

Mr. Speaker, it is never easy to lose a colleague or a friend. But, our grief is overshadowed by those that knew WALTER on a more personal level. It is my sincere wish that his wonderful wife Lois, and his children Todd, Lisa, and Laura, take solace in the knowledge that WALTER was so highly respected and revered by his peers. Today's outpouring of emotion on the House floor accurately reflects the high esteem with which WALTER was held.

WALTER will be missed by this body, and he will be missed by a county seeking the values and commitment to civility he so fully represented. While only here in Congress a short while, I know that WALTER CAPPS has made a lasting impression upon us all.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my shock and profound sadness at the sudden passing of our friend and colleague, WALTER CAPPS. I send my most sincere condolences to WALTER's family and I wish to let them know that he will be missed and fondly remembered.

Like many of us here, I came to know WALTER when he decided to run for office in the 1994 elections. Even before meeting him during the campaign, word traveled from California to Washington that a respected professor and an exciting man wanted to represent the people of Santa Barbara in Congress. We were told that he was smart, compassionate, and would fight hard for his beliefs and his community.

Advance praise for WALTER CAPPS was not undeserved. My only regret was that we did not have more time to work together and to become better friends. Some of my most recent memories of WALTER include standing together on the steps of the Capitol one sunny day this month demanding a vote on campaign finance reform. And, one day while walking across the street to vote on another matter, WALTER and I discussed the brewing controversy over the future of the ranch in Santa Barbara owned by the Reagans.

WALTER was well versed in matters both local and national and I believe he would have been one of our great Members of Congress had he only had the chance.

WALTER, I will miss you. We will all miss you. I am proud to have known you and to have served with you and I will do my part to see that your dreams for our country are realized.

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in paying respect to the memory of WALTER CAPPS.

WALTER was an especially decent man, one of the few freshmen to make an immediate impact upon arrival. That impact was based on a strong sense of moral purpose and a grounding in the belief that Congress could solve problems without resorting to partisanship or one-ups-manship. With WALTER's sudden passing yesterday, a bright light has gone out.

Mr. Speaker, we are fortunate to have had WALTER here in Congress, even for a brief time. Sidney and I express our deepest sympathies to his wife, Lois, and the Capps family.

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield back any time I may have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOBSON). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the resolution.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid upon the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 days to revise and extend their remarks in the RECORD referencing the passing of our friend, the gentleman from California [Mr. CAPPS].

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will now entertain 1-minutes.

PRESIDENT CLINTON MEETS WITH PRESIDENT JIANG ZEMIN OF CHINA

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

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, as I speak, the President of the United States is meeting with President Jiang of China. The people of the United States and the people of China share many interests and hopes for their futures.

I voted for MFN because I believe that trade is one way we can influence the people of China to force their Government to give up its authoritarian ways. But as the President of China meets with the President of the United States, one message must be sent loud and clear: That the United States will not condone China's persecution of people for their religious and political beliefs.

I am especially appalled by the treatment of Pastor Xu Yongze, who has been tortured and unjustly imprisoned simply because of his religious beliefs. Pasture Xu is a widely respected, mainstream pastor, often called the Billy Graham of China. He does not deserve this kind of treatment.

So I urge President Clinton, Mr. Speaker, to convey this simple message to the President of China: If China wants to be a respected nation in the world, it must give up its persecution of innocent people who simply want a chance to practice their religion in peace.

COMMUNIST CHINA SHOULD FREE RELIGIOUS PRISONERS

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, in an apparent effort to illustrate its commitment to human rights during President Jiang Zemin's visit to the United

States, the Communist Chinese Government just released a Roman Catholic bishop from prison. My question is this: What the heck was a Roman Catholic bishop doing in prison in the first place?

The answer, of course, is that Bishop Su is a priest in what is known as the underground church, a church that does not take its orders from a Chinese dictatorship.

I hope that between the champagne toast over at the White House, President Clinton does not forget to remind his guests that Communist China still has a long way to go when it comes to religious freedom, and that if the dictatorship wants our Government to take them seriously, they will open the prison doors and release all those believers they have jailed because they dared to practice their faith.

Mr. Speaker, China and the world is watching.

TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE WALTER CAPPS

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

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to add my words on behalf of a friend and someone who unfortunately has left us, Mr. WALTER CAPPS.

WALTER, as most folks also remember, ran earlier in 1994 for election and did not win. He barely lost. And in 1996 he did win. I attribute his first loss to the fact that he did not run as a politician. I attribute his win the second time because folks finally had a chance to see shining through the real qualities of this gentleman. He came up here to serve, and he came up here as Mr. Smith in that movie came up here to serve, and it is unfortunate that he is gone.

Most folks do not recognize, as well, that a year and a half ago WALTER nearly lost his life in a car accident that almost took his wife's life, as well. He survived that, and I felt the Lord kept him here for a reason. Perhaps now, with his death, maybe he did; maybe he now wants us to take a look at not just what it means to live, but also what it means to die.

I am very saddened to lose a friend, WALTER CAPPS. I think this whole institution is saddened. Unfortunately, the American people, as they did not know about his near fatal car accident, as they did not know about his first loss, probably did not get enough time to know this man, who would have been a unique and essential man to the Congress of the United States. I extend my condolences to his family.

