

government must put an end to this travesty, free the 13 and leave them and their families to live in peace.

I urge my colleagues to speak out on this issue and cosponsor H. Con. Res. 307, expressing the sense of Congress regarding the ongoing prosecution and persecution of 13 members of the Iranian Jewish community.

IN SUPPORT OF PNTR WITH CHINA

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

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt in my mind that a negative vote on permanent normal trade relations will hinder the further democratization and human rights in China. We have a moral imperative to make China's trade permanent with us. If we truly care about improving human rights, the U.S. cannot seal off one-fourth of the world's population. To do so would ignore the ills we seek to remedy.

PNTR will not only benefit commerce between our two countries. It will also allow for cultural and religious exchanges. Ignoring China will not bring freedom for religious expression. It will not end China's cruel policy of limiting family size. It will not stop their horrific policy of forced abortions. Ignoring China will not bring about democracy. Isolating China will only separate our two countries even further and close off avenues necessary to improve human rights or establish religious freedom.

VOTE AGAINST ANTIMISSILE SYSTEM WILL SAVE TAXPAYERS BILLIONS

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today's edition of the New York Times on page A-21 has an article which I think would be very interesting to the Members of this House. The headline is "Anti-missile Systems Flaw Was Covered Up, Critic Says."

Now, this House is due to vote on a defense authorization bill today, \$2.2 billion of which will go for an anti-missile defense system. This report in the New York Times claims that the Pentagon and its contractors have tried to hide failures that have shown up in the testing of this system where the system cannot distinguish between decoys and the real thing.

Now, this New York Times article points out there are allegations of fraud, there are allegations of a company faking antimissile tests and evaluations of computer programs, and that there is an elaborate hoax involved here.

Save the taxpayers \$2.2 billion. Re-commit this legislation. Do not vote for a hoax. Do not vote for fraud.

SSI FRAUGHT WITH WASTE, FRAUD AND ABUSE

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, in the 1970s, the Federal Government created the SSI program to assist the elderly, the blind and the disabled. Since the 1970s, the program has become fraught with waste, fraud and abuse. Prisoners, illegal aliens and drug addicts all drain resources from this program. Saddest of all, parents are getting their children to lie in order to bilk SSI benefits from the government.

For example, two parents in Michigan had their children lie to doctors about their medical condition so they could receive \$42,639 in SSI benefits per year. Meanwhile, they locked their children in the basement of their home, physically abused them and forced them to steal for them.

The Federal Government should not be subsidizing child abusers, especially with taxpayer moneys reserved for the elderly and the disabled. As we decide spending levels in our budget, let us also focus on eliminating waste, fraud and abuse from the Federal Government.

AMERICAN BORDERS WIDE OPEN

(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, there is no war on drugs or terrorism in America. There is a war on kids. There are more prisons, more police, more Federal agents, more drugs than ever. It is unbelievable.

The reason is very simple. Our borders are wide open. Wide open, ladies and gentlemen. Heroin and cocaine coming in by the ton, and a nuclear warhead can literally be smuggled across the border.

Beam me up. A nation that does not secure their borders is a nation without security. Today we can pass the Traficant amendment that does not mandate but allows the use of troops on the border.

I yield back Osama bin Laden someday perhaps at our border, and that is no joke.

INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTION

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, we can no longer sit back and watch as American children are being kept apart from their parents. As a father and a grandfather, I cannot imagine the pain these parents and families go through on a daily basis. Today I will tell the story of Montasir Imran Khan, who was abducted to Saudi Arabia by his father Imran Mohammed Khan.

Montasir was born in 1992, and when he was 5 years old he was taken by his father. His mother has had no contact with him and is not sure of his exact whereabouts. Montasir was issued a U.S. passport and it was used for travel on August 23, 1997. He and his father were confirmed on a flight from Seattle to London, and it is believed they traveled from there to Saudi Arabia. The father has a temporary residence there and had threatened to take Montasir to that country.

Unfortunately, international child abduction can happen to anyone's child, and this is the biggest reason why we all need to work together rather than bury our heads in the sand and ignore this issue.

Keeping children safe has become my mission while serving in the House of Representatives. Mr. Speaker, I challenge every one of my colleagues to join me and help bring our children home.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE FOR SENIORS

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, America is the most prosperous Nation on Earth and yet some seniors are forced to choose between putting food on the table and the prescription drugs they need to lead healthy and productive lives. That is just not right.

Republicans are working to make sure that is a choice seniors no longer have to make. While I share the goal of President Clinton and Democrats in Congress, their proposal may endanger existing drug coverage that some seniors already have.

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It could give the Federal government too heavy a hand in controlling drug benefits and deny seniors the right to select the coverage that best fits their needs.

Republicans have a voluntary plan to make prescription drug coverage affordable and available to American seniors. Republicans are working to protect seniors from runaway drug costs so that their retirement remains secure and they have greater peace of mind. That is a brighter future for every American.

IRAN MUST END ABUSES OF HUMAN, CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS RIGHTS

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the 13 innocent individuals who were arbitrarily arrested by the Iranian regime over one year ago solely because of their religious beliefs. The 13 are Jewish. In Iran that

means you can be arrested and detained without formal charges, denied bail and presumed guilty of spying, despite the absence of evidence or motive.

