

scientists amazingly restored vision in a mouse using oral doses of a chemical compound derived from vitamin A. This miracle offers evidence that researchers will soon be able to develop similar cures for patients with retinitis pigmentosa, macular degeneration, and other retinal degenerative diseases which may lead to blindness.

Now more than ever, in an effort to make these treatments available, we need to support funding for the National Eye Institute so that our Nation's researchers will have the resources needed to make sight-debilitating diseases extinct.

Mr. Speaker, this Sunday, CBS's "60 Minutes" will highlight the Lidskys' uplifting story, and I urge my colleagues to tune in and learn what each of us can do in order to help realize a cure soon.

RUSSIAN-BUILT MISSILES POINTED AT U.S.

(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, Russian President Putin told the United Nations that America does not need the Star Wars program.

Think about it. This Rusky wants it both ways. First, he builds missiles with billions of dollars of foreign aid from Uncle Sam; takes our money, builds the missiles; and if that is not enough to bust my colleagues' rubles, he then sells these missiles to our enemies who then point them at us.

I say here on the House floor that this guy, Putin, is not only drinking too much vodka, he is smoking dope. I say it is time to protect America from Russian politicians who should be addressing Alcoholics Anonymous not the United Nations.

I yield back the fact, Congress, that we have missiles pointed at us that were built with our cash and made by Russia.

THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

(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, no organization has done more to train young men to believe in God and country than the Boy Scouts of America. No organization is more fundamentally decent and better for young men.

But the Clinton-Gore administration apparently thinks they are dangerous. After Democratic delegates booted a Boy Scout color guard at their convention, the Justice Department launched an investigation to see whether they should bar the Boy Scouts from Department of Interior programs because of their traditional American values.

They have since backed down. But just the fact that the Clinton-Gore administration even contemplated ban-

ning the Boy Scouts from national parks and programs because of their beliefs is an outrage.

The Boy Scouts is not a hate organization. It is the premier youth organization in America providing training for character and volunteerism. The Clinton-Gore administration should stop pandering to the loony left.

BUSH PROPOSAL ON PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFITS

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I would draw our colleagues' attention to The New York Times and the Washington Post this morning where, after reviewing the Bush proposal on Medicare drug benefits, prescription drug benefits for our elderly, they draw the conclusion that, in fact, it is no benefit at all for millions of modest-income senior citizens in this country.

In fact, it is a benefit that is illusory. It is a benefit that requires us to wait for the governor to put in place a new bureaucracy to provide for drug benefits. It is a benefit that can be charged any price for its premiums and, as they draw the conclusion, that millions and millions of Americans simply will not be able to afford it. Therefore, the benefit is of no value to them at all.

More and more independent reviews of the Bush proposal are drawing this same conclusion, that it is only the appearance of a prescription drug benefit. It is not in fact a prescription drug benefit and that it would rely on the same private insurance companies that today are gouging people for health care or withdrawing health care from the elderly or denying them the services.

The one thing the Bush proposal does do is it undermines the current Medicare system.

DEATH TAX OVERRIDE

(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, last month the Clinton-Gore administration vetoed tax relief for the American people. They struck down a repeal of the death tax, a measure which taxes family businesses and farms on up to 55 percent of their value upon the death of their owner. Eighty-five percent of these businesses do not survive to the second generation because of the death tax penalty.

And to what end? Government enforcement of the death tax costs nearly as much as the tax actually generates. As a result, the death tax adds less than 1 percent of revenue to the Federal budget. In contrast, if we had ended the death tax last year, we could have created 45,243 more jobs this year and nearly 236,000 by 2010.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do the right thing: override this senseless veto and do away with the death tax.

BACK TO SCHOOL

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, millions of students across this country will get onto school buses and bikes to go back to school this week. Unfortunately, many of our Nation's students will be returning to crowded classrooms, run-down school buildings and outdated textbooks.

As a former teacher, I am acutely aware of both the excitement and the challenges facing our educational system today. We need to improve education by establishing tougher standards for our teachers, creating a school construction and modernization program, and funding preschool for some 3 year-olds and all of 4-year-olds. To that end, Congress must make education its top priority.

I would like to take a moment to wish a classroom in the Eighth Congressional District in New Jersey well this school year. Robin Holcombe is a kindergarten teacher in the Passaic School Number Six. She teaches 23 active, curious, and wonderful 5- and 6-year-olds. I want to let Robin know that the Congress is working for her and her students and will not rest until we provide her more professional training, smaller class sizes and her new kindergarten students with a sound and promising educational future.

