

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.

The voters of California's 46th Congressional District cast their ballots last November. They voted Bob Dornan out and LORETTA SANCHEZ in by nearly 1,000 votes. The election was certified by the California Secretary of State. A lengthy recount requested by Mr. Dornan showed no change in the outcome.

Then came Mr. Dornan's charges of voter fraud. Yet almost a year after the election and after expending hundreds of thousands of dollars in taxpayer funds, Republicans have yet to show any evidence of voter fraud.

Mr. Speaker, the time has come to give up the charade. Stop this mockery of an investigation, stop the harassment, stop the intimidation. Let LORETTA SANCHEZ go. She won her seat in the House fair and square. Put up your evidence or drop this ill-conceived investigation. Stop it and end it now.

NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY ACT IS A BAD BILL

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, today this body will consider a bill that will mandate transportation of the world's deadliest material through nearly every community in this Nation. How can this bill that will send nuclear waste through our national parks, over our rivers, near schools meet the environmental standards of this country? The answer is simple. It cannot, it will not, it never will. H.R. 1270 ignores these requirements. This bill is in direct violation of the National Environmental Protection Act, the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Safe Drinking Water Act, to name a few.

Knowing of this bill's blatant disregard for the environmental safety, I offered an amendment before the Rules Committee that simply stated H.R. 1270 must comply with current environmental laws. It was rejected. It was rejected because if it was debated on this floor, it would pass. It was rejected because the nuclear power lobby spent \$13 million making sure the Members of this body who oppose this bill will never have a voice in opposition heard. Vote "no" on this bill.

VOTE NO ON NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY ACT

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

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. Speaker, I also rise to talk about H.R. 1270, not Yucca Mountain but the interim storage of nuclear waste. A lot of people are getting it mistaken.

Every major environmental group in the United States is opposing H.R. 1270. Why? Because H.R. 1270 is ignoring all of the laws in the United States that protect us. We are talking about the most dangerous substance known to

mankind, but the Republican leadership even blocked us from offering some reasonable amendments.

One of those amendments would have allowed us to protect our children and schools from having nuclear waste transported by their doors. Another amendment would have said that this bill cannot waive all of our environmental laws. And then something else, talking about hypocrisy with the Republican leadership on this, the Republican leadership came in defending private property rights, and yet they would not even allow us an amendment to defend private property rights on H.R. 1270. I urge a "no" vote today on the rule and on final passage.

VIRGINIA GOVERNOR ALLEN AND WIFE SPEAK OUT ON VISIT OF CHINESE PRESIDENT

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to salute Virginia's Governor, my Governor, George Allen and his wife Susan Allen for their eloquence, their grace and their conviction in speaking out on behalf of universal human principles and democracy as the Chinese President visited at Colonial Williamsburg.

Mrs. Allen in remarks at yesterday's luncheon for the Chinese President noted, "Thomas Jefferson was the author of the Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom and our Declaration of Independence. Virginia is proud that one of its sons wrote words that are universal in their meaning for all people, declaring that all men are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

In an earlier letter to President Zemin, Governor Allen wrote, "Williamsburg offers a unique insight into America's courageous and spirited beginning here in our blessed Commonwealth of Virginia. May this treasured setting provide you with a greater understanding of and appreciation for the universal human principles upon which America is built: freedom, liberty, and representative democracy."

I salute Governor Allen and Mrs. Allen for their willingness to speak in a clear voice on the core principles that has made America good. I just hope that the Chinese President heard them.

Mr. Speaker, I include the letter from Governor Allen to President Jiang for the RECORD.

The text of the letter is as follows:

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA,
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,
Richmond, VA, October 28, 1997.
His Excellency JIANG ZEMIN,
President of the People's Republic of China,
Embassy of the People's Republic of China,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: On behalf of the people of Virginia: Greetings. I hope that you,

your wife and other members of your delegation will find your visit to the United States and with the American people to be both enjoyable and enlightening.

Virginia is a land that has greeted visitors from across the seas dating back to 1607. The Commonwealth of Virginia is young compared to China, yet our history has left its indelible mark on the souls of men throughout the world.

It is appropriate, therefore, that your historic visit to the United States includes Virginia, the birthplace of American freedom—where the seeds of individual liberty, self-government and free-enterprise were planted, took root and have yielded an abundant harvest—one of the most uplifting and successful influences in the history of mankind.

Thomas Jefferson, the second Governor of Virginia, was the author of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom and our Declaration of Independence. Virginia is proud that one of its sons wrote words that are universal in their meaning for all people declaring that all men are "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights . . . of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. . . ." and that governments derive "their just powers from the consent of the governed."

Although your visit to Colonial Williamsburg and Virginia is brief, I hope you have the opportunity to experience the beauty and hospitality of this historic location.

Williamsburg offers a unique insight into America's courageous and spirited beginning here in our most blessed Commonwealth of Virginia. May this treasured setting provide you with a greater understanding of, and appreciation for, the universal human principles upon which America is built—freedom . . . liberty . . . and representative democracy.

We wish you every success for a productive visit in Virginia and in the United States. We hope it will lead to mutually beneficial exchanges between the people of our two nations, as well as result in a stronger economic relationship, and in a vigorous marketplace of competing ideas and open discourse.

Most sincerely yours,

GEORGE ALLEN.

SHOULD NONCITIZENS BE ALLOWED TO VOTE?

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, the real question in the debate surrounding the contested election in California's 46th District is do we want noncitizens voting in elections? It is not about Bob Dornan and LORETTA SANCHEZ. It is about whether or not we want to see our election process compromised. Someone would have us believe that this current investigation is unique. Would it surprise my colleagues to know that since the Civil War the House of Representatives has been involved in over 100 such investigations?

Another thing critics of this investigation will not tell us is that the supporters of Ms. SANCHEZ acknowledge that 303 noncitizens, illegally registered to vote by Hermandad, voted in the 46th Congressional District. There is strong evidence to support the fact that far more than 303 votes were fraudulently cast in this race.