

Quoting now, "Sandy Berger is about as qualified to be national security advisor as I am. He's a political operative who had virtually no foreign policy experience before he became Tony Lake's deputy."

Mr. Speaker, this story need not be glossed over. The first constructive step is that Sandy Berger must go, and we must release the Cox Select Committee Report.

STOP THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION FROM SENTENCING SOUTHWEST TO NEARLY 300 YEARS OF RADIOACTIVE DRINKING WATER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 4 minutes.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell you of the danger faced by 25 million people who get their water from the Colorado River because of radioactive waste leaching from an abandoned mine waste pile that is located only 750 feet away from the Colorado River.

This deadly waste pile, abandoned by the Atlas Corporation, sits in the Moab Valley of southeastern Utah. The Colorado River, flowing past this site just south, provides water for 7 percent of the United States population, including Las Vegas, Arizona and the southern California urban areas of Los Angeles and the city I represent, San Diego.

Legislation that the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) and I have introduced, H.R. 393, would move this contaminated pile away from the Colorado River. Yesterday, the Project on Government Oversight, known as POGO, released a report recommending moving the pile as the most reliable way to save the growing population of Nevada, Arizona and California from having the highly contaminated waste leak into their water supply for the next 270 years.

I pledge to continue to fight to move this pile, lest my constituents and most of the Southwest be forced to live under a sentence of radioactivity and contaminants in their drinking water for nearly 3 centuries. This is an unacceptable sentence and would likely be a death sentence for many. I cannot sit idly by while polluters and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission inflict this on innocent people.

Recently, this commission which, has jurisdiction over cleaning up the site, issued a Final Environmental Impact Statement stating that Atlas' plan to cap the radioactive pile is, quote, environmentally acceptable.

Is it environmentally acceptable to cover 10.5 million tons of uranium mill wastes with rock and sand where the river can reach it during the spring runoff and cause a public health crisis? With the pile only 10 to 20 feet above the underground water aquifer, highly

concentrated ammonia will continue to seep into the ground water. If the runoff is bad for three endangered species of fish, as the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Fish and Wildlife Service acknowledge, it surely is deadly, over time, for our children and our grandchildren.

This POGO report details a clear problem with the NRC's jurisdiction of this pile, and our bill, H.R. 393, addresses this by removing the responsibility for the pile to the Department of Energy, which has the technology and experience with cleaning up sites and protecting public health.

When the Department of Energy has been involved with contaminated sites along the Colorado River, it moved, and did not just cap, the sites with uranium concentration levels of less than 2 milligrams per liter.

The uranium concentration levels at Moab which I am talking about exceed 26 milligrams per liter, and yet the NRC pushes forward with its plan, forcing the Fish and Wildlife Service to sign off on the sand capping plan just because the NRC lacks the authority to move this pile.

As the report illustrates, it is past time to move this deadly pile, and to move jurisdiction for moving it to the Department of Energy, which will get this life-and-death job done.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for H.R. 393.

FOREIGN POLICY AMBIGUITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today out of great concern for the direction of our Nation's foreign policy, as President Clinton is on the brink of placing our Nation at war against the independent sovereign nation of Yugoslavia.

Mr. Speaker, let us not be mistaken. If the President issues orders to begin an air assault against Yugoslavia, the United States would, in effect, be at war with this country.

What will this war achieve? The President has yet to explain what our strategy is aimed to achieve. Will we bomb this country in order to force them to agree with a peace agreement that is not in effect?

What I fear is that this President has yet to think through the implications of an air attack and to think through a long-term strategy regarding this situation in Kosovo. Do Members of this body know what the administration plans to do if an air attack against Yugoslavia fails to force the Serbians to agree to a vague peace treaty?

Does the United States with NATO further escalate the bombing to attack fixed military targets around the Yugoslavian capital of Belgrade? Do we escalate our actions by placing ground troops in a hostile situation on the

ground in Kosovo? Do we try to seal off a largely landlocked nation? Do we try to use military troops in the non-NATO nations of Romania and Bulgaria to enforce an embargo?

Mr. President, what happens if the Serbs in Bosnia react against any bombing and start attacking U.S. and NATO forces there? What if Russia reacts in some form in defense of Yugoslavia?

Mr. President, what is the idea for success here? Not just an end game but how are we going to achieve success? What if an American flier is shot down and captured?

Mr. Speaker, we are headed down a very dangerous road without any type of compass to guide our policy. To me, the lack of comprehensive foreign policy by this administration has led us to this hazardous point.

The President must come before our Nation and tell our Nation three things: What is the long-term strategy of the United States in Yugoslavia? What is the end-game to achieve military success in this operation? What actions will the President take if military actions fail to achieve any stated goals or if military action devolves into the loss of American lives?

Mr. Speaker, until the President communicates this message to the American people, the mission's success in Yugoslavia will be limited. I call on the President to let the American people know today.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 11 a.m.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 44 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 11 a.m.

