

H.R. 3084. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to contribute funds for the establishment of an interpretative center on the life and contributions of President Abraham Lincoln.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill and concurrent resolutions of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2440. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to improve airport security.

S. Con. Res. 60. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that a commemorative postage stamp should be issued in honor of the U.S.S. Wisconsin and all those who served aboard her.

S. Con. Res. 70. Concurrent resolution requesting that the United States Postal Service issue a commemorative postage stamp honoring the national veterans service organizations of the United States.

S. Con. Res. 141. Concurrent resolution to authorize the printing of copies of the publication entitled "The United States Capitol" as a Senate document.

WELCOME TO REVEREND LAWRENCE A. LAMBERT, JR.

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

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I am here to welcome to the House Chamber and to our Nation's Capitol one of my constituents and one of the citizens of Kansas, Reverend Lambert, who is here today with his wife, Linda, and graciously delivered the invocation on our proceedings today.

Reverend Lambert is the United Methodist minister in the community of Greensburg, a community of several thousand people in the southern part of Kansas. It is a delight to have him and his wife with us.

I appreciate his prayers and concerns for our country and for the House of Representatives and for the task we have before us. This is Reverend Lambert's first visit to the Nation's Capitol, and we are delighted to have him as our guest today.

THE UNITED STATES SHOULD TAKE ACTION TO HELP CITIZENS OF SIERRA LEONE

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

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise again today to discuss the abominable situation in Africa. We have had over two decades of killings, maimings, abductions, and the murder of approximately 1 million Africans. Our State Department has done virtually nothing.

If we compare what has happened in Africa and what has happened in Kosovo and Bosnia, where we have sent troops, Bosnia and Kosovo do not begin to compare in deaths and human agony with what has happened in Africa.

I am particularly concerned about Sierra Leone, where we now have a battle

over diamonds. It is not a political battle, it is a battle for money, for diamonds, for power. Charles Taylor of Liberia undoubtedly is interfering. There is some evidence that Mr. Qaddafi from Libya is also interfering, and others from Guinea and other lands. And yet, we do nothing. We stand and watch it happen.

Last week in a hearing chaired by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) of the Subcommittee on Africa, we saw the maimed and injured, little children whose arms had been chopped off, a terrible, terrible sight, and our State Department and our country have done virtually nothing.

It is time for us to rise up and help the citizens of that Nation. I ask that we do that.

WEN HO LEE, A JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SCAPEGOAT

(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, I do not know if Wen Ho Lee is a spy, but one thing for sure, Wen Ho Lee is a scapegoat. Wen Ho Lee was a diversion used by Janet Reno to avoid the appointment of an independent counsel to investigate illegal Chinese campaign contributions to the Democrat National Committee.

Who is kidding whom? Even Barney Fife can see through this ploy. Wake up, Congress. A Chinese Red Army general, a Red Army general was one of the Chinese who funneled money to the Democrat National Committee, and there has been no investigation. Beam me up.

I yield back the treason of Janet Reno and the secrets still to be stolen by the Chinese.

MISLEADING STATEMENTS BY THE VICE PRESIDENT

(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, do Members remember that all-American slogan: baseball, mom, and apple pie? We have a new campaign slogan today, thanks to the Vice President, the person who supposedly invented the Internet. It goes, dog, mother-in-law, and prescription drugs.

This week, the Boston Globe, no member of the vast right wing conspiracy, and the Washington Times both reported that GORE made up an anecdote about the cost of drugs. Why would the Vice President mislead our Nation's seniors and the entire media by telling a bogus personal story that his mother-in-law pays three times the price for arthritis medicine as compared to his dog? Why would he stretch the truth on such an important issue that the Republican House already has taken action on to lower the cost of

medicines by 25 percent? Why would he puff up a false personal story? Solely to score political points with our Nation's seniors?

Whatever the motive, it is time for some straight talk, not invented rhetoric. America's families and senior citizens deserve no less. People should come before politics.

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

(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, the House passed the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act on September 26. The funding for that act expired on September 30. When is the Senate going to act?

The vote here was 415 to 3. The House took great strides in reauthorizing the funding programs in the VAWA that will improve the quality of life for millions of women and children across the country. It reauthorizes programs that make a real difference in our communities: the STOP grants, the National Domestic Violence Hotline, battered women's shelters, rape crisis centers.

I visited one of those centers just recently. They are doing the job. That is why we reauthorized it. Where is the Senate? We must be sensitive to the needs of every woman who is a victim of these tragic circumstances.

I would like to thank the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) for their leadership on this critical legislation.

BUREAUCRATS PRACTICING MEDICINE

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, obviously, I am no medical doctor. Therefore, I would never presume to know what medication, for example, would be better to treat the heart condition of a 72-year-old woman in Winnemucca, Nevada.

Yet, the Gore plan thinks that Washington bureaucrats should know best which drug should or should not be used by my constituents 2,000 miles away in Nevada. After all, that is what his Medicare Modernization Act calls for, 182 new mandates on prescription drug delivery, including a government formulary to cover prescriptions. If a drug is not listed in the Gore formulary, Medicare will not cover it, and a needy citizen, a senior, will not be able to obtain their life-saving medication.

