

BUD SHUSTER,
DON YOUNG,
THOMAS E. PETRI,
JOHN J. DUNCAN, Jr.,
THOMAS W. EWING,
STEPHEN HORN,
JACK QUINN,
VERNON J. EHLERS,
CHARLES F. BASS,
EDWARD A. PEASE,
JOHN E. SWEENEY,
JAMES L. OBERSTAR,
NICK RAHALL,
WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI,
PETER DEFazio,
JERRY F. COSTELLO,
PAT DANNER,
EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON,
JUANITA MILLENDER-
MCDONALD,

From the Committee on Ways and Means, for consideration of title XI of the House bill, and modifications committed to conference:

BILL ARCHER,
PHIL CRANE,
CHARLES B. RANGEL,

From the Committee on Science, for consideration of title XIII of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference:

CONNIE MORELLA,
RALPH M. HALL,

Managers on the Part of the House.

From the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

TED STEVENS,
CONRAD BURNS,
SLADE GORTON,
TRENT LOTT,
FRITZ HOLLINGS,
DANIEL K. INOUE,
JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER IV,
JOHN F. KERRY,

From the Committee on the Budget:

PETE V. DOMENICI,
CHUCK GRASSLEY,
DON NICKLES,
KENT CONRAD,

Managers on the Part of the Senate.

WELCOME TO THE REVEREND DR.
FRANK RICHARDSON

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

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to introduce our guest chaplain, Dr. Frank Richardson.

Dr. Richardson currently holds positions as assistant professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and staff psychologist, Outpatient Psychiatry Department at Baltimore's Kennedy Krieger Institute. In addition to his current responsibilities, he brings to us rich life experiences as a Methodist minister of 9 years in Lansdowne, Pennsylvania, a board member of Baltimore's Hamden Family Center, work with the Catholic Charities Programs in San Diego, and as a chaplain intern for a number of schools and hospitals in Massachusetts.

This blend of experiences offers us a unique perspective of faith reflecting a wide variety of pastoral views, regional differences, all focused on the special care we must bring to each other and especially our children.

It is our honor to have Dr. Richardson and his family with us today.

RADIOACTIVE WATER

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, safe, clean drinking water is something that many people often take for granted. Unfortunately, Nevadans may not have the luxury of assuming that their drinking water is safe or clean anymore. Recently, groundwater tests near the Nevada test site showed levels of radioactivity that were 25 times higher than allowed under the Federal safe drinking water standard. EPA studies have confirmed that due to the high volcanic activity in Nevada, radioactivity from deep within the earth's surface has surfaced and entered the groundwater supply.

This is a real and serious environmental threat for Nevada, the Nation's third most seismically active State. Yet, Madam Speaker, there are some who still support the development of a permanent nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain, which is located right in the middle of this volcanic activity. I for one will not support risking the health of millions of people and millions of children who merely want a cold, nonradioactive glass of water to drink.

I yield back the dangerous and illogical plan to shift nuclear waste to Nevada.

PERMANENT TRADE RELATIONS
FOR CHINA

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

Mr. ROEMER. Madam Speaker, today the President of the United States sends up the permanent normal trade relations bill to the United States Congress. This will be one of the most important trade and foreign policy votes not only of this Congress but maybe of our careers. I would hope there would be bipartisan support for this bill, bipartisan support for making sure that we change the status quo today.

Right now, China has access to our markets. We do not have fair access to the Chinese markets. Under this new bill, we give up nothing and we get new access in agriculture, telecommunications, industry across the board to the Chinese markets. If we are going to support in a bipartisan way constructive engagement with the Chinese as five previous Presidents, Democrats and Republicans, have done, we need to engage the Chinese when we disagree with them on human rights and the Catholic Church. We need to engage the Chinese on the trade deficit. But we must pass this permanent trade relations act in a bipartisan way.

HONORING CHAMPIONSHIP SOCCER
TEAMS FROM 16TH DISTRICT OF
PENNSYLVANIA

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor two more championship soccer teams from my district, the Downingtown Whippets and the West Chester Henderson Warriors.

The Downingtown varsity boys triple A soccer team are the 1999 Pennsylvania State champions. These young athletes from a traditional sports powerhouse worked hard to build themselves into a trophy-winning team. I want to congratulate them on their success.

The Henderson varsity girls triple A soccer team holds the State girls championship. These ladies have continued a tradition of winning for Henderson. They have been State champs 4 out of the last 5 years. Two years ago they not only won Pennsylvania but were ranked number one in the Nation.

I am proud to say that both of these outstanding teams are from Chester County, Pennsylvania. They will be here tomorrow to receive the congratulations of many.

So three teams, Octorara boys double A, Downingtown boys triple A and Henderson girls triple A, all from my congressional district, congratulations. You have made Chester County proud.

ABOLISH THE TAX CODE

(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, the tax code accounts for 24 percent of the cost of an American-made automobile. Now, think about it. You buy a car made in America for \$20,000 and \$5,000 of it goes to satisfy the tax code. Beam me up. I say, let us throw the tax code out; let us abolish the IRS, pass a flat 15 percent savings tax. No more tax on education, savings, investment, corporations, capital gains. And one last thing. No more forms, no more IRS. Congress, let us handcuff the IRS to a chain link fence and flog them with the income tax code.

I yield back the millions of audits and gouging of the American taxpayers.