As some Members of Congress seek to engage the Iranian regime to permit business arrangements, I urge all of us to consider the fate of these 13 people. We need to send a message to the mullahs in Tehran that only when Iran honors the will of the majority of its people, stops building weapons of mass destruction and ends abuses of human civil and religious rights, will the United States again consider engaging Iran as a legitimate member of the diplomatic community and the global economy.

PROVIDING AFFORDABLE PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE FOR ALL AMERICANS

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, Republicans believe that no Medicare beneficiary should have to choose between putting food on the table or purchasing the prescription drugs they need to live. Yet that is just what the poorest of American seniors are forced to do.

According to a 1996 study, there are 9.6 million Medicare recipients who do not have prescription drug coverage. Many of these individuals have incomes below \$15,000 a year. They are struggling on fixed incomes and cannot afford pharmacy bills that can run several hundred dollars a month.

Republicans and Democrats need to set aside partisan politics and do the moral thing. We must work together to help the millions of Medicare recipients who cannot pay for their medication. By providing affordable prescription drug coverage for everyone, we want to make sure that no senior citizen or disabled American falls through the cracks.

ODE TO EARL

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

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I was proud to note yesterday the quick thinking and bold action of our colleague, the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. EARL POMEROY) when a threatening situation arose in the Committee on Agriculture, so I would like to this morning dedicate this Ode to EARL.

With a fellow named Earl in the room
You had better not act like a loon
Break bottles and cry
I'd much rather die
Burly Earl, he'll subdue you real soon.
In the hearing he caused quite a scene
This lunatic, he vented his spleen
Threatened cabinet and staff

Earl had him down like a calf
So the committee could then reconvene.
So if agriculture's your place
And danger you ever should face
Just throw caution to the wind
Burly Earl we will send
Let Pomeroy return you to grace.

PROTESTING WRONGFUL IMPRISONMENT OF 13 JEWS BY IRAN

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to add my voice to the many in protest of the wrongful imprisonment of the 13 Jews by the government of Iran on bogus charges of spying for the United States and Israel. The world community has unilaterally condemned this action by Iran, and our government and that of Israel have denied that these men were spies. Not only are the charges at best ludicrous, but should the 12 men and one teenager be found guilty, they will be executed.

Only yesterday, 8 of the 10 accused appeared before an Iranian judge and were coerced into a "confession." They have been denied their own legal representation. However, the only crime that these brave souls are guilty of is their faith in the face of a regime that allows no practice of religion that runs counter to their's. These men of faith have held true to their religious beliefs in the face of threats against them by the Iranian government.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the government of Iran to release them, and further, I urge our government to apply serious pressure on this repressive government and to work with the Iranian opposition to help bring about real reform and democracy in Iran.

PORKER OF THE WEEK AWARD

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

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, someone at the Department of Education has a lot of explaining to do. A contract employee, who was hired by the department to take care of its telephone and computer needs, recently admitted to carrying out a criminal plot that cost the government more than \$1 million.

The contractor illegally steered more than \$300,000 worth of equipment to an Education Department employee who was overseeing his work. The supervisor got a 61-inch television, cordless telephones, compact disk players, walkie-talkies, desktop and laptop computers, printers, digital cameras, computer scanners and Palm Pilots.

In addition to diverting the merchandise, the contractor routinely performed errands for the employee, such as picking up her granddaughter from school, all on government time. In exchange for his work, the contractor and his coworker walked off with more than \$600,000 in bogus overtime pay.

Good grief. Who is minding the store? The Department of Education gets my "Porker of the Week" Award.

MAKING SURE SENIORS GET AFFORDABLE PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, prescription drug coverage is an important issue for American seniors, and Republicans have a plan for those that need coverage to keep it and those who need it to get it.

This is in stark contrast to the President's plan. Democrats and the President willingly admit their plan will drive employers out of the market. To stop this, the Democrats bribe employers to keep the coverage they already offer. This just does not make sense. Rather than pay employers to do something they are already doing, I suggest we set the funds aside to actually get drug coverage to America's seniors. The Republican plan accomplishes that task.

Medicare beneficiaries deserve choices, not a one-size-fits-all program that wastes money. This Congress must take its responsibility seriously and make sure that seniors can get affordable prescription drugs when they need them. Now is the time.

CONGRATULATING SHERIFF CANTRELL OF SPALDING COUNTY, GEORGIA

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

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, if you look in the gallery, you will see a number of students from Spalding County, Georgia. They are part of the Junior Deputy Program, which has brought students to Washington since the 1960s. Leading this delegation is Richard Cantrell, Sheriff of Spalding County.

Sheriff Cantrell has not only worked hard to uphold the law in Spalding County, he has also worked to make the county a better place to live by working with the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts, Junior Deputy Program, and assisting handicapped youth through the American business club.

Sheriff Cantrell's father was confined to a wheelchair because of wounds suffered in World War II. Nonetheless, his father played an active role in his son's life. Sheriff Cantrell calls him "the most significant person in his life."

Mr. Speaker, it is people like Sheriff Cantrell and his father who are true role models for our youth.

Sheriff Cantrell is retiring at the end of this year after 30 years in law enforcement. The people of Spalding County will miss the services of Richard Cantrell as Sheriff, but I am sure he will continue aiding those who need