

in fact licensed. A copy of the registration would go to law enforcement authorities.

Of course, there would be renewal of the registration periodically. That way, of course, the tracing of guns would be a snap, and we would make sure that the only people who got guns in the first place were like the 90 percent of the people who pass the instant gun check, those who of course are like you and me and are buying guns not to kill other people.

I want to thank the President of the United States for going with me to our academy, our police academy, where he announced that there would be some funds available for the District to do another gun buyback on June 14.

I have national legislation that would allow localities to receive small amounts from the Federal government in order to do gun buy-backs. They have been enormously successful in the District, where we set something of a precedent, and we would hope that would be repeated and that our national government would take up this notion.

I do want to stress that the million moms stress that they do not advocate the banning of guns. They want particularly their Second Amendment sisters to know that, because they cannot see any part of what they want to do that any mothers would be truly in disagreement with.

As a lawyer, I do want to answer those who are concerned about the Second Amendment. My friends, if the Second Amendment kept the modest legislation we are advocating here from going through, then how could the gun bans, total gun bans, handgun bans that we have here in the District and in every large city, have passed constitutional muster?

We can in fact regulate guns the way we regulate cars. The Second Amendment does not say that there should be no regulation. We can even regulate the time and manner of speech, and that is a more salient constitutional right than the Second Amendment. Let us not keep throwing the Second Amendment up and confusing the matter.

In the recent gun violence, in 1997, of the children killed, 191 were under the age of 10 and 84 were under the age of 5. Most of these children are not shot in shoot-em-ups, in gang wars. Most of these are suicides. Imagine if a gun had not been available. The presence of the gun in the home triples the risk of homicide in the home. If a gun is not handy, then a suicide is less likely to occur, whether by a child or an adult.

Mr. Speaker, the gun safety legislation that we have here is the least that the mothers who are coming on Sunday are entitled to a year after the Columbine youth massacre. They want much more. I think it would be an insult and a show of disrespect if, at the very least, the modest gun legislation pending before us were not forthcoming after their visit here to Washington, where the national government sits.

I know that every Member of this body has the deepest respect for the mothers. The mothers do not represent themselves as a lobby or representative of every mother. They do say they are moms, and they ask as moms for their Congress, their House, and their Senate to hear them and to respond accordingly.

□ 1745

PERMANENT NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS FOR CHINA

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I have taken this time out to talk about a very important issue that we are going to be addressing later this month here in the Congress, but I of course would join in extending happy Mother's Day to all of the mothers all over this country and all around the world, for that matter.

Mr. Speaker, the issue that I am talking about is an issue that, according to several of my colleagues, will be the single most important vote that we will cast in our entire careers here in the Congress. The question has to do with whether or not we are going to pry open a market with 1.3 billion consumers in the People's Republic of China and force this very repressive society to live with a rules-based trading system, or are we going to say that the United States of America will have nothing whatsoever to do with that sort of effort.

It seems to me that it is the most important vote that we will cast possibly in this session of Congress at least, because it really says are we going to maintain our role as the paramount global leader, and are we going to maintain our economic prosperity, or are we going to turn our backs on it and cede that to other countries in the world.

Well, I think that we have a responsibility not only to the United States of America, but to the rest of the world. Why? Because the United States of America is the greatest symbol of political pluralism. This building in which I am standing right now is the symbol throughout the world of freedom and democracy. It says to me that we have a responsibility to continue to provide the inspiration and the promotion of those things. And that is a message which I am happy to say is moving widely throughout repressive societies like the People's Republic of China. It is a message which can be sent with even greater enthusiasm if we bring the People's Republic of China into the World Trade Organization and, as I said, force them to live with a rules-based trading system.

There are many people here who regularly talk about the fact that over the last 20 years we have provided one-way

access for China to the U.S. consumer market and they have said why do we not get into their market so that our first class workers and businesses can export goods and services to those 1.3 billion consumers? Well, in the week of May 22, we will have an opportunity right here to cast a vote in favor of opening up that market so that it can benefit our workers and businesses.

But there is an issue which in many way transcends this, and is one that is of great concern to me and I know to many of my colleagues here. That has to do with the question of our western values; the things that we hold here near and dear; the recognition of human rights; as I mentioned earlier, political pluralism, making sure that we have religious freedom. Those things need to expand throughout China.

But guess what, Mr. Speaker. Since we have seen the opening of China, since what was known as the Shanghai Communique in 1972 when Richard Nixon opened China, we have seen improvements take place. There is a great deal of room for improvement. I do not stand here as an apologist for the policies that exist in Beijing, but we do have to recognize that there have been very positive steps taken that move us closer to the kind of China that the world needs.

As was pointed out by President Ford in the event that was held at the White House earlier this week, maintaining stability in Asia is in our U.S. national interest, and this is a very important issue which will play a role in helping to maintain stability there.

I think it is important for us, Mr. Speaker, to take a few moments to look at some of the statements that have been made by outspoken dissidents in China. In this morning's Washington Post, there was an article which talked about three dissidents who actually believe that granting Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China will do more than almost anything to address the very important concerns of human rights and religious freedom and those other concerns that are out there.

