

were added to the supplemental appropriations bill.

Ford's action demonstrated that preserving the environment is a priority for the American people, and that we must do all we can to create an environmental record we can be proud of. I would hope that as we approach further efforts dealing with the environmental protection and, for that matter, the reduction of gun violence, we can avoid the false choices offered by the extreme.

#### SUPPORT THE SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE "SAFE DEPOSIT BOX"

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, tomorrow we will consider legislation to ensure that we will no longer use the Social Security Trust Fund for any other purpose than for what it was intended for.

Now, my colleagues might ask, "Why is this necessary?" The answer is quite simple. Despite repeated efforts over the years, we have not been able to stop perpetual raids on the Social Security Trust Fund. We have attempted to stop this violation of the trust fund going as far back as 1990.

Now, that year we enacted legislation, the Budget Enforcement Act, which removed Social Security taxes and benefits from the budget and from calculations of the budget deficit. That was done to prevent Social Security from masking the true size of the deficit and to protect it from budgetary cuts.

The rationale was that if this was done, Congress would not use Social Security in devising the Nation's overall fiscal policies. Historically, the Social Security Trust Fund Board have invested surplus Social Security revenues in U.S. Government securities. These investments are honored just like investments from the private sector. Interest is earned on the monies invested, and returned to the trust fund to help offset long-term obligations to future beneficiaries. It was felt that without such an enforcement mechanism, this practice would continue unless Congress took action to prevent this dishonest bookkeeping from continuing.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the intent of the 1990 law has not been fully adhered to, and to guarantee honesty in budgeting we must end the misuse of Social Security Trust Fund investments. This Social Security Trust Fund surplus should not be used to fund any other programs, and it should not be used to mask our Nation's debt.

We have been very zealous in cutting wasteful spending and reducing the size of our government's bureaucracy. We should keep up our efforts to continue to cut unnecessary and wasteful spend-

ing. That is why I applaud my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER) for introducing H.R. 1259 which will, among other things, provide a mechanism to ensure that all Social Security surpluses are dedicated to saving the program and Medicare.

I fully endorse this concept and believe we will be fulfilling our pledge to our Nation's seniors if we pass this legislation. We must stop this phoney bookkeeping and leave Social Security money alone. Right now, the trust fund is running a \$126 billion surplus and it is used to mask the yearly deficit.

In 1997, Congress passed the historic Balanced Budget Act of 1997, which of course reduced wasteful government spending. We believed it was a restraint on Federal spending that has led to a reduction in our yearly deficits. With our Nation's strong economy and fiscal responsibility, there has been a strong revenue growth in this country and it has helped the national Treasury. These two factors make it possible to stop the much-used practice of commingling the Social Security Trust Fund money with the general revenue.

So, my colleagues, this week we can make history, make history by standing up for not only what we believe to be right, but what is absolutely necessary if we are going to make good on our promise to save Social Security and Medicare for this and future generations. We can pass H.R. 1259, stop this practice which started when President Lyndon Johnson unified the budget in 1969. It was then that Social Security and the other Federal trust funds were officially accounted for in the entire Federal budget.

So this "Safe Deposit Box Act" establishes the submission of separate Social Security budget documents by excluding outlays and receipts of the old-age, survivors, and disability program under the Social Security Act, thereby, Mr. Speaker, preventing Social Security surpluses from being used for any other purpose other than for the Social Security Trust Fund and the Medicare program.

So I urge my colleagues tomorrow and this week to support H.R. 1259.

#### 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 12 o'clock and 41 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. PEASE) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

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

We pray, gracious God, that Your spirit of comfort and serenity will be with the neediest of people who turn to You with their life's concerns. We remember the refugees of the world and all those who suffer pain or hunger or fear for the days ahead. Remind us all, O God, that when the resources of the world are not with us, we can rely on Your grace. And when people must walk through the roads of danger and hostility, we earnestly pray that Your healing power and Your reconciling spirit will be with them whatever their need or trouble. O loving and eternal God, bless us and all Your people, now and evermore. 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 New York (Mr. SERRANO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SERRANO 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.

#### CHINESE ESPIONAGE

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

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, this headline from the New York Times says it all: China Stole Nuclear Secrets for Bombs. Although the bipartisan Cox report on Chinese espionage will not be officially released until tomorrow, we already know enough that all Americans should be outraged.

According to Chairman COX, the threat to our security from this major intelligence catastrophe will not be years into the future but within the next few months. Look to the Chinese Communist government to begin testing nuclear ICBMs within a few months, using United States nuclear secrets. While our law enforcement officials were asleep, our national security was compromised. It is not just Attorney General Janet Reno. The entire Clinton-Gore administration owes the United States public an explanation for this outrage.

#### TWO FORMS OF VIOLENCE

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

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, the debate goes on in this country as we try

earnestly to find solutions for the problem of violence in our schools and throughout our society. At the same time the 6 o'clock news reports school violence, it reports the violence of war. So I wonder and I ask out loud, is it possible that our children are imitating the actions of our government, that every time we have a difference with another country, we use violence to solve that difference?