URGING PASSAGE OF AID
PACKAGE TO COLOMBIA

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Madam Speaker, in a few weeks, the House will consider a supplemental appropriations bill that includes a much-needed comprehensive aid package to Colombia. The purpose of this package is to help that nation fight its war against the narcoterrorists that threaten its very survival.

We must help the Colombians fight the drug lords because in the process it will help us take Colombian drugs off our own streets. Right now, 80 percent of the cocaine and 75 percent of the heroin which enters this country this day comes from Colombia.

While I believe that we must do our part to reduce the demand here, helping the Colombians fight the narcoterrorists where they live will slow the flow of drugs which are poisoning our own communities. Choosing not to help, as we did last fall, will only embolden the drug lords, who, in the absence of a comprehensive aid package, could more openly and freely continue peddling death to the American children.

Madam Speaker, I urge the immediate passage of the aid package to Colombia.

INFORMING CONGRESS ABOUT THE STATE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, periodically, I come before this body simply to inform it about the state of the District of Columbia. Mayor Tony Williams gave his State of the District address this week. Only one year after taking office, he was able to show significant improvements in every area of life in the District of Columbia.

This was a city down on its knees only a few years ago. Now, it is about to go into the fourth year of a balanced budget and a surplus. The Mayor and the City Council have shown, definitively, that they know what they are doing. Anybody who looks around this city can see the difference.

I hope that this body will leave the micromanagement of the District to the District. What the Mayor and the Council deserve after the improvements we have seen, is a clean appropriation, which after all, consists mostly of money from the District, and respect from this body so that elected officials in the city can, in fact, run the city.

SUPPORT HABITAT ENHANCEMENT ROTATION OPTION (HERO) BILL

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

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, American farmers are facing enormously difficult times. Producers continue to struggle with plentiful supplies and low prices. While there are no easy answers to this problem, there are some steps we can take to help farmers.

Today, this Member is introducing a bill based upon extensive farmer and conservationist input, which can be part of the solution and provide much-

needed agriculture relief. The legislation is known as the HERO bill, which stands for Habitat Enhancement Rotation Option.

The HERO program would be voluntary and allow producers to enroll up to 25 percent of their cropland for periods of 2 to 4 years. It would complement the longer-term Conservation Reserve Program and thus provide farmers with payments as well as additional flexibility.

The HERO program is designed to be used during times like the present with high supplies and low prices. In addition to helping farmers, it would provide significant environmental benefits. It would help rehabilitate cropland, enhance soil and water conservation, and improve wildlife habitat.

Madam Speaker, the HERO program programs several options for farmers. For instance, producers could break the disease cycle, the weed cycles, plant short-term cover crops and so on. It could be used by producers seeking to establish permanent pasture on marginal cropland.

I urge my colleagues to consider cosponsoring this legislation.

INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTION DAY FOUR

(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, today I rise to talk about another of the 10,000 American children who have been abducted to foreign countries, Amanda Johnson.

Amanda was abducted from her father, Thomas Johnson, who is an attorney with the United States State Department, to Sweden by her mother, Anne Franzen, in 1994. Amanda continues to be wrongfully withheld from her father, the rest of her American family, her home and her familiar environment, and her country, by her mother and the government of Sweden.

1015

Between December 1995 and June 1999, Amanda saw her father only on five occasions for a total of about 15 hours. Every element of joint custody has been violated. No school or medical records, no photographs, no information on activities or general welfare have been provided to Mr. Johnson.

Mr. Johnson and parents like him need our help. Madam Speaker, we must show respect and concern for the most sacred of bonds, the bond between a parent and a child.

When we look at a globe we see boundaries, but when it comes to reuniting families we must know no boundaries. We must bring our children home.

VETERANS' BUDGET ON RIGHT TRACK

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, today I want to talk about the veterans budget for the year 2001. Now, the administration has presented a budget, and it is a good start. The budget which was presented is much better than last year, which fell short in several areas, and that is why as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Health I have recommended an increase of \$25 million above the President's request for medical research.

The committee has also recommended increasing the administration's proposed \$60 million for State veterans home construction grant programs to \$140 million.

As the sponsor of the Veterans Millennium Health Care Act, which requires VA to fund pending projects and to revise the priorities for the award of new grants, the proposed reduction in funding would result in projects being delayed another year or more.

This is a top priority for me. I will fight to get these proposed increases passed. Overall, the committee recommends a \$100 million increase over the President's budget request. Veterans deserve our deepest respect and we must keep the promises we made to them.

ENVIRONMENTAL EXTREMISTS NEED TO MOVE OUT OF THE WAY OF DRILLING FOR OIL

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, experts are now predicting that gas prices will soon go to \$2 a gallon or perhaps even higher. This sudden big rise in gas prices is hurting lower income and working people most of all. It will hurt small towns in rural areas because their people usually have to drive further distances to work. It will hurt tourism and agriculture and trucking, and mean higher prices for airline tickets. The saddest part of this whole scenario is the Congress could easily keep this from happening.

The U.S. Geologic Survey estimates there are 16 billion barrels of oil in less than 1 percent of the coastal plain of Alaska. There are billions more barrels offshore from other States, yet environmental extremists do not want us drilling for any of this oil even though it could be done in an environmentally safe way. These extremists almost always come from wealthy or upper-income families and perhaps are not affected that much when prices go up and jobs are destroyed. Some of these environmental extremists even think it would be good for gas prices to go even higher so people would drive less.

If we allow gas prices to go much higher, Madam Speaker, millions of people, including millions of children, are going to suffer greatly.