

the child is not prepared to learn by the time they reach school age.

These executives came to the conclusion that in order to find solutions to the problems they were facing and other problems facing society, we had to begin at the beginning and make sure children start out their lives with the nutrition they need to develop.

That conclusion is what brought these CEOs to the Committee on the Budget, and it is what brings me to the floor today. We continue to learn more each day about the importance of the first 3 years of life in the development of the brain. Common sense tells us that ensuring that children have proper nutrition at this critical period in their lives will reap benefits for all of us as these children grow into adulthood.

A child who has the proper nutrition at the beginning of his or her life in the womb through the first 3 years of its life is more likely to succeed in school, less likely to become involved in the criminal justice system, and more likely to become a productive member of society.

There have been numerous studies showing the effectiveness of the WIC program in improving health of newborn children. From a fiscal standpoint, studies have found that Medicaid costs for women and children participating in WIC were reduced by between \$1.77 and \$3.13 for every dollar spent on WIC.

But more important than any of these statistics or studies about the effectiveness of the WIC program is this: The WIC program helps give all children a fair start in life. That is why I am proud to support the WIC program, and encourage our colleagues to continue to support and expand upon this very valuable program.

ETHIOPIA AND ERITREA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. SNYDER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 1½ minutes.

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, recently I met with representatives of the Ethiopian and Eritrean embassies. The two countries are involved in a horrific border war that since May, 1998, has resulted in tens of thousands of casualties.

As family doctor who worked in a refugee camp near Kassala, Sudan, in 1985, and treated refugees from both Tigre and Eritrea, it is heartbreaking to see this war continue. Just a few years ago, the Horn of Africa was one of the most promising development storied on the continent. There was great hope for both Eritrea and Ethiopia in 1991, two countries with a great deal in common. Now, tragically, that promise is gone, swept away in war.

Mr. Speaker, I do not rise to ask the United States to take sides militarily in this war. It is not in our interests, or

in those of the warring parties, that we do. What I do ask is for the two warring nations, Ethiopia and Eritrea, to agree to a cease-fire and peace settlement. The OAU proposal seems to be acceptable to both countries, but for unclear reasons has not been signed.

A cease-fire and peace treaty must be agreed to. The war must end. New enemies must again become old friends.

PROBLEMS AMERICA IS CONFRONTING IN THE STEEL INDUSTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 2 minutes.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I join with the other Members who have been on the floor today to talk about the problems we are confronting in steel.

I recently had a chance to visit Bethlehem Steel's Sparrows Point division. I had a chance to meet with many of the 4,000 dedicated workers at this facility. I also had a chance to talk with management, to go over the investment that management is making in the most modern steel equipment, hundreds of millions of dollars.

Mr. Speaker, at Sparrows Point our workers can compete with any worker around the world. All they ask from us is a level playing field. They are not asking us to protect the steel industry from competition, but they are asking us to protect the steel industry from illegally dumped steel that is still coming into this country.

Yes, what we need to do, we need to enact the legislation, that passed, that rolls back the level of steel imports to the pre-crisis level. We need to reform our antidumping and countervailing duty laws to protect from the surge of illegal steel or any product coming into this country, so we can act decisively. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ENGLISH) and I have filed such legislation. We also need the ITC to take decisive action in their meetings today.

This is sort of like a Whack-a-Mole game, where you hit one country on the head that is dealing with illegal steel and another country pops up. But for the 10,000 steel workers' jobs that we have lost, this is not a game. It is time for us to take decisive action.

THE CRISIS IN STEEL IS NOT OVER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) is recognized during morning hour debates for 2 minutes.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, the crisis in steel is not over. The International Trade Commission of the U.S. Department of Commerce has ruled that foreign steel imports are coming

into this country at below-cost production in many cases, below cost of U.S. products, and are being, in the technical terms, dumped in the U.S. marketplace.

The Department of Commerce is now proceeding in the second phase of this unfair trade practice determining injury. The Clinton administration, through the Secretary of Commerce, Secretary Daley, and Secretary Rubin at Treasury, have moved smartly to impose countervailing duties and put companies on notice in this country to post bond or cash to cover the cost between the unfair price and the U.S. market price.

We are now in the injury phase of this proceeding, an excruciating fair, time-consuming process, the most fair process of any country in the world trade community for determining unfair trade. In fact, it is so fair that I am afraid that American steel mills and in Minnesota taconite plants will be out of business before they come to the conclusion, the Department of Commerce, that there is injury, that these countervailing duties should be imposed, and the level trading field re-established in steel.

We ought to act decisively now. The Senate ought to pass the bipartisan Steel Recovery Act, because imports from Japan in March were up 36 percent, Brazil up 54 percent, Korea up 11 percent, and Indonesia tripled its exports in March to the United States. Korea has increased their exports to the U.S. so much that they are up 77 percent over a year ago.

The crisis in steel is not over. More countries are finding that the most open, fair market in the world is the United States, and are dumping their unemployment on our marketplace. It is not fair.

AMERICAN STEEL COMPANIES AND STEEL FAMILIES REMAIN IN GRAVE DANGER FROM STEEL DUMPING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 2 minutes.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues today are point out, the latest trade figures are in and they confirm what we feared but also what we expected. They confirm, Mr. Speaker, that the steel dumping crisis is not over. In fact, just the opposite, they confirm that our American steel companies and our American steel families remain in grave danger.

It turns out that the recent drop in imports was not the start of a trend, it was only our trading partners catching their breath and then pumping up their March shipments by 25 percent. That includes a 39 percent increase from Japan and a 54 percent increase from Brazil, two of the main targets of complaints filed by our U.S. steelmakers.

