

Pumping Plant at Prosser Diversion Dam, Washington, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4945, SMALL BUSINESS COM petition PRESERVATION ACT OF 2000

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington (during consideration of the motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 4577), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-867) on the resolution (H. Res. 582) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4945) to amend the Small Business Act to strengthen existing protections for small business participation in the Federal procurement contracting process, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 4213

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as cosponsor of H.R. 4213.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

CHINESE GOVERNMENT IMPRISONING 80-YEAR-OLD CATHOLIC BISHOP

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today after reading today's editorial from the Washington Post titled "Catholic 'Criminals' in China," that describes how the Chinese Government has rearrested an 81-year-old Roman Catholic bishop, Bishop Zeng. Here is a picture of Bishop Zeng in prison garb. And the Senate today is ready to grant MFN to China.

The bishop has spent most of his life in a Chinese prison, imprisoned through labor camps. He was imprisoned in 1958, was let out of jail for 1 month, then rearrested and imprisoned until 1991. In 1996, in his late 70s, he was rearrested again and put in a forced labor camp. Imagine being in a forced labor camp at 70 and 80 years of age.

A Chinese leader affiliated with the Chinese Government's recent public relations blitz said, "American voters should get to know us." Indeed, American people, this Congress, the Clinton administration and the next administration must know the true character of the Chinese Government is one that throws 80-year-old Catholic bishops into forced labor camps.

Does anyone in the Clinton administration care? Does the Congress care? Does anyone care?

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 9, 2000]

CATHOLIC 'CRIMINALS' IN CHINA

The Communist regime in China has identified and rooted out another enemy of the state: 81-year-old Catholic Bishop Zeng Jingmu. The Cardinal Kung Foundation, a U.S.-based advocate for the Roman Catholic Church and its estimated 10 million followers in China, reports that Bishop Zeng was nabbed last Thursday. An embassy spokesman here said he couldn't comment. This wouldn't be a first for this apparently dangerous cleric. He was imprisoned for a quarter-century beginning in 1958. In 1983, the Communists let him out—for one month. Then they jailed him for another eight years, until 1991. In 1996—at the age of 76—he was sentenced to three years of forced labor and reeducation. When he was released with six months still to run on that sentence, in 1998, the Clinton administration trumpeted the news as "further evidence that the president's policy of engagement works." The fatuousness of that statement must be especially clear to the bishop from his current jail cell.

Bishop Zeng has been guilty of a single crime all along: He is a Catholic believer. He refuses to submit to Communist atheism or to the control of the Catholic Patriotic Association, an alternative "church" created by the regime that does not recognize the primacy of the pope. China's government is willing to tolerate some religious expression as long as it is dictated by the government. Anyone who will not submit—whether spiritual movements such as Falun Gong, evangelical Protestant churches, Tibetan monasteries or the real Catholic Church—is subject to "repression and abuse," the State Department said in its recent report on international religious freedom. The admirably straightforward report noted that respect for religious freedom "deteriorated markedly" in China during the past year. "Some places of worship were destroyed," it said. "Leaders of unauthorized groups are often the targets of harassment, interrogations, detention and physical abuse."

Bishop Zeng is a man of uncommon courage, but his fate in China is sadly common. Three days before his arrest, Father Ye Gong Feng, 82, was arrested and "tortured to unconsciousness," the Cardinal Kung Foundation reports. It took 70 policemen to perform that operation. Father Lin Rengui of Fujian province "was beaten so savagely that he vomited blood." Thousands of Falun Gong practitioners have been arrested during the past year; the State Department cites "credible reports" that at least 24 have died while in police custody.

Last month the Chinese government launched a public relations mission to the United States, dispatching exhibits, performers and lecturers—on the subject of religious freedom, among others—on a three-week charm offensive. "American voters should get to know us," said the Chinese functionary in charge. The U.S. ambassador to China, Joseph Prueher, appeared at a joint new conference announcing the mission, and a number of U.S. business executives—from Boeing, Time Warner and elsewhere—happily sponsored it. We have nothing against goodwill cultural exchanges, but Chinese and American officials should not delude themselves that U.S. suspicions are caused chiefly by prejudice or lack of understanding. On the contrary, Americans understand just fine what kind of government throws 81-year-old clerics into jail.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. WILSON). Under the Speaker's an-

nounced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MCCOLLUM addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CHINESE GOVERNMENT JAILED ZENG JINGMU

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BONIOR. Madam Speaker, last week, as the other body was beginning its final dash toward passage of the China trade deal, the Chinese Government jailed yet another dangerous agitator, his name is Zeng Jingmu. He is 81 years of age. He is a Catholic bishop, and it is not the first time Bishop Zeng has been jailed.

He was first imprisoned 42 years ago. In 1983, he was set free for about 30 days. Then they sent him to prison for 8 more years. In 1996, he was imprisoned once again, and he was sentenced to 3 years of forced labor.

At the time, Bishop Zeng was 76 years of age.

Why does the Chinese Government feel such bitter enmity toward the bishop? What crime did this 81-year-old man commit? Teaching the gospel.

Madam Speaker, none of this should come as a surprise to us. A special commission appointed by the White House and this Congress found that religious persecution is business as usual in today's China.

Over the course of this year's trade debate, advocates of normalizing trade with China repeatedly claimed it would strengthen the cause for human rights. But the jailing of Bishop Zeng tells us that if expanding trade improves human rights, someone forgot to tell the Chinese Government.

In this Capitol, the citadel of liberty, we talk a lot about the rule of law, and we talk a lot about freedom, Madam Speaker. Yet when the topic turns to

China, it seems the only law that matters is the law of supply and demand, and the only freedom that counts is the freedom to make a quick buck.