Tong Bao, who is one of the most prominent dissidents, actually lays out a really key distinction that needs to be made here. He talks about the division. He said that there are some in China who believe that things must "get as bad as possible."

Mr. Speaker, I believe that that is wrong. I do not think that we should have things get as bad as possible, and neither does Tong Bao. He happens to believe that it is important for us to do everything that we can to improve that situation there, and in so doing, I believe that we will create an opportunity to get our western values through Permanent Normal Trade Relations.

So I will simply close, Mr. Speaker, by saying that I believe that we have a wonderful chance for success. I hope that every single one of my colleagues,

Democrat and Republican alike, will join with the Republican leadership here and President Clinton in bringing about a positive vote on this.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. SHERWOOD (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today, on account of attending his daughter's college graduation.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. NORTON) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BONIOR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LIPINSKI, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. BROWN of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GREEN of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DUNCAN) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. WELDON of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DREIER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MORELLA, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for 5 minutes each day, May 15 and May 16.

Mr. DUNCAN, for 5 minutes, today.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Administration, reported that that committee had examined and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 2412. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse at 1300 South Harrison Street in Fort Wayne, Indiana, as the "E. Ross Adair Federal Building and United States Courthouse."

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, May 15, 2000, at 12:30 p.m., for morning hour debates.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7552. A letter from the Under Secretary, Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting a report that includes a descriptive summary of appropriations requested for each project category under the Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) program element and the amounts obligated or expended or planned to be obligated or expended for each project; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7553. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Health Affairs, Department of Defense, transmitting the Report on the Status of Pending Requests for Contract Adjustments and the Department's Plan for Eliminating the Backlog; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7554. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Health Affairs, Department of Defense, transmitting a report on Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs: Breast Cancer Research Program; Prostate Cancer Research Program; and Defense Health Research Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7555. A letter from the President and Chairman, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a statement involving export transactions to Mexico; to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

7556. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting the OMB Cost Estimate as required by the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended; to the Committee on the Budget.

7557. A letter from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting Abnormal occurrences at or associated with any facility licensed or regulated under the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 for Fiscal Year 1999, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 5848; to the Committee on Commerce.

7558. A letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting a draft bill entitled, "Community Access to Health Care Act of 2000"; to the Committee on Commerce.

7559. A letter from the Lieutenant General, Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Army's Proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Taipei Economic and Cultural Representatives for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 00-28), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

7560. A letter from the Lieutenant General, Director, Department of Defense, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Air Force's Proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (Transmittal No. 00-22), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

7561. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting notification that effective March 12, 2000, the Department is extending the 15% danger pay allowance to the entire country of Uganda, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 5928; to the Committee on International Relations.

7562. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the report required by the United States-Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992 describing the current conditions in Hong Kong of interest to the United States; to the Committee on International Relations.

7563. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Justice, transmitting a copy of the annual report in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act during the calendar year 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(j); to the Committee on Government Reform.

7564. A letter from the Comptroller General, General Accounting Office, transmitting the Month in Review: February 2000 Reports, Testimony, Correspondence, and Other Publications; to the Committee on Government Reform.

7565. A letter from the Chairman, National Endowment for the Humanities, transmitting the Performance Report of the National Endowment for the Humanities for Fiscal Year 1999; to the Committee on Government Reform.

7566. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the legislative proposal entitled the "Omnibus Federal Human Resources Administrative Improvements Act of 2000"; to the Committee on Government Reform.

7567. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting a draft bill, "To allow for waiver and indemnification in mutual law enforcement agreements between the National Park Service and a state or political subdivision, when required by state law, and for other purposes."; to the Committee on Resources.

7568. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, OAR, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—National Marine Aquaculture Initiative: Request for Proposals for FY-2000 [Docket No. 00309067-0067-01] (RIN: 0648-ZA82) received March 30, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

7569. A letter from the Regulatory Policy Officer, ATF, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule—Increase in Tax on Tobacco Products and Cigarette Papers and Tubes [99R-88P] [T.D. ATF-420] (RIN: 1512-AB88) received March 29, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7570. A letter from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting a proposed bill, "To amend 49, United States Code, to require manufactures of motor vehicles and items of motor vehicle equipment to test or perform other engineering analyses that demonstrate compliance of their products with all applicable federal motor vehicle safety standards, and for other purposes"; jointly to the Committees on Commerce and Transportation and Infrastructure.

7571. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Secretary's annual report on the implementation of the Foreign Service Act of 1980, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 4173; jointly to the Committees on International Relations and Government Reform.

7572. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Prison Industries, Inc., Department of Justice, transmitting the 1999 Annual Report of the Federal Prison Industries, Inc. (FPI), pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 4127; jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary and Government Reform.

7573. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting a draft bill entitled the "Medicare Modernization Act of 2000"; jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means, Commerce, Rules, the Budget, and Government Reform.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. HOBSON: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 4425. A bill making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the