

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today as the United Nations Cairo Plus 5 Prep Conference on Population and Development is going on in New York, our young women around the world are under attack. At Cairo Plus 5, it is the U.S. delegation which is suggesting that any future document should delete virtually all references to parental rights when it comes to a girl's adolescent sexuality; that is right, the U.S. delegation.

It is interesting that this is the same week during which we in Congress will address parental rights domestically as we consider the important Child Custody Protection Act.

As we speak, young women and their parents around the world face the threat of yet another another government-knows-best strategy that has more potential to destroy families.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the countries of the world who still hold to the importance of parents in critical decisions will reject this propaganda and exploitation of paternity from the U.S. representatives by ensuring and protecting their care-giving parents with the rights inherent in that role.

AMERICA HAS ANOTHER RECORD TRADE DEFICIT

(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, for the third straight month America has another record trade deficit. China and Japan are now taking \$130 billion a year out of our economy. China and Japan are taking \$130 billion a year out of our economy, and no one in Washington is even paying any attention.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. While Congress worries about the Balkans, Asia, Africa, and the Mideast, Congress is ignoring the good old U.S.A. I believe that is a recipe for disaster. I yield back what jobs we have left.

LAWMAKERS SHOULD BE GUIDED BY THE WORDS OF THE FOUNDERS OF OUR NATION

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, no matter the issue, no matter the arguments, there is one principle which undergirds the proceedings in this House Chamber and one principle which we should rise to uphold. It is enshrined forever in the three opening words of the living document that we swear allegiance to, our Constitution, as our Founders had the great and good sense to use the words, "We, the people."

President Lincoln offered validation of that perspective over 100 years later when he spoke in Gettysburg of a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

Mr. Speaker, today, shortly, as we take up legislation on this floor, we will consider measures to help provide for those who have provided for our common defense. Whether the issue is veterans' health care, health care for all Americans, or our fiscal responsibility, we would do well to be guided by the words of our Founders.

AMERICA AND ITS ALLIES SHOULD DO MORE TO PROTECT THE SERBIAN POPULATION IN KOSOVO

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

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed at the failure of the United States and our allies to do a better job of protecting the Serbian population of Kosovo. I think we had a strong moral right to go to the aid of the Albanian population of that place. We did it because we wanted to protect innocent people from being persecuted based on their ethnicity.

No doubt there are Serbs who deserve to be prosecuted because of their actions, but no people deserves to be mistreated because of their ethnicity. We took over the province militarily. We did so for good reasons. But along with taking it over comes an obligation to protect innocent people.

I understand it is difficult. I understand this is not the primary task which military people have been trained for. We will not fully do it until we get a police force in there. I understand things happened very rapidly before there could be complete preparation.

The fact is, we have a strong moral obligation. As strong as our moral obligation was to protect the Albanian Kosovars, so do we have a moral obligation to protect the great mass of Serbian people. We are not doing nearly as good a job about that as we should.

FROM SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, AN INCREDIBLE STORY OF NICE GUYS FINISHING FIRST

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

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, from San Antonio, we have an incredible story of nice guys finishing first. This past weekend the torch of basketball greatness was passed from the Chicago Bulls to the San Antonio Spurs.

The Spurs are now the NBA champions. They are an unusual bunch for our time: selfless, no hot dogs, no hams on the team, just hard-working men who demonstrated the highest form of character. They are gentlemen who set good examples for our young people. They showed that you can play great offense, great defense, and also be a great person.

To owners Julianna and Peter Holt, to Coach Gregg Popovich, to the starting lineup of Sean Elliott, Mario Elie, Tim Duncan, David Robinson, and the little general who made the big shot, Avery Johnson, congratulations on blowing away the New York Knicks to become the new World Champions.

You've given us, the long-time fans of South Texas, an experience we will cherish forever.

THE SOCIAL SECURITY "LOCKBOX"

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, we passed in the House a very, very significant bill. It had to do with the lockbox. What it did is it put the social security money basically off-budget so that we would not continue to do as we have done in the past, which is combine social security money with general purpose spending.

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We passed that out of the House. We had a good debate on it. There was disagreement here and there, but we passed it. The will of the House was to move it forward. But now the Senate, which we appropriately address as "the other body," but it is the other body, they will not move on that.

