

been met, and I hope the government of Azerbaijan will recognize that it is in Azerbaijan's own interests to lift the blockades so that section 907 will no longer be necessary. In the meantime, Congress must be clear: until steps are taken by Azerbaijan to lift the blockade, section 907 stays.

LET US QUICKLY REJECT THE 13 MONTH FISCAL YEAR

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, from time to time, we hear some pretty wacky ideas in Washington, none wackier than a recent suggestion, apparently emanating from the other body that the Congress adopt a 13-month fiscal year so as to circumvent the budget caps we agreed to back in 1998 which, as I recall, was a standard 12-month year. What will we call the newly created 13th month? Taxember? Spenduary?

And what will our big government friends think of next in their ongoing fiscal assault on hard-working, tax-paying families. An 8-day week? A 30-hour day? With more time for everybody to work for the tax man?

I have a really unique suggestion. Let us keep our promises, stand by the commitment we made to the American people. Let us honor those spending caps that the Congress and the President agreed to only about a year ago. Let us give the American people something they are not accustomed to, a Congress and a President who keep their word. I guess that is something you see only once in a blue moon, or, as they say, only in a 13-month year.

REMEMBERING JIM "CATFISH" HUNTER, HALL OF FAME PITCHER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last week America lost a legendary figure in the game of baseball. The town of Hertford and the State of North Carolina lost a friend and a hero. Hall of Fame pitcher Jim "Catfish" Hunter passed away, just one year after being diagnosed with ALS, the same disease that took the life of former Yankee first baseman Lou Gehrig.

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Mr. Speaker, Jim "Catfish" Hunter is a grand example of what a sports hero should be. He played baseball because he loved the game. The success he gained was secondary. During his career, no matter how impressive his accomplishments or how great the public recognition, he never forgot his family or his community. In fact, he lived the kind of life that movies are based on.

Jim Hunter was raised in rural eastern North Carolina as the fourth of

eight children. As a boy, he excelled in sports. In high school, professional scouts began taking interest in his pitching skills. Hunter's natural talent and dedication to the game led to a remarkable career which elevated a young country boy to a national sports hero. He was given the name Catfish in 1964 when former Oakland A's Charlie Finley signed the 18-year-old to play baseball.

Hunter admitted that he enjoyed hunting and fishing, and the A's owner apparently insisted on the name Catfish. Jim Catfish Hunter went on to win five world championship rings and a plaque in baseball's Hall of Fame.

As an 8-time All Star, he pitched in 6 World Series, helping to win three championships in Oakland and two more with the Yankees. His 15-year baseball career ended in 1979, but not before he won 224 games, pitched a perfect game, and in 1974 received the American League's Cy Young Award.

Jim Catfish Hunter gained the kind of superstardom that could have changed most men, but he remained the same unassuming man he was when he left Eastern North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, John Ruskin once said, "The first true test of a truly great man is his humility." Mr. Speaker, if this is the test, then Catfish Hunter will certainly be remembered as a great man.

At age 33, Jim Catfish Hunter retired from baseball and moved back to North Carolina, not far from where he was raised, to concentrate on his family. He had married his high school sweetheart Helen, and together they had three children, sons Todd and Paul, and a daughter, Kim. Hunter has been quoted as saying he would have given up all of his money and fame for the health to watch his grandson Taylor grow.

But Jim Hunter was a fighter. Instead of shying away from the disease, he worked to raise awareness of his illness in hopes of finding a cure. In fact, last May, Hunter attended the opening of the Jim Catfish Hunter ALS Foundation in Hartford, North Carolina. The event fell on May 8, the 31st anniversary of his perfect game.

Mr. Speaker, we remember him as more than just a great ball player. He was a wonderful man who loved his family and his community. In fact, I imagine he would like to be remembered as Jim Hunter, the husband, father, grandfather, and friend, rather than Catfish Hunter, the Hall of Fame baseball pitcher.

Today we celebrate his life and the legacy that he has left for future athletes. Mr. Speaker, the Nation and the game of baseball are better off because Jim Catfish Hunter passed this way.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WELDON of Florida addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. LIPINSKI addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ON THE RELEASE OF FALN TERRORISTS BY THE WHITE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, last week, as some Members of the body know and many Americans know, a number of terrorists that engaged in a reign of terror across this Nation during the seventies and eighties were part of a group known as the FALN, that were responsible and proudly claimed responsibility for 130 bombings, if not more, killing innocent people and maiming innocent people.

It became news in the last several weeks because they were offered clemency by the White House. Despite the fact that they rejected the initial offer of clemency because they thought conditions placed upon them were too humiliating, ultimately they agreed and now they are free, with the exception of two, who rejected the offer.

At the time, those of us who opposed the offer of clemency objected, for a number of reasons. One, these are evil people. They sought to hurt, kill, and maim innocent people. They sought, in a way, the overthrow of the United States government because they did not get their way through a civilized, normal democratic process known as the rule of law, known as elections.

They sought the independence of Puerto Rico. They did not get their way, so they resorted to bombs. They resorted to killing. They resorted to maiming. They were terrorists.

At the time, we brought forward some of the victims: A police officer was blinded for life, another who was blind in one eye, another who lost his leg, another whose husband was killed in the tavern bombing in 1975, another family who lost their father and husband in 1975. We said, we are sending the absolutely wrong signal to terrorists, because we are emboldening people around the world who are going to contemplate terrorism on our soil.

It did not take long, Mr. Speaker. Just a few days ago there was a statement put out by one Filiberto Ojeda Rios. He put out this statement: "If they," the United States, "start bombing Vieques again, and they threaten

the island's population, or those carrying out acts of civil disobedience, they will have to face the consequences, because Los Macheteros will not remain with their arms crossed. You can be sure of that."