It is clear that these countries are not very impressed with America's resolve to enforce our trade laws. What about our steelmakers? How are imports affecting them? Thanks to imports, LTV is reporting a first quarter loss of \$29 million; Bethlehem a loss of \$26 million, and in my district, Weirton Steel is reporting a loss of almost \$28 million, the worst in 6 years. Seven hundred Weirton Steel employees remain out of work, putting a terrible strain on communities all along the upper Ohio Valley.

Mr. Speaker, our trading partners do not care about our communities. They do not care about our families. They do not even care about following our trade laws. But this Congress and this administration must care, because when the playing field is level, we can compete with anyone on Earth.

This Congress must come full circle and pass tough trade legislation, and this administration must use every tool at its disposal to enforce basic, fair, trade laws. I repeat, Mr. Speaker, the crisis is not over. We cannot afford to act like it is.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BURR of North Carolina) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

In this world where life contains what seems to be so much turmoil and tribulation we long for that tranquility that lives beside the still waters of peace, and yet we know that grace exists besides turbulence and healing exists besides pain. O gracious God, the creator of everyone, we laud and praise those who use their ability to bring peace and healing to our communities and to all the neighborhoods of our world. May Your spirit, O God, unite each person so we share our concerns and our hopes as one people with one creator. In Your name we pray. 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. RUSH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. RUSH 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.

PRIVATE CALENDAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is Private Calendar day. The Clerk will call the first individual bill on the Private Calendar.

FRED STEFFENS

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 509) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to transfer to the personal representative of the estate of Fred Steffens of Big Horn County, Wyoming, certain land comprising the Steffens family property.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the bill as follows:

H.R. 509

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. TRANSFER OF STEFFENS FAMILY PROPERTY.

(a) CONVEYANCE.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary of the Interior is directed to issue, without consideration, a quitclaim deed to Marie Wambeke of Big Horn County, Wyoming, the personal representative of the estate of Fred Steffens, to the land described in subsection (b): *Provided*, That all minerals underlying such land are hereby reserved to the United States.

(b) LAND DESCRIPTION.—The land referred to in subsection (a) is the approximately 80-parcel known as "Farm Unit C" in the E½NW¼ of Section 27 in Township 57 North, Range 97 West, 6th Principal Meridian, Wyoming.

(c) REVOCATION OF WITHDRAWAL.—The Bureau of Reclamation withdrawal for the Shoshone Reclamation Project under Secretarial Order dated October 21, 1913, is hereby revoked with respect to the lands described in subsection (b).

With the following committee amendment in the nature of a substitute:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. TRANSFER OF STEFFENS FAMILY PROPERTY.

(a) CONVEYANCE.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary of the Interior is directed to issue, without consideration, a quitclaim deed to Marie Wambeke of Big Horn County, Wyoming, the personal representative of the estate of Fred Steffens, to the land described in subsection (b): *Provided*, That all minerals underlying such land are hereby reserved to the United States.

(b) LAND DESCRIPTION.—The land referred to in subsection (a) is the approximately 80-acre parcel known as "Farm Unit C" in the E½NW¼ of Section 27 in Township 57 North, Range 97 West, 6th Principal Meridian, Wyoming.

(c) REVOCATION OF WITHDRAWAL.—The Bureau of Reclamation withdrawal for the Shoshone Reclamation Project under Secretarial Order dated October 21, 1913, is hereby revoked with respect to the lands described in subsection (b).

Mr. BALLENGER (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JOHN R. AND MARGARET J. LOWE

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 510) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to transfer to John R. and Margaret J. Lowe of Big Horn County, Wyoming, certain land so as to correct an error in the patent issued to their predecessors in interest.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the bill as follows:

H.R. 510

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. TRANSFER OF LOWE FAMILY PROPERTY.

(a) CONVEYANCE.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary of the Interior is directed to issue, without consideration, a quitclaim deed to John R. and Margaret J. Lowe of Big Horn County, Wyoming, to the land described in subsection (b): *Provided*, That all minerals underlying such land are hereby reserved to the United States.

(b) LAND DESCRIPTION.—The land referred to in subsection (a) is the approximately 40-acre parcel located in the SW¼SE¼ of Section 11, Township 51 North, Range 96 West, 6th Principal Meridian, Wyoming.

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 509 and H.R. 510, as introduced in the House, mirror the bills introduced by Senators MIKE ENZI and CRAIG THOMAS that passed last year in the Senate by unanimous consent.

The first bill, H.R. 509, transfers eighty acres of public land in Big Horn County, Wyoming, to the estate of Mr. Fred Steffens.

The property outlined in the bill has been a part of the Steffens' family working farm since the land was purchased in 1928. Mr. Steffens was issued a warranty deed to the property by Mr. Frank McKinney, predecessor of interest.

Unfortunately, Mr. McKinney knowingly had neither title to the property nor an assignable right of entry. However, the fact that Mr. McKinney did not own the land did not stop him from selling the property or issuing the warranty deed.

In good faith, Mr. Steffens purchased the property and, according to the Big Horn County Assessor's office, paid taxes since the date of purchase in 1928.

Upon Mr. Steffens' death, in an attempt to settle his estate, it was discovered that a patent had never been issued for these lands. Mr. Steffens' sister and representative of the estate filed a Color of Title application with the BLM's Wyoming state office, but the title was rejected.

The reason given was that the lands at issue were, and continue to be, withdrawn by