I just want to inform him that we have close to 170 Members, if not 170, at the desk, who have signed a discharge petition, and we hope that issue will be brought to the floor so we can have a full debate of all the alternatives before the American people before we adjourn this session.

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman will continue to yield, let me first say again that I appreciate the gentleman's affirmation of commitment to his course of action with respect to the Sanchez matter. Let me just reaffirm our commitment on this side of the aisle that we will carry out our constitutional responsibilities regarding this question of the legitimacy of elections of our Members thoroughly, completely, and honestly to that conclusion which is defined by the facts of the matter when fully and completely understood. We can do no less. It is our duty under the Constitution.

Regarding the other matter, I guess the gentleman can proceed with his discharge petition and we will proceed with the business of the House and we will see if either of us get to somewhere.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I want to make the gentleman aware that it is a bipartisan discharge petition and we hope to have a little more bipartisan help on it as the days move ahead.

Let me also ask my colleague from Texas, I note in the schedule that we only have three suspensions scheduled for Tuesday next. Does the gentleman expect others might be added between now and next Tuesday?

Mr. ARMEY. I thank my friend from Michigan, and if he would continue to yield, we have some from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs that we have had fully vetted and cleared. We expect to perhaps complete the vetting and clearing with some others, and we will inform the gentleman's office as soon as possible.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2527

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed from H.R. 2527.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Is there objection to the re-

quest of the gentlewoman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2527

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, because it might benefit me to the extent of \$5 a month, I now find out, that is \$5 before taxes, I also want to get my name removed from H.R. 2527.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, I was out of the Chamber at an intelligence briefing during the vote just held on the Interior appropriations bill conference report, rollcall No. 531. I would ask the RECORD to reflect that had I been present my vote would have been "nay."

INTRODUCTION OF RAIL SAFETY LEGISLATION

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

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, quite rightly, today the subject has been Amtrak, but we need to be talking in this Congress about rail safety.

Yesterday, two Norfolk Southern trains collided head on in southern West Virginia. Again today a CSX train hit a tractor trailer at a grade crossing. Great tragedy was avoided because the tractor trailer had just unloaded an explosive mixture.

Yes, it is true that the Federal railroad agency is working with CSX, is working with Union Pacific, in a concerted effort to improve safety practices, but these are reactions. We need to be proactive.

So, Mr. Speaker, we need to have a coordinated approach, the kind of coordinated approach that is in the rail safety legislation that I have introduced and we are seeking to get a hearing on and to get debated on this floor; rail safety legislation that requires positive train separation devices, requires fatigue management plans, requires greater oversight of safety.

And, yes, Mr. Speaker, on Monday we will be unveiling Operation Respond,

which is a partial answer to some of the problems we have seen and which for the first time in our State will have emergency responders able to find out immediately upon arriving on the scene what hazardous materials are involved.

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INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS

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

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of talk currently about changing the Tax Code and doing away with the IRS, et cetera. I suspect that in some form or another, eventually we may get to do something significant with regard to that. But in the meantime, there is an issue which cries out for attention and that is the double taxation of savings under our current Tax Code.

Americans are dissuaded from saving, a very healthy activity that we all recognize; that is, savings. They are dissuaded because they tax money before it is saved and then we tax the returns on the money that is saved. That is why I recently introduced a bill to expand the individual retirement account provisions to include savings to be exempted for medical care, for education, for first-time home buyers, for unemployment as well as for retirement. These are all worthy goals, and I ask other Members to look seriously at this bill with an eye toward supporting our effort to reform and revise and expand the IRA provisions.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. CLAYTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

IN MEMORY OF DONALD OLSON

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a special friend of mine who was called home to glory just in the past couple of weeks. On August 19, 1923, a baby was born to Melvin and Agnes Olson at Sacred Heart Hospital in Eau Claire, WI. They named him Donald. Two weeks ago on

October 3, Don Olson died in St. Paul, MN. I am honored that I was able to have met him during his 74 years of life, the time God gave him to be on this Earth, and I am blessed to have called him my friend.

After graduating from his rural Wisconsin high school in 1941, Don answered his country's call to duty and served in the 70th Army Air Force Technical Training Detachment during World War II. He graduated from the Army Air Forces Navigation School in San Marcos, TX in 1945. After the war, Don came back to Minnesota and graduated cum laude from St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN, which is also in my district; he earned a master's degree from the University of Minnesota in 1949; and later a law degree from the St. Paul College of Law.

Earlier this week I was telling my staff about Don Olson and I said, he probably has forgotten more about government and the way it is supposed to work than most of us will ever know. That was not an exaggeration. After working in the Minnesota State legislature, Don came out here to Washington and served in the office of Senator Ed Thye, worked as congressional liaison for the Small Business Administration, and later he was the administrative assistant in the office of Minnesota Congressman Ancher Nelson, where he served for 14 years.

