

on rollcall Votes 180, 181 and 182. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 180, "nay" on rollcall 181, and "yea" on rollcall 182.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, due to official business in my District, I was unable to record my vote on H.R. 491 (rollcall no. 180), Naming a Room in the House Wing of the Capitol in Honor of G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery, H.R. 4251 (rollcall no. 181), Congressional Oversight of Nuclear Transfers to North Korea, and H. Res. 309 (rollcall no. 182), Sense of Congress With Regard to In-school Personal Safety Education Programs for Children. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all three bills.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, as I requested a leave of absence for today, May 15, 2000, had I been present on the following rollcall votes I would have voted: H. Res. 491, Naming a Room to the House of Representatives Wing of the Capitol in Honor of G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery, "yea"; H.R. 4251, Congressional Oversight of Nuclear Transfers to North Korea Act, "yea"; H. Con. Res. 309, In-School Personal Safety Education, "yea".

□ 1900

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING AMENDMENT PROCESS FOR H.R. 4392, INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEAR 2001

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

Mr. GOSS. Madam Speaker, tonight a Dear Colleague letter will be sent to all Members informing them that the Committee on Rules may meet later this week to grant a rule for the consideration of H.R. 4392, the Intelligence Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2001.

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 their consideration on the floor. Amendments should be drafted to the version of the bill reported by the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

The language of the committee amendment is now available for Members on request to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. The committee report will be filed tomorrow, Tuesday, May 16. 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 their amendments comply with the rules of the House.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR THE GREATER WASHINGTON SOAP BOX DERBY

Mr. LATOURETTE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from

the Speaker's table the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 277) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby, with a Senate amendment, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The Clerk read the Senate amendment, as follows:

Senate amendment: Page 3, line 10, after "sales," insert "advertisements,".

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TANCREDI). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

TURKEY'S REFORM-MINDED GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow in Ankara, Turkey, Judge Ahmet Necdet Sezer will take the oath of office to become president of that vitally important Nation and its 65 million people.

This is truly an historic moment. Judge Sezer is the first president of modern Turkey whose career has been spent neither in the military nor partisan politics. He is a distinguished career jurist who has served on Turkey's constitutional court for the past 12 years. Since 1998 he has been the President of the court, which is the equivalent of our Chief Justice.

Judge Sezer, now President Sezer, has been an outspoken advocate for modernizing Turkey's legal system, for liberalizing the country's constitution, for reforming their laws regarding freedom of expression and dissent, and for providing equal protection for the rights of all Turkish citizens, including the Kurdish minority.

The election of a reformist president in Turkey comes at an extraordinarily opportune moment. It was just 1 year ago that a parliamentary election was held which brought to power a coalition government that pledged itself to enacting major political and economic reforms.

Mr. Speaker, it must be noted emphatically that the government of Turkey has compiled a remarkable record over this past year. It is a record that defies the skepticism of critics and exceeds the hopes of friends.

The Turkish parliament, known as the Grand National Assembly, has passed 69 major initiatives, including

constitutional amendments, that hold great promise for the future development of Turkey.

Among the more important legislative changes that have been enacted are reforms to the social security system which will plug holes that had been wasting as much as 3 percent of Turkey's gross national product, strict limits on agricultural subsidies, a restructuring of the banking system, and a modernization of the entire budget process so as to control public spending and reduce deficits.

In a series of overwhelming votes that the Wall Street Journal in August of 1999 has characterized as "crossing an ideological watershed and a revolutionary change," Turkey's parliament enacted three constitutional amendments to open up the country to foreign investment, including international arbitration will be allowed on disputes between Turkey and foreign investors, administrative review of government contracts with foreign investors will be streamlined, and the state will formally recognize the privatization of public assets.

On the political front, the Grand National Assembly has adopted legislation to provide political parties with protection against prosecution, toughen the sentences for convictions of such crimes as obstruction of justice and violations of human rights, extend the constitutional amnesty to Kurdish insurgents who have been trying to establish a separate country, and prohibit military judges from serving in cases that come before the state security court.

All of these moves and many others that I have not even mentioned were rewarded last December when the European Union accepted Turkey as a candidate for membership and the International Monetary Fund approved a 3-year \$4 billion loan program to help the Turkish government fight inflation.

With an ambitious privatization program now being implemented and with the government exerting fiscal discipline, Turkey is already ahead of the IMF schedule for both revenue growth and reduction of inflation.

All of this is not to say, Mr. Speaker, that Turkey is without challenges, but it is to say that Turkey has turned a decisive page in its history. Mr. Speaker, I believe the government of Turkey will continue along the path of reform that it has staked out.

There will be critics, of course, but the salient question is simply this: Looking at the explosive region in which Turkey finds itself, how many other countries in that part of the world would America rather rely upon?

Turkey has been a faithful friend and trusted ally of the United States for nearly 50 years, and has been essential to the support of America's strategic regional interests. They have been a great and vital ally in NATO. In a region where most countries are racing to produce nuclear weapons and other

tools of mass destruction, Turkey has repeatedly and publicly foresworn the nuclear option. Turkey is not looking to dominate its neighbors, it is interested only in being a good partner and a force for stability in a region that has known too much instability.

It is my strong belief that America should give Turkey our unswerving support in the future.