He added that Puerto Rico should take advantage of "this historic moment and battle against the revolutionary offenses being developed by the United States government, among others."

Why is this important? Because this gentleman was the leader of Los Macheteros, a ruthless terrorist organization that claimed responsibility for bombings and other acts of violence, along with the FALN, throughout the seventies and eighties. He emerged from a decade of hiding this week with this statement that I just read that was broadcast over radio.

One of the prisoners who has been released, who is now free, was a member of this organization. So here we have it, just several days after some of these terrorists were set free, after several days we sent the wrong signal that we are going to tolerate terrorists, negotiate with terrorists, coddle terrorists; just several days after, someone who has been in hiding for a decade rears his ugly head once again.

Yesterday in the other body there was a hearing, and in an effort to try to get to the bottom of what happened here, why the White House would reach this mind-boggling conclusion to release people who were part of a network, who had no remorse, offered no apologies, no contrition for this act that innocent people could be killed, and it could have been anywhere in this country, it could have been any American family just having lunch who could have been killed, the White House office of deputy counsel to the President responded that the reason why they were granted clemency, among other things, they do not pose a danger to society.

These are people who were videotaped making bombs. These are people who were proudly part of an organization that killed innocent people. These were people who were convicted of seditious conspiracy. Some of them at their trial said that they wanted to kill the sentencing judge. Some of them said that if they could, they would kill anybody. These are the people that this White House has chosen to send back into society.

To this very day, we do not know why. I would think the American people and the victims, especially, deserve to know.

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING SUBMISSION OF AMENDMENTS ON H.R. 1875, CLASS ACTION JURISDICTION ACT OF 1999

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon a Dear Colleague letter will be

sent to all Members informing them that the Committee on Rules is planning to meet the week of September 20 to grant a rule for consideration of H.R. 1875, the Class Action Jurisdiction Act of 1999.

Yesterday the Committee on the Judiciary filed its report on this legislation, House Report 106-320. The Committee on Rules may grant a rule which would require that amendments be preprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

In this case, amendments must be preprinted prior to consideration of the bill on the floor. Amendments should be drafted to the version of the bill ordered reported by the Committee on the Judiciary. Members should use the office of legislative counsel to ensure that their amendments are properly drafted, and should check with the office of the parliamentarian to be certain that their amendments comply with rules of the House.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1402, CONSOLIDATION OF MILK MARKETING ORDERS

Mr. DREIER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-324) on the resolution (H. Res. 294) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1402) to require the Secretary of Agriculture to implement the Class I milk price structure known as Option 1A as part of the implementation of the final rule to consolidate Federal milk marketing orders, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

CONGRESS SHOULD REPEAL ANTIQUATED SHIPPING LAWS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SCHAFER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHAFER. Mr. Speaker, U.S. shipping laws can add as much as \$1 to the cost of a bushel of export wheat. These antiquated policies should be repealed, and the sooner, the better.

No sector of the U.S. economy is more susceptible to international trade barriers and foreign economic market conditions than agriculture. This fact has become increasingly evident for the past couple of years as Colorado's farmers and ranchers have struggled to market their goods to an ever-expanding global marketplace replete with faltering foreign economies and highly subsidized competitors.

Compounding these profound challenges is a package of special interest laws that have been preserved in America's law books for almost 80 years.

Along with my colleagues on the House Committee on Agriculture, I have worked extensively to pull these regulations out by their roots. U.S. shipping laws impose great costs and burdens on Colorado producers while providing the least benefits to our Na-

tion. In many cases, these regulations have far outlived their original purpose, yet remain on the books, persistently chipping away at the profits and livelihoods of rural Americans.

The most onerous of these policies is one which former U.S. Senator Hank Brown of Colorado worked actively to eliminate during his service in the United States Senate, an outdated maritime law known as the Jones Act.

Passed in 1920 in an effort to strengthen the U.S. commercial shipping fleet, this law mandates any goods transported between two U.S. ports must travel on a vessel built, owned, manned, and flagged in the United States, no exceptions. Unfortunately, over the years the U.S. domestic fleet has languished under the Jones Act, because the Act itself has made it prohibitively expensive to build new ocean-going vessels in U.S. shipyards.

In fact, only two bulkers have been built in U.S. shipyards in the last 35 years, which has left our country with the oldest fleet in the industrialized world. To contract for a new ship would cost an American operator over three times the international non-subsidized rate, almost assuring that no new bulkers are built in the United States.

Still, those few carrier owners who operate U.S.-flagged vessels enjoy an absolute business monopoly. Effectively shielded from any form of international market competition by the U.S.-only policy, known as "cargo preference", operators charged artificially inflated shipping rates, fees and other expenses all underwritten by those who can still afford to ship their products.

Because of this, agricultural producers today do not have access to domestic deep sea transportation options available to their foreign competitors. There are no bulk carriers operating on either coast of the United States, in the Great Lakes, nor out to Guam, Alaska, Puerto Rico, or Hawaii. Colorado producers are thus placed at a competitive disadvantage. Foreign producers are able to ship their products to American markets at competitive international rates, whereas U.S. producers cannot.

Colorado producers also need access to deep sea transportation options because other modes of transportation are often expensive, unpredictable, or unavailable. The rail car shortage we experienced in 1997 could have been averted if just 2 percent of America's domestic agricultural production could have traveled by ocean-going vessel.

With continued record harvests anticipated across the West, and bottlenecks and congestion on rail lines, this could easily happen again. Colorado farmers are therefore vulnerable to artificially high rail rates at a time when commodity prices are already depressed. This in turn raises the cost of production, lowers income, and makes it more difficult for Colorado producers to compete against subsidized foreign products.