In 1974, Don returned to the Midwest when he was hired by a little family clinic in my district, run by the Mayo brothers, to be their governmental affairs specialist. He was the first person that Mayo Clinic ever hired to do this important job, and his work was nothing short of outstanding in his 14 years there until he retired in 1988.

It was during his years at Mayo that I met Don Olson. It was about 1976. He was always a man of impeccable honesty and a record of personal integrity that no one would ever question. He was also the kind of person that you could confide in. You could tell Don Olson your deepest fears and know that they would go no further than his ears.

Robert Frost once wrote, "Government is a thing made of men and it dies as the men who made it die." With these words in mind, I cannot think of a better place for me to remember Don Olson than from the floor of this House of Representatives.

I know that Don's daughters Tina and Lori as well as his son Wayne and his loving wife of 38 years, Terri, are watching this afternoon. I want you all to know that my thoughts and prayers continue to be with you. This is a great loss for the family, it is a great loss for me, and it is a great loss for America.

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

[Mr. WISE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

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

[Mrs. LINDA SMITH addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

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

[Mr. TIAHRT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

CHINA

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, the President of China will be visiting here beginning this Sunday. I know that we will treat him in a very courteous manner but I want the American people to know every time they hear President Clinton talk about the President of China and every time they hear the President of China speak, they should remember the following things:

No. 1, China persecutes people because of their religious beliefs. Catholic bishops are in jail, Catholic priests are in jail, hundreds of them, and on October 8, Chinese authorities arrested again and again Bishop Su who has been one of the most prominent bishops who is now back in jail. Protestant pastors are in jail and hundreds of them have been arrested.

No. 2, China denies its citizens basic human rights and imprisons people for speaking out in support of freedom. Wei Jingsheng, one of China's most important prisoners, languishes in not well conditions in jail serving a 15-year sentence. He was detained in 1994 after meeting with Assistant Secretary for Democracy and Human Rights John Shattuck. So when you hear the President of China speak, remember Wei and also Wang Dan, who has also been imprisoned for his activities in Tiananmen Square.

No. 3, when you hear the Chinese President speak at Independence Hall, which will be a disgrace for Independence Hall to have the Chinese President go there where Thomas Jefferson gave the words "We hold these truths to be self-evident," but when you hear him there remember that China is brutally repressing the people of Tibet, destroying their culture, destroying their religion, destroying 4,000 to 5,000 monasteries and in Tibet the one growth industry is the growth of prisons where Buddhist priests and Buddhist nuns are being put in jail. We had testimony of a 28-year-old Tibetan Buddhist nun who told the House Committee on International Relations how her Chinese jailers tortured her with an electric cattle prod, putting it on all parts of her body. You have got to remember

this when you hear this Chinese President coming to the country.

No. 4, remember also when you hear him speaking that the Chinese government runs a gruesome trade in human organs, taking organs from executed prisoners and selling them to foreign buyers for tens of thousands of dollars. They shoot people, they take their blood sample, they take their tissue sample and they sell their organs for \$35,000. So when you hear him go to Harvard and speak out, know that his government is selling kidneys of prisoners for \$35,000.

Remember also, No. 5, that China's one-child policy results in forced abortions and sterilization of women, where they track them down in the villages and force them to get abortions.

No. 6, when you hear President Clinton speak about our relationship with this man and with the Chinese government, remember that China has more gulags today than they had in the Soviet Union when Solzhenitsyn wrote the book "Gulag Archipelago." There are more gulag slave camps in China today than there were in the Soviet Union under the worst times.

Also know, No. 7, that China sells arms and dangerous technology to belligerent countries which could one day endanger men and women in the military. Some days on this floor it is almost reminiscent of 1937, 1938, and 1939, where Winston Churchill warned of the danger of Nazi Germany and some of the things that were sold in Nazi Germany were used against Americans. I fear for it and every Member of this body ought to get the intelligence briefing by the CIA, the NSA, and the DIA to find out what weapons they are selling.

No. 8, China continues to violate a range of bilateral and international proliferation and missile technology treaties.

No. 9, China's State-owned companies sold AK-47's to street gangs in California that could be used against American citizens. So when you see the Chinese President standing next to President Clinton, remember that a company connected with his government was selling assault weapons to street gangs in California that could be used to kill American people.

No. 10, the Chinese trade surplus with the United States approached \$40 billion last year and is getting bigger every month. In August the United States trade deficit with China jumped 10.6 percent, the highest of any country, driving American men and women out of their jobs.

Mr. Speaker, China's President will visit Washington, Williamsburg, and Philadelphia, which will be a disgrace when he visits Independence Hall and other sites in the United States. Every time he speaks, the world should remember the men and women who are languishing in Chinese prisons under his control and do not buy into his message. I ask him to change his policy.