ON ISSUE 2 IN STATE OF OHIO

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, there is an issue in the State of Ohio which I

wanted to call to the attention of the Members. The State of Ohio has on the ballot an issue, issue 2, which would severely restrict the right of people to be able to collect once they are injured on the job.

I believe that workers have many rights, and one of the rights which workers have is to be able to be fairly compensated when they are injured on the job. Issue 2 in Ohio would really affect that right of injured workers. It would stop women, for example, from being able to be fairly compensated for repetitive motion injuries. It would cut the amount of time that people would be able to apply for benefits. It would cut the amount of time that people would be able to, in effect, file a complaint about an injury they received on the job.

In this Congress we are here to protect our constituents. And as someone who is very concerned about workers' rights and about people's rights to be able to be compensated if they are injured on the job, I am voting against issue 2 in Ohio. And I am hoping all those people in Ohio will recognize that they should do the same, to vote "no."

ON SECTION 245(I)

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today we will be voting on preserving an important immigration provision, section 245(i), 245(i) benefits America. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and major American corporations such as Xerox, Microsoft, and Ford strongly support the extension of 245(i). These American businesses know just how essential well-skilled and qualified immigrants are to our economy as they cause our businesses to prosper. They, too, are American consumers and innovators.

The reality is that if 245(i) is not extended, the only thing that we would be hurting would be the productivity of our country; 245(i) helps especially to keep families together. It especially helps businesses to retain skilled workers. It brings up to \$200 million a year to our Treasury. And 245(i) does not give special benefits to illegal immigrants.

The U.S. Senate has voted to extend this provision. I urge my colleagues to support America and help keep families together by extending 245(i) today.

PRESIDENT JIANG ZEMIN ENTERTAINED AT WHITE HOUSE

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, today President Jiang Zemin is being entertained at the White House. The plight of the people of China and Tibet is a challenge to the conscience of the United States.

So I would join my colleagues in reminding President Clinton that when he toasts President Jiang Zemin, that he not forget that Mr. Jiang Zemin is directing the torture of many prisoners of conscience in China as the State dinner proceeds.

And as the Clinton administration gives the 21-gun salute to President Jiang Zemin today, which the Chinese Government insisted upon, that President Clinton and all those assembled remember the shots fired in Tiananmen Square. By the way, the bullets that killed the young demonstrators, the bills for those bullets were sent to the families as a cost to them for killing their children.

And I hope the President and those gathered will not forget the millions of people in labor camps for their religious and political beliefs. Prisoners of conscience are told that nobody knows about them and that nobody cares. That is a painful form of torture.

But we all remember Wei Jingsheng and Wang Dan and so many others in prison, and I hope that President Clinton will have them on his mind as he toasts President Jiang Zemin today.

GIVE PARENTS A CHOICE ON EDUCATION FOR THEIR CHILDREN

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, if you want to improve the quality of computers, how would you go about doing it? If you wanted to see engineering innovations in the car you drive, what do you think might produce them? And if you wanted to see your daughter become a national caliber gymnast, what conditions might lead her to become one?

The answer is quite simple. It is called competition. Humans respond in a positive way to competition because competition brings out the best in us. Competition makes us work hard. It forces us to achieve wonders that we never even dreamed possible.

Microsoft, Ford, and Mary Lou Retton all responded to competition by changing the way they did things. Windows 95, the Taurus and Olympic gold medals are the products of endless striving, experimentation and the pressure to excel among one's competitors. Surely the education of our children is important, important enough to demand competition in this area of life, as well.

It is time to let competition bring out the best in our children's education by giving parents a choice on which school their children attend. After all, Mr. Speaker, our children deserve the best.

FREEDOM FROM RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION ACT

(Mr. STRICKLAND asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I am a proud cosponsor of the bill of the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. WOLF], the Freedom From Religious Persecution Act. I believe as the Chinese leadership is in this country meeting at the White House, the most appropriate response for those of us who are concerned about human rights abuses and the persecution of those in China simply because they wish to practice their religious faith, the most appropriate response for those of us who are Members of this House would be to sign on as cosponsors of the Wolf bill.

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We need to send a message to the Chinese government and to the Clinton administration that we will not continue to tolerate the religious persecution of people of faith in China and throughout the rest of the world.

VISIT OF CHINESE PRESIDENT

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

Mr. RYUN. Mr. Speaker, in 1992, Candidate Bill Clinton denounced President George Bush for "coddling tyrants." This week he will welcome Chinese President Jiang Zemin with a 21-gun salute and State dinner, something no American President has done for a Communist leader since the Tiananmen Square massacre. Since China's Communist army opened fire on unarmed democracy demonstrators in 1989, America has been outraged at China's flagrant abuse of human rights.

In addition to human rights abuses, China poses a serious threat to peace. The Chinese Government is modernizing its navy and its air force to expand their offensive capability and extend their reach. Although China signed a nuclear nonproliferation treaty, it continues to transfer arms and nuclear technology to Iran and Pakistan. President Clinton has indicated that he will certify to Congress that China has halted all exports of nuclear technology, something that the Reagan and Bush administrations refused to do.

Mr. Speaker, it is high time that the United States Government establish a policy for dealing with the government of China. It is not time to throw State dinners and to deliver 21-gun salutes.

LET LORETTA SANCHEZ GO

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say to you, to the chairman of the Committee on House Oversight and to the Republican Members of the House, let LORETTA SANCHEZ go. Stop holding this woman hostage in your game of political terrorism.