Today an 81-year-old priest sits in a Chinese prison cell, and I know that God will hear his prayers. I only ask why this government cannot.

REDUCING NATIONAL DEBT AND ANNUAL INTEREST RATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. METCALF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. METCALF. Madam Speaker, this Nation can reduce our national debt by \$600 billion and reduce our annual interest payments by \$30 billion with no harm to anyone nor to any program. That sounds too good to be true, but it is true.

Most people have little knowledge of how money systems work and are not aware that an honest money system would result in great savings for the people. We really can cut the national debt by \$600 billion and reduce our Federal interest payments by \$30 billion a year. How? By merely issuing our own United States Treasury currency.

It is an undisputable fact that the Federal Reserve notes, that is, our circulating currency today, are issued by the Federal Reserve in response to interest-bearing debt instruments. Thus we indirectly pay interest on our paper money in circulation. Actually, we pay interest on the bonds that "back" our paper money, the Federal Reserve notes. This unnecessary cost is about \$100 per person per year in our country.

Why are our citizens paying \$100 per person each year to rent the Federal Reserve's paper money when the United States Treasury could issue the paper money exactly as it issues our coins? The coins are minted by the Treasury and essentially sent into circulation at face value. The Treasury will make a profit of \$880 million this year from the issue of 1 billion new gold-colored dollar coins.

If we use the same method of issue for our paper money as we do for our coins, the Treasury would realize a profit on the bills sufficient to reduce the national debt by \$600 billion and reduce annual interest payments by \$30 billion. Federal Reserve notes are officially liabilities of the Federal Reserve, and over \$600 billion in U.S. bonds is held by the Federal Reserve as backing for these notes.

The Federal Reserve collects interest on these bonds from the U.S. Government and then returns most of it to the U.S. Treasury. So it is a tax on our money that goes to the United States Treasury, a tax on our money in circulation.

There is a simple and inexpensive way to convert this costly, illogical, convoluted system to a logical system, which pays no interest directly or indirectly on our money in circulation. Congress simply needs to pass a law re-

quiring the Nation's Treasury to print and issue United States currency in the same denominations and in the same amounts as the present Federal Reserve notes. Because the new U.S. currency would be issued into circulation through the banks to replace or in exchange for the Federal Reserve notes, there would be no change in the money supply.

The plan would remove the liability of the Federal Reserve by returning to the Fed, the Federal Reserve notes in exchange for the \$600 billion in interest-bearing bonds now held by the Fed, thus reducing the national debt by \$600 billion.

The Nation would thus have a circulating currency, the United States Treasury currency, or U.S. notes, bearing neither debt nor interest.

The national debt would be reduced by \$600 billion and annual interest payments reduced by over \$30 billion. The easiest way we can save our taxpayers \$30 billion each year is to issue our own U.S. Treasury money.

□ 1845

HONORING THE MEMORY OF BILL ASKEW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and the life of Reverend William F. Askew, a man whose life touched so many in southwest Missouri and around the world because of his dedication to serving others.

In World War II, the Marine Corps taught him that duty, honor, country was more than a motto. It was a commitment to the ideas that he instilled in others as a drill sergeant and a commitment that followed him all his days.

Coming back from the war and beginning a career in civilian commercial radio, he accepted Christ; and his faith became the driving center of his life. Service to others was natural for Bill Askew. He was a founding pastor of the Arlington Heights Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Florida; but he also found time to serve as the chaplain of the Duval County Fire Department. He sought opportunities to serve the spiritual and emotional needs of firemen from around Florida and the victims of the fires they fought.

Service to others was his focus when he moved his wife, Doris, and seven of their nine children to Springfield, Missouri, in 1968, to help found the area's first Christian radio station. He served as general manager of KWFC serving portions of four States until his death last week.

Despite the responsibilities he faced in running a radio station, he also committed to serving residents of northern Greene County as the pastor of the Noble Hill Baptist Church, often trav-

eling back roads to meet the needs of a large rural area as well as those of the surrounding communities.

Service was the keynote of his life, whether he was helping form the North Springfield Betterment Association or teaching classes at Baptist Bible College. Bill, or "Mr. A" as many of his friends called him, was dedicated to making a difference in the lives of those he served. Some of those now serve as missionaries, as business leaders, government officials; and they reflect his inspiration for their lives. He was a confidant, a mentor, an advisor, a friend to so many; and he often did it with so little fanfare.

Bill Askew was a family man. Even though he gave much to others, he was happiest when surrounded by his children, his grandchildren and his great grandchildren. He shared their joys and comforted their pain.

Madam Speaker, with his passing, southwest Missouri has lost a great spiritual and civic leader, a friend and a guiding force for many in our community. I ask that God bless him and his family as we share in their loss.

THE VETERANS ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, Abraham Lincoln, during his address at Gettysburg, stated that the world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. Inspired by those words, as well as the words from countless number of veterans back in my own congressional district and across the country, I was motivated to draft and also introduce today, with my friend and colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON), the Veterans Oral History Project, which will direct the Library of Congress to establish a national archives for the collection and preservation of our veterans' oral history through videotape testimony.

Now that we have the technological means to do so, I think this is a worthwhile investment for this country to make. It would be a gift from our veterans which will keep on giving not only today but tomorrow, and God willing, for generations and centuries to come.

There is a sense of urgency in introducing this bill which has, I am pleased to report, received wide bipartisan support, with a majority of the Members in the House of Representatives willing to be original sponsors of this legislation. Senator MAX CLELAND will be introducing the bill in the United States Senate this week as well.

There is a sense of urgency, given the fact that we have roughly 19 million veterans still living in this country today, of which 3,400 are from the First World War, roughly 6 million are still living from the Second World War and