Mr. Speaker, this same plan has failed miserably in Canada and Europe. My fellow citizens in Nevada and across America should not be denied access to the prescription drugs they

need by Washington bureaucrats whose only medical credentials are that they have visited a doctor for their yearly physical.

I yield back the Gore government-run prescription drug plan that has Washington, D.C. deciding which medicines should be in our cabinet.

URGING CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION TO RESTORE PEACE IN SIERRA LEONE

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

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with this Congress a story of a young girl who was maimed by thugs in Sierra Leone. These are some of the kids that testified before the Congress last week.

Bintu Amara, who is in this picture, who is 9 years old, watched rebels chop off her leg last year. They did it to terrorize everyone who sees her, and remind all the world that they will stop at nothing in their bid to control the country's diamond mines.

Bintu did not say much at the special hearing that the gentleman from California (Chairman ROYCE) held last week, but she did tell this Congress that she wants very much to go to school. That is not likely to happen, I am sad to report. Today, diamonds will earn \$37 million for rebel armies, like the one that did this to Bintu. Tomorrow they will earn another \$37 million, and so on.

I urge this Congress and this administration to do something about this, not in a year, not some day, but today. Americans buy two-thirds of the world's diamonds. They would be horrified to know that this is where their money goes.

We owe it to them, we owe it to Bintu, to do something about this tragedy.

ILLEGAL PRACTICES BY THE CLINTON-GORE ADMINISTRATION

(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, last night in the Presidential debate AL GORE's words "No controlling legal authority" came up. What George Bush should have said is that all those words mean is, "Catch me if you can."

Everyone in Washington knows it is illegal to use foreign money. It is illegal to launder money. It is illegal to sell access. It is illegal to use your phones, your computers, your office, your staff, for raising funds.

The Democrats have accepted millions of dollars in foreign moneys, laundered money, and turned the Lincoln bedroom and the coffee klatches into a money-making machine.

Mr. GORE not only participated and planned, he was a cheerleader of this

administration and their corrupt practices in the White House. That is why the American people are disappointed in Vice President AL GORE.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would advise that the Member should avoid personal references to the President or the Vice President.

CONGRESS MUST WORK TO PAY OFF THE PUBLIC DEBT AND PROVIDE A PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT TO 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, in this time of great prosperity, it is imperative that Congress works to pay off the public debt and provide a prescription drug benefit for all seniors.

The Nation has a public debt of over \$3 trillion. However, in the last 3 years, Republicans have paid down \$354 billion in public debt and are on track to completely pay off this part of the national debt by 2012.

Republicans are committed to using 90 percent of next year's budget surplus to pay off the public debt, while locking away 100 percent of the social security and Medicare surpluses.

While we remain the most prosperous Nation in the world, the sad reality is that there are still some seniors who have to choose between putting food on the table and the prescription drugs they need to live healthy lives. Mr. Speaker, that is not fair.

When we passed a prescription drug benefit that was voluntary, available, and affordable for all seniors, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GEPHARDT) and the Democrats walked out on seniors. That is not right. Republicans will not walk out on seniors, and will continue to work to find a bipartisan solution to reducing the cost of prescription drugs while working to pay off our public debt.

THE PRESIDENT SHOULD PUT DEBT REDUCTION AHEAD OF SPENDING AND AGREE TO REPUBLICAN 90/10 PROPOSAL

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

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, it has been 22 days since the Congress proposed to lock away 100 percent of the social security and Medicare surpluses and dedicate at least 90 percent of the total budget surplus for public debt reduction. It has been 22 days that the Clinton-Gore administration has refused to answer our calls for debt reduction.

There will be an estimated \$268 billion surplus this fiscal year. Our question is simple: Should it be used to pay off the public debt, or should it be spent on ongoing Washington programs?

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Republicans are for using the surplus to pay off the debt. Where do President Clinton and Vice President GORE stand? Our children and grandchildren deserve better than to inherit mountains of debt.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the President and Vice President to put debt reduction ahead of spending and agree to our 90-10 percent proposal.

UNITED STATES MUST DO MORE FOR JUST PEACE IN SIERRA LEONE

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, the war in Sierra Leone has been one of the most barbaric in the world. A rebel group, the RUF, supported by neighboring Liberia, has been conducting the most hideous of violence against civilians in this west African country. They are doing this to steal the Nation's diamond wealth.

Last week, 4-year-old Memunatu Mansaray told us how her and her grandmother were among 300 people who sought refuge in a mosque when rebels attacked the capital. When she cried out, the hiding population was discovered, and all but her were shot dead. She survived because, when it was her turn, a rebel commander told a 12-year-old boy, a boy captured and drugged by the rebels, not to waste a bullet on her, but to cut off her hand. Her right hand was amputated that day when she was just 2 years old.

Fortunately, private Americans have come forth to give her medical attention. But there are thousands of other child victims with nothing. As a matter of fact, there are 20,000 amputees. I believe that those who saw her left with an awareness of why the U.S. must do more to help bring a just peace, a just peace to Sierra Leone. This savagery has to stop.

PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS SHOULD WORK TOGETHER TO ELIMINATE DEBT

(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, it has been 22 days ago since Republicans asked the President and Vice President to join us in dedicating 90 percent of next year's surplus to eliminating the national debt. Even last night, the Vice President said he wanted to reduce the debt. But as of this morning, we have not heard a word from either one of them.