Secondly, this week on the agriculture appropriation bill we will say "no" once again to selling food and medicine to Cuba. Food and medicine. Economic violence. Is it possible that our children are simply imitating the violence they see coming from our adult behavior?

#### ON MILK POLICY

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, very soon a great debate will begin to rage here in the halls of Congress. That debate will be about how we price milk. My friends from other regions of the country will complain that if the system is reformed and the playing field is leveled, their dairy farmers would receive less or they would lose relative to other parts of the country.

But, Mr. Speaker, we should understand that dairy farmers in my region of the country have been losers under the current convoluted milk marketing order system for over 60 years. This makes no economic sense. Even Justice Anton Scalia has called the system "Byzantine." All we are asking for is equal pay for equal milk, and we will not give up this fight until we get it.

#### TRADE DEFICIT HITS RECORD HIGH

(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, another record. For the third straight month, America's trade deficit is going through the roof. It is now averaging \$20 billion a month. That is 400,000 good-paying American jobs being lost every single month. It is so bad even Commerce Secretary Daley said America cannot continue to subsidize the world. Unbelievable. Something stinks.

Why is this administration still coddling to China on MFN and WTO membership? Enough is enough. America is going bankrupt at warp speed and Uncle Sam is buying the rocket fuel. I say it is time to get to the bottom of this action with China. Tell us the truth, White House, before we do not have a job left.

#### OPPOSE H.R. 45 AND KEEP NUCLEAR WASTE OUT OF NEVADA

(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, when I was a young child, people used to say that little green men lived on Mars and the moon was made of cheese. That is when fantasies and rumors were the tools that shaped opinions and science was the unattainable.

Unfortunately, many of my colleagues look at transporting and storing high-level nuclear waste in Nevada in much the same way.

Fantasy and nonsense have no place in scientific studies, studies which prove that a repository site at Yucca Mountain is 10 times more prone to earthquakes and lava flows than government scientists previously estimated, studies that show Nevada ranks third in the Nation for current earthquake activity and has experienced over 650 earthquakes in the last 20 years.

That means with over 30 earthquakes a year. Clearly Yucca Mountain is not suitable and is one of the worst places to store the deadliest material ever created by man.

The space program proved that the moon is not made of cheese and that little green men do not live on Mars, and if the DOE properly addresses this new scientific information as the law requires them to do, they will not force green people to live in Nevada.

Mr. Speaker, oppose H.R. 45 and place true science before fantasy, misinformation and conjecture.

#### COMBATTING SCHOOL VIOLENCE

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

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, mercifully events in Georgia last week produced no deaths in the school shooting. But this shows why it is that all of us at every level of government and every part of our community have to be working harder to reduce school violence. There are things that this Congress can be doing, things that our communities can be doing.

One area that we are working on in West Virginia and which I hope might be of benefit in other areas is we are designing a school safety report card: What are the elements of a safe school, listing them and then giving that to each community so each community can evaluate its own school.

One thing that I have learned following four hearings across our State is that there is no one-size-fits-all. We have to tailor our responses to each community and to each school. But we also have to dedicate ourselves to the proposition that as school ends this year, that when it resumes next year the schools will be safer than they have been.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair

announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules but not before 6 p.m. today.

#### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE ACCESS ACT

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 974) to establish a program to afford high school graduates from the District of Columbia the benefits of in-State tuition at State colleges and universities outside the District of Columbia, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 974

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "District of Columbia College Access Act".

#### SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

There is hereby established the District of Columbia College Access Scholarship Program (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Program") under which the Mayor of the District of Columbia shall award scholarships in accordance with section 4 using amounts in the District of Columbia College Access Fund established under section 3.

#### SEC. 3. DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE ACCESS FUND.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established on the books of the government of the District of Columbia the District of Columbia College Access Fund (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Fund"), which shall consist of the following amounts:

(1) Amounts appropriated to the Fund under law.

(2) Gifts and bequests.

(3) Refunds paid under section 4(b)(4).

(4) Interest earned on the balance of the Fund.

(b) ADMINISTRATION.—The Mayor of the District of Columbia shall administer the Fund, in consultation with the Secretary of Education.

(c) USE OF FUND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Amounts in the Fund shall be used solely to award scholarships in accordance with section 4, except that not more than 10 percent of the balance of the Fund with respect to a fiscal year may be used for the administration of the Fund during such year.

(2) DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT AVAILABLE FOR SCHOLARSHIPS.—With respect to each academic year for which scholarships may be awarded under this Act, the Mayor shall determine the amount available from the Fund for awarding scholarships.

(d) INVESTMENT.—The Mayor shall invest such portion of the Fund as is not in the judgment of the Mayor required to make current payments for scholarships. Such investments shall be in such form as the Mayor considers appropriate.

#### SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATION OF SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) APPLICATIONS.—Any qualified graduate seeking a scholarship under the Program