

highly important historical event. I am speaking about the visit of China's President Jiang Zemin to our Nation. President Jiang's visit will be the first visit for a Chinese leader since Deng Xiaoping was received by President Carter in 1979.

The relationship between China and the United States will be the world's most important and most interesting in the dawn of the unfolding millennium. This visit will help set the table of whether this relationship will be based on distrust and animosity that will give rise to a new global confrontation between two giant superpowers or if this relationship will be based upon a working relationship of understanding and mutual respect between two partners.

I would like to see the latter relationship develop, but I believe its development will be based upon China's willingness to be a global leader that applies the standards of democracy and true free markets to their own Nation. The term "comprehensive engagement" is being used to detail the talks this week. I believe most of us in Congress and most of our Nation desires a peaceful relationship with China and to be engaged comprehensively. But the administration has to prioritize the issues of contention between our nations in order to make President Jiang's visit an achievement.

As one observer has said, this summit will demand something that the Clinton administration has yet to produce, a clearly articulated set of priorities. Without prioritizing United States interests in China, the administration's present construct of engagement is meaningless. What China needs to do is to change its domestic law and make a commitment that it will uphold international obligations embodied in applicable international treaties.

One of the larger problems with China is its current trade imbalance. The trade deficit with China reached \$40 billion in 1996 alone, and it is expected that the 1997 trade deficit with China will be even greater. This translates into amazing figures that every American spends approximately \$150 a year more on Chinese goods than China spends on United States products. President Clinton should urge President Jiang to work to reduce tariffs and nontariff barriers to aid United States businesses who are trying to compete in China.

As it seems with most of our trading partners, it is easier for Chinese products to enter into the United States than for American products to have access to the Chinese market. Reducing applicable tariffs will encourage United States sales and will help reduce the trade imbalance with China.

Another factor, Mr. Speaker, in opening up the Chinese market will be to encourage President Jiang to dismantle as quickly as possible the overwhelming amount of state-owned enterprises. The traditional bureaucratic

state control of businesses acts as an economic drag and increases the tendency for trade deficits. By privatizing these enterprises China will allow market forces to determine their success and would allow United States companies an even playing field in order to compete.

China's No. 1 economic priority is to ascend to the World Trade Organization. The United States should continue resisting China's membership to the WTO unless they begin reducing their own tariffs and if they begin adhering to international legal standards as if it applies to business contracts and other legal norms.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, China lacks many of the laws that apply to global commerce. China needs the proper legal infrastructure regarding contracts, private property ownership and arbitration in order to support China's continued economic growth.

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So the United States businesses receive the legal protection to operate in full capacity in the Chinese market.

China needs to adhere to democratic values. They must continue the development of democratic values in China that should receive priority attention on the summit's agenda. Other things, such as religious persecution, international covenants on human rights, legislative and judicial exchanges, and grassroots democracy must also be on the agenda. A modern, open, legislative and judicial system in China is necessary to protect religious, economic and political freedoms.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, this morning I hope the visit of President Jiang is a first step in resolving our differences with China, and I hope that President Jiang will follow up on some of the things we talked about this morning. That will be a significant accomplishment.

DEFEAT THE NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY ACT OF 1997

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PACKARD). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Nevada [Mr. GIBBONS] is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, few problems, if any, have been more challenging in recent years than the disposal of nuclear waste. I believe that sound science and reason and the protection of this Nation's citizens should be drawn upon when we address nuclear waste storage.

H.R. 1270, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1997, will mandate upon the State of Nevada and this Nation, the transportation of high level waste, while failing, yes, failing, to address the issues of environmental protection, safety, and the general well-being of all Americans.

The disposal of nuclear waste is a problem that will exist for thousands

and thousands and thousands of years. Let us not be hasty when making policy decisions that may have serious repercussions well into the future.

The policy of this Congress should not be a quick-fix approach to this serious problem. Members should not just wash their hands by protecting a subsidized industry, by transporting the most deadly material man has ever known, only to hide it in the ground.

Members should understand and not sweep under the rug the dangers of this substance. We should address the problem itself, reprocessing, recycling, or changing the dangerous chemical properties of the waste. That is the direction that this body and the policy of this Nation should be headed.

Many Members do not know what will be loaded onto the trains and trucks. Casks, filled with enough high level nuclear waste to contaminate entire communities, massive land resources, and entire water supplies. Each cask of nuclear waste holds 24 fuel assemblies.

In terms of radioactivity, each fuel assembly contains 10 times the long-lived radioactivity released by the Hiroshima bomb. My constituents and colleagues, are your constituents aware of the danger of hauling over 70,000 tons of nuclear waste across this country? You should be, because the National Environmental Protection Act of 1969 requires Federal agencies to consider alternatives, seek public comment and consider any and all environmental ramifications before proceeding with a major Federal action. However, NEPA and all other Federal and State laws are waived in this bill.

A poll taken in December 1995 concluded that 70 percent of the American citizens are against transporting nuclear waste. Since that time, more studies have confirmed the opposition of a majority of Americans to transfer of this dangerous cargo across our Nation and through our communities.

Thus far, over 400 private property, State's rights, environmental and fiscal watchdog groups have expressed their strong opposition to this bill. Likewise, American cities such as Los Angeles, Denver, St. Louis, and Philadelphia have spoken out against this act.

To my colleagues who stand in favor of this drastic measure, if my voice were worth the \$13 million the nuclear energy lobbyists have spent distorting the idea of temporary nuclear storage, we would be debating a bill to fund the implementation of recycling and reprocessing. And why not? It is happening right now in England and France. While families in these countries are safe from radioactivity and radioactive waste on their roads and railroads, we are debating a bill that will do just the opposite.

