

some 260 of them, who have lost their homes. They are living in schools and other areas. They need to know that the Federal Government is going to do everything it can to make sure that we have the resources to fight these fires and to go in and restore the ground and the areas that have been damaged.

I think this is an emergency, a true emergency. I urge the leadership here in the House to meet with the leadership in the Senate and try to work out a way to get this money freed. I intend to offer these amendments as additions to the Interior Appropriations bill for 2001, hoping that maybe we can rush that bill through if it is the only way we can get action out of the other body. Again, I believe this an emergency. I think we need to act.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PARTIES ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, this morning I want to examine the environmental record of the Republican leadership and of the GOP Presidential candidate, Governor Bush. Last Thursday, Madam Speaker, the EPA released its Toxics Release Inventory which highlights the fact that Texas continues to have the largest amount of airborne toxic emissions in the Nation, as has been the case every year since 1995.

More than 300 million pounds of toxic chemicals were released into Texas' air, water and land according to this latest report. Yet, Governor Bush has pushed a strictly voluntary program for dirty power plants to reduce harmful emissions, even though Texas' deteriorating air quality has reached a crisis proportion.

Madam Speaker, of the air pollution produced by companies exempt from mandatory regulations in Texas, 75 percent, or 741,000 tons of toxic emissions, came from companies that contributed to and are close to Bush's gubernatorial races from 1994 to 1998. And only 3 of 36 plants who pledged to reduce emissions under this voluntary plan have actually done so and not even 1 percent of emissions from grandfathered plants have been reduced.

In fact, Texas has experienced significant increases in emissions. Specifically, Texas experienced an increase of 2 million pounds of cancer-causing and other toxic chemicals from 1997 to 1998.

Madam Speaker, although Texas ranks third worst in water pollution from chemical dumping, Governor Bush has done nothing to improve water quality and has subsequently underfunded Superfund cleanups. He also appointed industry representatives to State environmental agencies that had previously fought against environmental regulations.

Several environmental groups have called on Governor Bush to stop gutting the environment and act proactively. We know this will not happen. So we have to continue our efforts, in my opinion, Madam Speaker, and elect a President that will close the loophole for grandfathered power plants.

Vice President Gore has called for a market-based approach to reducing power plants that addresses the four primary pollutants of concern, nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide, carbon dioxide and mercury. I have a bill that establishes a trading program to reduce these four pollutants, and I urge my colleagues to enact this type of legislation as quickly as possible to improve the health of our citizens and our environment.

Madam Speaker, let me also point out that Vice President Gore has led the fight on many environmental efforts from preserving open space to protecting air and water quality. He also has led the brownfield development program. And I can tell my colleagues the importance of this program, because my hometown of Long Branch, New Jersey has received a \$200,000 grant from the EPA to help redevelop brownfields. The Republican leadership's ideas of Superfund reform is to gut water quality protections and put a cap and fence around a site and call it a day.

I have over 115 superfund sites in my district, and I can tell my colleagues that this is not environmental cleanup or protection.

Again, I just wanted to highlight this morning the major differences between the Republicans and the Democrats on environmental issues and, particularly, the differences between our Presidential candidates. We have our Presidential candidate, Vice President Gore, who has fought hard over the last 7 years and even before as a Member of Congress to protect the environment and improve the environment around our country.

TRADE WITH CHINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, here in Congress, we say we stand together and in our commitment toward the spread of democratic ideals and improvement of the human rights. These last couple weeks I am not so sure.

During the weeks approaching the vote for Permanent Normal Trade Relations for the People's Republic of China, corporate CEOs flocked to the Hill to lobby for increase unrestricted trade with China.

They talk about access to 1.2 billion potential consumers in China. What they do not say is that their real interest is in 1.2 billion Chinese workers,

workers whom they pay wage on the level of slave labor.

These CEOs will tell us, increase trade with China will allow human rights to improve. Democracy will flourish with increased free trade as we engage with China. But as these CEOs speak, their companies systematically violate the most fundamental of human and worker rights.

In the new report "Made in China, The Role of U.S. Companies in Denying Human and Worker Rights," released by Charles Kernaghan and the National Labor Committee, we see evidence of American corporations exploiting the horrible conditions of human rights in the People's Republic of China.

Companies such as Huffy and Nike and Wal-Mart are contracting with Chinese sweatshops to export to the United States, often with the assistance of repressive and corrupt local government authorities. 1,800 Huffy bicycle workers have lost their jobs in Ohio as Huffy shut down its last three remaining U.S. plants over the last 17 months. In July of 1998, Huffy fired 850 workers from its Celina, Ohio plant where workers earned \$17 an hour. Huffy now outsources all of its production to developing nations, such as China, where laborers are forced to work 15 hours a day, 7 days a week and earn an average of 33 cents an hour, less than 2 percent of what Ohio Huffy bicycle workers earned.

Wal-Mart makes its line of Kathie Lee Gifford handbags in China. There are a thousand workers at the factory, where they put in 14-hour shifts, 7 days a week, 29 or 30 days a month, one off day per month. The average wage of the factory is 3 cents an hour.

Workers live in factory dormitories housed 16 in a room. Their ID documents have been confiscated; they are allowed to leave the factory only for one and a half hours a day. For half of all factory workers, rent for the dormitory exceeds their wages. Workers earn nothing at all and, in many cases, owe the company money. These people are indentured servants to Kathie Lee and to Wal-Mart. Some would simply call it slavery.

