

Mr. BALLENGER. Madam Speaker, it has been said that the time to fix the roof is when the sun is shining. Our economy is shining brightly, and it is time to fix much of the unfairness in our Tax Code.

Right now our government unfairly punishes working seniors through the social security earnings limit. Americans have a strong work ethic. We have a strong desire to contribute to our surroundings. Yet, after the age of 65, our government punishes senior citizens who wish to stay in the work force.

Social security was designed to give some protection to senior citizens. It was not designed to be a program that would punish those who chose to keep working past the age of 65. Right now in this country more than 800,000 working senior citizens lose part or all of their social security benefits because of this earnings limit. This is ridiculous.

This week the Republicans in the House will bring up a bill that would repeal the social security earnings limit, and I hope the President will sign it. The time has come to give working seniors a break and repeal the social security earnings limit.

CRIMES OF THE FBI AT WACO, TEXAS, AND RUBY RIDGE, IDAHO

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, reports say that the FBI lied to Congress about Waco. They withheld a memo that "warned FBI bosses to not use teargas because it would provoke a massive disaster."

Let us tell it like it is. The FBI and Janet Reno must answer for the 80 murders at Waco. The FBI and Janet Reno must answer for the murders of the Weaver family in Idaho.

And another thing, Congress must grow a backbone. Do Members realize when the FBI is accused of committing a crime, the FBI investigates the FBI and finds no crime? Beam me up. I yield back the crimes of the FBI at Waco, Texas, and Ruby Ridge, Idaho.

CONDEMNING RELIGIOUS AND RACIAL INTOLERANCE AT BOB JONES UNIVERSITY

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today to denounce Bob Jones University, an institution of higher learning, for preaching hatred and practicing racism, religious intolerance, and segregation.

Today, along with the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), I am introducing a resolution condemning the discriminatory practices prevalent at Bob Jones University. Bob Jones Uni-

versity espouses hate-filled, racist and anti-Catholic views upon its students.

While officials there say they are not anti-Catholic and they do not preach anything other than what is in the Bible, their own online magazine calls Catholicism "a satanic counterfeit," and says, "Papists are doing the work of the devil."

The University states that it is their First Amendment right to speak their beliefs. I support the First Amendment, but I do not support using a school to indoctrinate hate, segregation, and intolerance into today's youth.

We have seen, all too often in the past year, the results of hate: a school shooting targeted at a prayer group in Paducah, Kentucky; the shooting at a Jewish daycare center; the race-targeted killings in Illinois.

Hate propaganda may be free speech, but it must not be sanctioned by this body. We must loudly denounce it. As a Nation, we have fought too hard and come too far not to end discrimination and bigotry based on race and religion.

INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTION

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to begin my series of one-minutes that recognize the enormous problem that this Nation has with children who have been abducted internationally. There are over 10,000 American children who have been taken to foreign countries, like Saif Ahmed from my district.

My constituent, Melanie Al Mufti, was awarded sole custody of her son in 1998, but he was abducted by his father, Sayed Ahmed, to Cairo, Egypt, that same year. He was ordered to return the child to Texas, but instead, he ignored the order, and since then there is an FBI warrant out for his arrest.

Melanie contacted me that year, and I have been working closely with her ever since. She has worked with the Egyptian courts. I have worked with the Egyptian government, even spoken with President Mubarek. Yet Melanie has not had contact with her son since his abduction.

Melanie and parents like her need our help. I will be introducing bills that will focus on reuniting parents with their children. Madam Speaker, it is time for Congress, the media, and the American people to stand up for Melanie and Saif and the other American families who are being kept apart. We must bring our children home.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MUST INSTITUTE AN INVESTIGATION IN THE CASE OF AMADOU DIALLO

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, last week the Amadou Diallo family suffered a double tragedy, the loss of their son with 41 shots and 19 bullets to the body, and then a sense of injustice in our judicial system.

This is not a comment on that judicial process or the deliberations of the jury. It is simply a statement to America that we must stop tolerating man's inhumanity to man: an unarmed individual, an immigrant seeking only opportunity, not definitively told that police were asking him to stop, and in front of his own home.

I applaud the New Yorkers who have marched in peace, and I ask for Americans to join hands in peace, but at the same time, it is now appropriate for the Federal government to move in and to do a thorough and rightful investigation to determine whether or not Mr. Diallo's civil rights were violated.

Only when America understands that we are truly one America and that every life is precious, no matter how you came to this country, will we meet the promise for Americans for the 21st century.

COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF MEMBER OF HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR., MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Claire M. Maluso, senior counsel of Hon. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, Jr., Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 22, 2000.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House that I have received a subpoena for testimony before the grand jury issued by the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio.

Sincerely,

CLARIE M. MALUSO.

COMMUNICATION FROM PRODUCTION OPERATIONS MANAGER, OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA, OFFICE OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Gary Denick, production operations manager, Office of Communications Media, Office of Chief Administrative Officer:

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, February 17, 2000.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a subpoena for testimony issued by the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

GARY DENICK,
Production Operations Manager,
Office of Communications Media.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that she will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6 p.m. today.