Every day we come before this House on behalf of the American people to pass legislation that will protect them from things such as drugs, repeat criminal offenders on our streets, and

potentially threatening foreign nations. Yet many of my colleagues now want to flood our roads and flood our railroads with deadly nuclear waste.

H.R. 120 proposes that high level nuclear waste be stored at an interim storage facility at Yucca Mountain, NV. Proponents contend this is the most suitable area for storage, as well as the safest. Well, just how safe does this sound to you? A study by the Geological Survey discovered 33 earthquake faults directly through the site. The area is seismically active. Since 1976, there have been 621 seismic events of a magnitude greater than 2.5 within a 50-mile radius of Yucca Mountain. For you in the new math, that is over 300 earthquakes a year.

Another serious danger from this region's seismic activity involves the water table. Former senior DOE geologist, Jerry Szymanski, has found an earthquake could dramatically elevate the water table, flooding the repository with water and releasing radio nucleoids into our water supply. I urge all Members to vote "no" on the rule and final passage of H.R. 1270. I don't want to come back to this House and say I told you so.

REIMBURSEMENT DUE RESERVE AND GUARD MEMBERS DEPLOYED IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION JOINT GUARD

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. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to encourage my colleagues to support the Defense authorization conference report. The conferees have worked hard to resolve difficult issues and to reach an agreement.

This agreement contains important policy language that should be enacted into law. However, I am also aware of a need that it does not address. I, therefore, urge my colleagues to cosponsor legislation, which I will introduce this week to correct the inequities that affect 4,206 Army Reserve and National Guard members who were deployed to Europe in support of Operation Joint Guard.

These soldiers had to take money out of their own pockets to pay for the shipment of personal items which the Army itself has paid for in the past and, after some persuasion, has started to pay again. My legislation grants the army the authority, the statutory authority, it needs to reimburse these affected soldiers who are junior grade enlisted members and cannot afford to pay for their reimbursement.

In fact, it affects some 14,000 National Guardsmen throughout the United States. They are due to receive an average payment of \$400. Not much to the average person, but they want their money and they need their money.

They have already waited some 9 months to be reimbursed for these ex-

penses. They should not have to wait any longer. They should not be denied reimbursement because the Army lacks the authority to pay for reimbursement of expenses incurred while serving this Nation.

They should not have to wait any longer, Mr. Speaker. I therefore urge my colleagues to join me in sponsoring this legislation.

RENAMING FEDERAL COURTHOUSE IN HONOR OF FORMER U.S. REPRESENTATIVE ROY ROWLAND

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

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, we find ourselves in a period of great debate as to what constitutes bipartisanship. I believe that true bipartisanship is honorable compromise for the good of the country. If we search for real live models of honorable compromise, we can find no better example than the former Democratic member from my home State of Georgia.

Congressman Roy Rowland of Dublin, GA, began a lifetime of public service long before coming to the House of Representatives. Roy Rowland spent his youth developing a keen sense of duty and honor as an Eagle Scout.

Fresh out of high school, Roy entered the U.S. Army to fight in World War II as a sergeant in command of a machine gun crew in the European theater. He was a member of U.S. forces that liberated German concentration camps, where he learned firsthand the horrifying final results of intolerance.

Roy left the Army at the end of the war with a Bronze Star for service in combat, and returned to educational pursuits. He graduated from the Medical College of Georgia in 1952 and continued what was to become a lifetime of public service, by providing health care to the people of Dublin, GA, as a family practice physician.

Roy not only provided health care to Georgia families, he served them in the State legislature from 1976 until 1982, and in the year of 1983, Roy's dedication to serving his country brought him to the U.S. House of Representatives.

In his freshman year, Congressman Rowland introduced and succeeded in passing legislation that stopped the illegal use of Quaaludes through the fraudulent prescription sales.

In the early 1980's, the abuse of Quaaludes had reached epidemic proportions, and the drug was fast on its way to becoming the illegal drug of choice on the streets.

Roy, I was in practice back in that period of time in the 1980's, and recognized then what a tremendous problem it was for our patients and the country, and I appreciate your efforts in removing Quaaludes.

Today, though, the good news is that problem is history, because of the work of Roy Rowland.

Congressman Rowland's efforts were not Democratic or Republican in nature. They addressed a pressing concern for all Americans and garnered true bipartisan support.

When debate over the AIDS crisis was still locked in a state of misinformation and confusion and fragmentation, Roy Rowland stepped forward with his experience as a medical professional to provide the leadership this body needed to move forward.

Congressman Rowland introduced and passed into law legislation that created the National Commission on AIDS, which provided America with the plain, scientific facts so necessary to establish sound public health policy to combat this killer disease.

When the battle over health care reform was at its peak in the 103d Congress, Roy Rowland once again led the way in finding solutions to America's problems that were outside the realm of partisanship. He succeeded in drafting health care reform legislation through a group of five Republicans and five Democrats that provided coverage for 92 percent of the American public.

The Rowland bill did not pass during that time of heated debate and multiple proposals, but the blueprint Roy left us is one that should be carefully examined when we face contentious issues in the future.

In his 12 years of service here in the House, Roy Rowland set a standard for standing firm on conviction without resorting to partisan attacks. He fought like a tiger on this floor, but never had an enemy on either side of the aisle.

In his reelection campaigns, he was frequently personally attacked, but never responded in kind.

Today, I ask for your vote on legislation that will honor and preserve the legacy of service that Dr. and Congressman Roy Rowland has left for us to follow. This bill will redesignate the Dublin Federal Courthouse in Dublin, GA, as the J. Roy Rowland Federal Courthouse, in order that the example Roy Rowland set through a lifetime of service should not be forgotten.

In the spirit of true bipartisanship that our former colleague exemplified, I ask for your support today of this legislation.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 12 noon.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 14 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 12 noon.

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. SNOWBARGER] at 12 noon.