It is very important to my grandmother, to your grandmother, to your parents, that we quit mixing Social Security proceeds with general operating revenues. There is not a business in America that is allowed to mix its pension plan with its operating expenses. It is now time for the other body to vote on this bill, which the President supports, and let us protect the retirement of our grandparents and parents.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Members are reminded not to refer in debate to action or inaction by the other body.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 25, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on June 25, 1999 at 1:34 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he submits a copy of an Executive Order entitled, Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention Implementation Act.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

MARTHA C. MORRISON
(For Jeff Trandahl).

RETURN SURPLUS TO TAXPAYERS

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

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, today there were reports that Washington is awash in a surplus to the tune of projected \$1 trillion. Well, congratulations to the American taxpayer. There are a lot of folks who would like to take credit for the surpluses. We all know where it is generated from, and that is the hard work of millions of Americans, who get up to work every single morning, sometimes 6, 7 days a week, sometimes 2 or 3 jobs, to generate this surplus.

I would just encourage everybody in Washington to remind themselves of that fact, and that when it comes time to spend that money, that they set aside enough back to the taxpayers so they can spend it on their families and to continue to grow our economy as it has been growing like no time before.

As it relates to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BONILLA) and the San Antonio Spurs, congratulations, but there is also next year for our Knicks fans.

IMPLEMENTATION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION AND CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION IMPLEMENTATION ACT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 106-86)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

On November 14, 1994, in light of the danger of the proliferation of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons (weapons of mass destruction) and of the means of delivering such weapons, using my authority under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), I issued Executive Order 12938, declaring a national emergency to deal with this danger. Because the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States, I have renewed the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12938 annually, most recently on November 12, 1998. Pursuant to section 204(b) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1703(b)), I hereby report to the Congress that I have exercised my statutory authority to further amend Executive

Order 12938 in order to more effectively respond to the worldwide threat of weapons of mass destruction proliferation activities.

The new executive order, which implements the Chemical Weapons Convention Implementation Act of 1998, strengthens Executive Order 12938 by amending section 3 to authorize the United States to implement important provisions of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, a multilateral agreement that serves to reduce the threat posed by chemical weapons. Specifically, the amendment enables the United States Government to ensure that imports into the United States of certain chemicals from any source are permitted in a manner consistent with the relevant provisions of the Convention.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 25, 1999.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HON. ANNA ESHOO, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable ANNA ESHOO, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 29, 1999,
Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER, This is to formally notify you pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House that I received a subpoena for documents issued by the United States District Court for the Northern District of California.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined to comply with the subpoena to the extent that it is consistent with Rule VIII.

Sincerely,

ANNA G. ESHOO.

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.

VETERANS BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1999

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2280) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide a cost-of-living adjustment in rates of compensation paid for service-connected disabilities, to enhance the compensation, memorial affairs, and housing programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to

improve retirement authorities applicable to judges of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2280

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 1999”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. References to title 38, United States Code.

TITLE I—COMPENSATION

Sec. 101. Increase in rates of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation.

Sec. 102. Presumption that bronchiolo-alveolar carcinoma is service-connected.

Sec. 103. Dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses of former prisoners of war.

Sec. 104. Reinstate of certain benefits for remarried surviving spouses of veterans upon termination of their remarriage.

TITLE II—MEMORIAL AFFAIRS

Subtitle A—American Battle Monuments Commission

Sec. 201. Codification and expansion of authority for World War II Memorial.

Sec. 202. General authority to solicit and receive contributions.

Sec. 203. Intellectual property and related items.

Sec. 204. Technical amendments.

Subtitle B—National Cemeteries

Sec. 211. Establishment of additional national cemeteries.

Sec. 212. Independent study on improvements to veterans’ cemeteries.

TITLE III—HOUSING

Sec. 301. Permanent eligibility for housing loans for former members of the Selected Reserve.

Sec. 302. Homeless veterans’ reintegration programs.

Sec. 303. Transitional housing loan guarantee program technical amendment.

TITLE IV—COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

Sec. 401. Authority to prescribe rules and regulations.

Sec. 402. Recall of retired judges.

Sec. 403. Calculation of years of service as a judge.

Sec. 404. Judges’ retired pay.

Sec. 405. Survivor annuities.

Sec. 406. Limitation on activities of retired judges.

Sec. 407. Early retirement authority for current judges in order to provide for staggered terms of judges.

TITLE V—OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 501. Repeal of certain sunset provisions.

Sec. 502. Enhanced quality assurance program within the Veterans Benefits Administration.

Sec. 503. Extension of Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans.

Sec. 504. Codification of recurring provisions in annual Department of Veterans Affairs Appropriations Acts.