DESIGNATING WILSON CREEK IN NORTH CAROLINA AS COMPO- NENT OF NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM

Mr. SHERWOOD. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1749) to designate Wilson Creek in Avery and Caldwell Counties, North Carolina, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1749

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF WILSON CREEK IN NORTH CAROLINA AS A WILD, SCE- NIC, AND RECREATIONAL RIVER.

Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(161) WILSON CREEK, NORTH CAROLINA.—(A) The 23.3 mile segment of Wilson Creek in the State of North Carolina from its headwaters to its confluence with Johns River, to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in the following classifications:

“(i) The 2.9 mile segment from its headwaters below Calloway Peak downstream to the confluence of Little Wilson Creek, as a scenic river.

“(ii) The 4.6 segment from Little Wilson Creek downstream to the confluence of Crusher Branch, as a wild river.

“(iii) The 15.8 segment from Crusher Branch downstream to the confluence of Johns River, as a recreational river.

“(B) The Forest Service or any other agency of the Federal Government may not undertake condemnation proceedings for the purpose of acquiring public right-of-way or access to Wilson Creek against the private property of T. Henry Wilson, Jr., or his heirs or assigns, located in Avery County, North Carolina (within the area 36°, 4 min., 21 sec. North 81°, 47 min., 37° West and 36°, 3 min., 13 sec. North and 81° 45 min. 55 sec. West), in the area of Wilson Creek designated as a wild river.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD).

Mr. SHERWOOD. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 1749 was introduced by our esteemed colleague, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER), and would designate Wilson Creek in Avery and Caldwell Counties, North Carolina, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

When the Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health held a hearing on August 3, 1999, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER) and the Forest Service testified in support of the bill. The bill was amended at subcommittee to make a technical correction.

Both the subcommittee and the full committee favorably reported this bill, as amended by voice vote.

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I strongly urge passage of H.R. 1749.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, first I would like to certainly commend the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER), my good friend, for his sponsorship of this legislation.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 1749 would designate 23.3 miles of Wilson Creek in Avery and Caldwell Counties, North Carolina, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Approximately 2.9 miles would be designated as scenic, 4.6 miles as wild, and 15.8 miles as recreational area.

The Forest Service deemed the creek, which is rich in aquatic and plant life, eligible and suitable for wild and scenic status since 1990. There is a great deal of local support in this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHERWOOD. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER), the author of the bill.

Mr. BALLENGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 1749, to designate Wilson Creek in my congressional district as a Wild and Scenic River. And I want to thank the gentleman from Alaska (Chairman YOUNG) and the gentlewoman from Idaho (Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE), chairwoman of the subcommittee, for their support of this bill and their diligent efforts to get this bill to the floor.

Madam Speaker, I would like to invite any of my colleagues from Congress that get to our area, if they want to see something fabulously beautiful, look at the Wilson Creek. Wilson Creek is a free-flowing, crystal clear waterway which passes through some of the most beautiful scenery in the Nation. It provides pristine habitat for a multitude of fish species and plant life which live within the creek and along its banks.

From its headwaters below Calloway Peak on Grandfather Mountain in Avery County, to where it empties into Johns River in Caldwell County, Wilson Creek meets and exceeds all the requirements for such an important designation.

Specifically, my bill would designate 23.3 miles of Wilson Creek as a Wild and Scenic River. And in my opinion, having this creek designated as Wild and Scenic would help maintain its natural beauty while helping to improve the quality of recreational opportunities like hunting, fishing, camping, canoeing, and other activities for thousands of people who visit it each year.

Madam Speaker, the potential designation of Wilson Creek as a Wild and Scenic River has received tremendous support from the County Commissioners of both Avery and Caldwell Counties, as well as the local residents and outdoor enthusiasts. In fact, when I met with the County Commissioner in Caldwell and Avery Counties prior to the introduction of my bill, I was presented with letters of support from local residents, positive newspaper articles and editorials, and a letter from the U.S. Forest Service which indicated a willingness to help us in this effort.

Madam Speaker, I am convinced that the designation of Wilson Creek as a Wild and Scenic River is well supported within the communities which surround it. I know CBO is trying to find some cost for it. They have not been able to. There is no expense. And I believe this is an excellent bill that would do much to preserve Wilson Creek, making it both a natural asset and a natural treasure, and I urge its passage.

Mr. BURR of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1749, designating Wilson Creek in northwest North Carolina as a wild and scenic river.

Madam Speaker, one of the hidden beauties—and there are few—of the ever changing North Carolina congressional district map is that in any given election, with the blessing of the electorate, the members our delegation are given the honor of serving different parts of different counties for short periods of time. During my first two terms of Congress, I had the opportunity to serve parts of Caldwell County that we are honoring today.

Although the majority of the legwork here in Washington was done by my colleague Mr. BALLENGER and his staff, the reason the designation is becoming a reality is the process by which it matured. You see, Mr. Speaker, this was not a decision forced upon the people of Avery and Caldwell County by a Federal bureaucracy with little or no local input. This project has been the result of local initiative, spearheaded by county commissioners and community leaders. These officials, at every step of the way, explained the process and benefits of wild and scenic designation to the local community and landowners, enlisting the advice and counsel of the local U.S. Forest Service. The professionalism of Forest Supervisor John Ramey, District Ranger Mike Anderson and Recreation Planner Kathy Ludlow quickly put to rest any misconceptions or fears