SUPPORT OF THE WORLD BANK AIDS MARSHALL PLAN TRUST FUND ACT

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, earlier today we voted on H.R. 3519, the World Bank AIDS Marshall Plan Trust Fund Act. I am pleased to have supported this important legislation.

I want to commend its authors, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) for their vision and commitment to ending the horrors of HIV/AIDS globally.

I also want to take this moment to thank former representative Ron Dellums, Sandra Thurman, Mel Foote, Jesse Jackson, Senior, and others who have provided leadership efforts to try to combat the problem of AIDS in Africa.

The legislation that we have passed today will provide significant funding over 5 years for HIV/AIDS treatment, prevention, and research in developing nations. The bill establishes a trust fund at the World Bank that has the potential to leverage \$1 billion a year from donor nations and the private sector.

We currently face a crisis as it relates to HIV/AIDS globally. Perhaps nowhere is this crisis more evident than on the continent of Africa. More than 16 million people have died from AIDS since the 1980s, 60 percent of them in Sub-Saharan Africa. Not since the Bubonic plague ravaged Europe in the Middle Ages has there been a more devastating disease.

Currently, 23 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa are affected with either HIV or with AIDS, with new infections coming at the rate of 5,000 a day, according to the World Health Organization. In South Africa alone, it is estimated that there are more than 1,500 new HIV infections each day.

Unfortunately, due to our accelerated travel and trade, the pandemic is spreading to Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, and India rapidly.

I applaud President Clinton for his courage and vision to declare HIV/AIDS as a national security threat. He realizes that the global spread of HIV/AIDS has the potential to destabilize governments and disrupt trade in free market democracies abroad.

The Congressional Black Caucus 2 years ago urged Secretary Donna Shalala to declare a state of emergency

relative to HIV/AIDS in communities of color in America because we realized that this disease destroys our most precious resource, and that is, our people.

Mr. Speaker, as the most developed nation in the world, we have an ongoing obligation and responsibility to share our technology and medical expertise with developing nations. Former President Franklin Roosevelt once said that the test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much, it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little.

Today this Congress took a step to lift the lots of those who have too little. The World Bank AIDS Marshall Trust Fund Plan will help to ensure that the Federal government, our Federal government, commits to addressing this issue over the next several years.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have joined with other Members of this House who took a bold and gigantic step in not only dealing with an issue at the domestic level, but going abroad, understanding that we are a world community. I salute Congress for the action that it took this day.

THE BIASED MEDIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, newspapers, magazines, and nightly news shape the opinions of its readers and viewers. In fact, it has been said that whomever controls multimedia controls our culture.

Unfortunately, more often than not, the media's message is biased, but in few cases has it been as slanted as it has been with the saga of Elian Gonzalez.

April 22nd was the first time in American history that the U.S. Government decided that a custody case should be settled with automatic weapons. Yet, to those who know the biased media, it was no surprise that, according to the Media Research Center, major news outlets such as the New York Times, USA Today, and Newsweek magazine, did not run the photo of a Federal agent seizing Elian with an automatic weapon in hand.

The Media Research Center, which is a media watchdog group which seeks to expose bias and favoritism among multimedia, has compiled an impressive record showing how the national media built the public relations rationale for Elian's eventual return to Cuba, and then justified the government's raid on a private residence to ensure a political victory for the Clinton administration and the Communist regime of Cuba.

In all of the coverage and controversy over the rescue of 6-year-old Elian Gonzalez, the media have taken the stark contrast between American

liberty and Cuban tyranny and muddled it to the point that much of the American public could now think that Cuba is no different than the United States, or even that Cuba is better than America.

We would like to think that the Cold War is over, but for the people of Communist Cuba, the Cold War remains. Is it any wonder that after being barraged with liberal arguments, the public told network pollsters that they approved of the violent seizure of Elian?

Analysts from the Media Research Center identified four patterns of distinct liberal media bias:

One, the news media have deliberately undermined the moral legitimacy of Elian's Miami relatives specifically and anti-Communist Cuban Americans in general; two, the news media have consistently praised the actions and achievements of Fidel Castro's Cuba, claimed that it was better for children than America, and played up the paradise that Elian could dwell in among the Communist party elite.

□ 1915

Three, the news media have justified Attorney General Janet Reno's actions and arguments and lamented any resistance and delay in sending Elian back to Cuba.

Four, the news media have dismissed congressional criticism of the INS raid and have branded calls for investigation as unpopular and totally unnecessary.

Analysts concluded that, if the media were interested in a balanced presentation of the Elian controversy, they would have scrutinized the administration more than justified it.

They concluded that the media would have explained the regimented reality of family life in Castro's Cuba.

The Media Research Center states that the media would have balanced the questioning of the motives of Elian's Miami relatives by questioning the motives of the reunification camp and they would have encouraged more discussion and oversight instead of trying to cut it off.

Thomas Jefferson said that "the advertisement is the most truthful part of a newspaper." He may have been correct because, regarding the Elian controversy, it is apparent the media have been more interested in entertainment than in covering the facts.

The media do not tell the American public of the everyday horrors that take place in the homes of 11 million enslaved Cubans, the horrors that take place in the scores of Cubans, like Elian's mother Elisabet Brotons, who was willing to take the risk of their lives to escape.

The media have failed to question why Joan Campbell, posing as a church lady for the National Council of Churches, feverishly raised funds to send a boy back to a country that persecutes religious believers.

Why did the INS send a heavily armed SWAT team to seize Elian in the