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GOODLATTE) at 11 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

During this moment of prayer we remember those people who have dedicated their lives to doing the good works that help others in our communities. In the privacy of our own hearts we recall the names of those gracious and charitable people who strengthen the bonds of our common humanity and enhance and share the benefits and the glories of our world. O gracious God, as You inspire all people to use their abilities in ways that alleviate any pain or hurt and who help to make noble the lives of the needy, so inspire each of us to be Your messengers of reconciliation and Your heralds of kindness and of love. This is our earnest prayer. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. EVANS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 68. An act to amend section 20 of the Small Business Act and make technical corrections in title III of the Small Business Investment Act.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to section 3 of Public Law 94-304, as amended by section 1 of Public Law 99-7, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe:

Mr. HOYER, Maryland;
Mr. MARKEY, Massachusetts;
Mr. CARDIN, Maryland; and
Ms. SLAUGHTER, New York.

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COUNCIL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 96-388, as amended by Public Law 97-84 (36 U.S.C. 1402(a)), the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council:

Mr. LANTOS, California;
Mr. FROST, Texas.

There was no objection.

CHINESE TOP GUNS

(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, the Fallon Naval Air Station "Top Gun" school in Nevada recently had some important visitors.

No, they were not the U.S. Navy cadets. It was not our colleague the gentleman from California (Rep. DUKE CUNNINGHAM). It was not the United States Air Force trying to gain an advantage. Mr. Speaker, it was the Chinese.

Even after knowing their latest espionage tactics, our Government granted about 20 communist Chinese an open-door visit to the Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center at Fallon Naval Air Station. Providing the Chinese communists with classified information about our military equipment, aircraft, tactics and operations is just sheer lunacy.

Why were they allowed to visit that facility? Who knows? This facility has trained 90 percent of our naval warfare pilots. Fallon Naval Air Station is not just a field in Nevada. It is a vital training link for our naval aviators worldwide.

If the American taxpayers could not be afforded the same high-level tour, why would this administration grant the communist Chinese a carte blanche visit?

Mr. Speaker, top gun Chinese are not the type of American exports I would expect from the United States Navy.

CHINA ANNOUNCES SUPPORT FOR MEMBERSHIP IN WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, Chinese money must be an aphrodisiac because it seems that everybody is jumping in bed with the Reds here.

Check it out. Even though China tortures their own citizens, China threatens their neighbors, and China spies on everybody, China has announced that they have great support for membership in the World Trade Organization. In fact, China says, to boot, "Even the United States Trade Representative supports, number one, lower tariffs for China and, number two, China's membership in the World Trade Organization."

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. The Trade Representative will not wise up until there is a Red Army tank shoved right up their foreign policy. I yield back a \$70 billion projected trade deficit with China, who is buying intercontinental ballistic missiles and pointing them right at us.

DEMOCRAT DEMAGOGUERY ON THE BUDGET

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, one would never know what is actually in the Republican budget proposal by listening to the other side. In fact, I do not even recognize our own budget after listening to what the other side is saying about it.

I guess it is Mediscare all over again with a lot of demagoguery on Social Security added on to it. On second thought, make that a lot of demagoguery on Social Security to go with it.

One has the impression that our friends on the other side of the aisle have not looked at the Congressional Budget Office report on our budget. Maybe they are getting their information about our budget from their own press releases.

Our budget reserves 100 percent of the retirement surplus for Social Security and Medicare. Let me repeat that for the benefit of any demagogues on the other side of the aisle who seem to have some difficulty with that fact. Our budget reserves 100 percent, again 100 percent, of the retirement surplus for Social Security and Medicare.

I urge my skeptical colleagues on the other side to call the CBO for themselves to verify this fact.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET PROPOSAL, RECIPE FOR COMPLETE FISCAL DISASTER

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise, too, to talk about the budget that is coming to the floor this week, and I have some grave concerns about that budget in terms of fiscal discipline.

The budget the majority party is proposing has several elements to it. Massive tax cuts. At the same time, it also has massive spending increases. And unrelated to the budget, but at the same time related to the budget, there is no plan on the table for any sort of structural reform of our existing entitlement programs, so they will simply go on spending at their current rate.

Those three items, put together, are a recipe for complete fiscal disaster. We are so close to a balanced budget, we are so close to finally having a legitimate claim on being fiscally responsible, that I hate to see us lose it now.

One of the biggest problems, in response to the comments of the previous gentleman, yes, the existing trust funds, the money that is going into Social Security and Medicare, are protected. The problem is those trust funds will not last long under the current system. The spending will go way beyond those existing trust funds and place us into grave financial difficulties.

Medicare is scheduled to be bankrupt in 2008. Social Security is scheduled to go bankrupt in 2032. It is time to be fiscally responsible, and the Republican budget does not get us there.

UNION-ONLY REQUIREMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

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