The findings in Charles Kernaghan's report illustrates why democratic countries in the developing world are losing ground to more authoritarian countries in the developing world. Democratic nations, such as India, are losing out to more totalitarian governments such as China. Democratic nations such as Taiwan are losing out to more authoritarian governments such as Indonesia where people are not free and workers do as their told.

The share of developing country exports to the U.S. from democratic nations fell from 53 percent 10 years ago to 35 percent today. Corporate America wants to do business with countries with docile workforces that earn below-poverty wages and are not allowed to organize to bargain collectively.

In manufactured goods, developing democracies' share of developing country exports fell 21 percent from 56 to 35 percent. Corporations are relocating their manufacturing bases to more authoritarian regimes from democratic countries where workers do not talk back for fear of being punished.

Madam Speaker, western corporations want to invest in countries that have poor environmental standards, no worker benefits, below-poverty wages, no opportunities to bargain collectively, and worse, as developing countries make progress toward democracy, as they increase worker rights and create regulations to protect the environment, the American business community punishes them by pulling its trade and investment from developing democratic countries to totalitarian governments and developing countries.

Decisions about the Chinese economy are made by three groups, the Chinese Communist party, the People's Liberation Army, which owns many of the export factories, and western investors. Which of these three want to empower workers?

Does the Chinese Communist worker want the Chinese people to enjoy human rights? I do not think so. Does the People's Liberation Army want to close the labor camps? I do not think so. Do western investors want Chinese workers to make better wages, have more democracy and bargain collectively? I do not think so.

None of these groups has any interest in changing the status quo in China. I repeat, none of these groups, western investors, the Chinese Communist Party, the People's Liberation Army, none of these has any interest in changing the current situation in China. All three profit too much from the status quo to want to see human rights and labor rights improve in China.

U.S. trade law forbids the trade of any products of slave labor, forced labor. The 1992 bilateral agreement between the U.S. and China prohibited the trade of goods manufactured by imprisoned workers.

Congress needs to know more about working conditions in Chinese factories before we vote on permanent MFN for China. American people need to know more about how our major corporations are behaving outside the borders of the United States before we vote on permanent MFN for China.

Based on evidence released into the Kernaghan Report, many of us in the Congress call on the Department of Labor and the Department of Treasury to conduct an extensive investigation into the working conditions and factories in China which are owned by American corporations, or where American corporations contract to manufacture their products before we vote on MFN for China. These investigations should report back its findings and a decision should be made as to whether any conditions in China violate U.S. law.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to demand action to investigate these claims.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 25 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

□ 1000

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PEASE) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Reverend Lyle W. Lipps, Second Church of Christ, Nashport, Ohio, offered the following prayer:

Father God in heaven, I pray to You today on behalf of our Nation's lawmakers and for the citizens they represent. I pray that You grant them a spirit of wisdom, insight and cooperation. I pray that You help them to serve this country in its best interests. I pray that we learn to love one another as citizens so that we might have peace and justice tempered with mercy. Thank You for the freedom that we have in this Nation. I thank You for those who have fought and died defending our country. I thank You for the protection and provision You have placed over us as Your blessings. May Your will be done as we seek to follow Your example in humble imitation. In Jesus' name I pray. 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 Texas (Mr. LAMPSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LAMPSON 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.

HONORING MINISTER LYLE W. LIPPS

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

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lyle W. Lipps, the minister of

the Second Street Church of Christ in Frazeyburg, Ohio. Minister Lipps and his family have traveled to our Nation's capital from Ohio so that he may serve as the Guest Minister for the House today. I am honored to have one of my constituents represent our area and our State in such a manner.

Minister Lipps has been involved full time in the ministry for the last 12 years of his life. Prior to his work at the Second Street Church of Christ, he spent 4 years with the Adena Road Church of Christ in Chillicothe, Ohio.

Minister Lipps is a 1989 graduate of the Cincinnati Bible College and Seminary in Cincinnati, Ohio. Minister Lipps, his wife Connie and their son Luke reside in Nashport, Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Minister Lyle Lipps. His commitment and dedication to his family, his community, his church and his Nation deserve to be commended.

PRIVATE CALENDAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is Private Calendar day. The Clerk will call the first individual bill on the Private Calendar.

CERTAIN PERSIAN GULF EVACUEES

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 3646) for the relief of certain Persian Gulf evacuees.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the bill as follows:

H.R. 3646

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

SECTION 1. ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS FOR CERTAIN PERSIAN GULF EVACUEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall adjust the status of each alien referred to in subsection (b) to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence if the alien—

- (1) applies for such adjustment;
- (2) has been physically present in the United States for at least 1 year and is physically present in the United States on the date the application for such adjustment is filed;
- (3) is admissible to the United States as an immigrant, except as provided in subsection (c); and
- (4) pays a fee (determined by the Attorney General) for the processing of such application.

(b) ALIENS ELIGIBLE FOR ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—The benefits provided in subsection (a) shall apply to the following aliens:

- (1) Waddah Al-Zireeni, Enas Al-Zireeni, and Anwaar Al-Zireeni.
- (2) Salah Mohamed Abu Eljibat, Ghada Mohamed Abu Eljibat, and Tareq Salah Abu Eljibat.
- (3) Jihad Mustafa, Amal Mustafa, and Raed Mustafa.
- (4) Shaher M. Abed and Laila Abed.
- (5) Zaid H. Khan and Nadira P. Khan.
- (6) Rawhi M. Abu Tabanja, Basima Fareed Abu Tabanja, and Mohammed Rawhi Abu Tabanja.
- (7) Reuben P. D'Silva, Anne P. D'Silva, Natasha Andrew Collette D'Silva, and Agnes D'Silva.