Mr. Speaker, before I close, let me just say that many of the schools in northern New Jersey were built before the First World War. Congress must respond.

DEATH TAX OVERRIDE

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, if there is one thing that makes the United States a unique country, it is our idea that anyone with a strong work ethic can succeed in America.

For over 100 years, men and women have emigrated to this country to take advantage of the tangible ideal we call the American Dream. Not surprisingly, the Internal Revenue Service is taxing the American Dream into the grave with a mean-spirited provision called the death tax.

The death tax hurts average Americans who cannot afford to pay high-price lawyers to settle their affairs. As a result, 70 percent of small businesses do not survive into the second generation. That is totally unfair.

This Congress passed a bill to repeal the onerous death tax. Regrettably, the Clinton-Gore administration vetoed it.

Let us show the Clinton-Gore administration that the American dream is still alive. I urge my colleagues to support overriding the death tax veto.

DEATH TAX OVERRIDE

(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, death should not be taxed. Unfortunately, current law allows the IRS to do just that. When a person who owns a small business or a family farm passes away, the Government taxes up to 55 percent of that business' worth.

The death tax has meant the end to thousands of family-owned enterprises. In fact, this tax prevents nearly 85 percent of these organizations from being transferred from one generation to the next.

Business owners who can afford high-price lawyers can sometimes avoid passing on this tax to their families, but average Americans often cannot. The American Dream should not be taxed. And yet in vetoing this legislation, the Clinton-Gore administration is doing just that.

It is wrong for the Government to compound the shock of losing a family member with the devastation of losing one's livelihood. Now is the time to right this injustice. Vote to override the Clinton-Gore veto of the death tax.

□ 1015

OIL PRICES HIT 10-YEAR HIGH

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, the top headline in this morning's Washington Post says, "Oil Prices Hit a 10-Year High."

One main reason the prices are this high and probably going higher is that the OPEC countries know that the environmental extremists in this country will not allow more domestic oil production.

The U.S. Geological Survey says we have billions of barrels of oil, equal to 3 years' worth of Saudi oil, in one tiny 2,000- to 3,000-acre part of the coastal plain of Alaska.

We have billions more barrels off the U.S. outer-continental shelf.

Yet this administration has vetoed legislation and has issued an executive order to prevent production of this oil.

I wonder if some of these environmental groups are funded by companies that make more money when we buy foreign oil.

To be so dependent on foreign oil hurts both our economy and our national security and risks more oil spills at sea.

Those who like higher gas prices, Mr. Speaker, should write the White House and wealthy environmentalists and say thank you.

UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 570 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 570

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4115) to authorize appropriations for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Resources. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Resources now printed in the bill. The committed amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may:

(1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and (2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be 15 minutes. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURRETTE). The gentleman from New York (Mr. REYNOLDS) is recognized for 1 hour.

(Mr. REYNOLDS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks, and include extraneous material.)

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

Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER). During consideration of the resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, last night the Committee on Rules met and granted an open rule for H.R. 4115, a bill to authorize appropriations for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill and provides 1 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Resources.

The rule further makes in order the Committee on Resources amendment in the nature of a substitute, now printed in the bill, as an original bill for the purpose of an amendment, which shall be open for amendment at any point.

Additionally, the rule waives all points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute and authorizes the Chair to accord priority in recognition to Members who have preprinted their amendments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The rule allows the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone votes during consideration of the bill and to reduce voting time to 5 minutes on a postponed question if the vote follows a 15-minute vote.

Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, through Israeli poet Abraham Shlonsky's simple words, we are reminded of our continued responsibility to the memory of that greatest of all human tragedies that was the Holocaust:

"For my eyes that have seen the bereavement and burdened with the cries of my bowed heart I vow to remember all, to remember and not forget anything."

The terror spread by the Nazi regime across Europe from 1933 to 1945, the persecution and murder of millions of innocents because of their race, religion, political beliefs or nationality, stands to this day as one of the darkest, saddest, most tragic chapters of our world's history.

The Holocaust systematic annihilation of 6 million Jews by the Nazis and their collaborators is an unthinkable and unfathomable culmination of man's inhumanity to man.

But we must always think and we must always try to fathom what happened through the Holocaust. We must, as Abraham Shlonsky vowed, remember and not forget anything.

It was in that spirit of remembrance that in 1980 Congress established the United States Holocaust Memorial Council to plan a powerful living memorial to victims and survivors of the Holocaust.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum was opened in 1993 and has since become one of the most widely visited museums in Washington, D.C., hosting some 12 million visitors annually.

The museum is America's national institution for the documentation, study, and interpretation of Holocaust