

these existing policies at the same time we work towards global solutions for the impact of global climate change is the key to making our families safe, healthy, and economically secure for more livable communities tomorrow.

THE CHILDREN LEFT BEHIND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express my concerns to the House to consider the children who will be left behind in H.R. 1 and S. 1.

As House and Senate conferees begin meeting to consolidate the House and Senate bills which will reauthorize the elementary and secondary education act, I urge the House to consider the reality that the children living in U.S. insular areas like Guam, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will be left behind in this reauthorization bill.

The President's education plan to "Leave No Child Behind" is woven into the language of H.R. 1 and S. 1, which are our blueprints for elementary and secondary education in this country. While these bills give special attention to the needs of children living in rural areas, the needs of American Indian, native Hawaiian and Alaskan native children, the needs of children with limited English proficiency, the needs of children of military families, it fails to begin addressing the needs of children living in the insular areas.

Although the insular areas have a unique status under Federal law which requires special policies to serve the educational needs of children, there is no Federal educational policy that focuses on the specific and unique needs of insular area school systems.

It is difficult for insular area systems to compete for educational funding distributed by competitive grants because schools lack the personnel needed to prepare grant applications. They are also faced with unique challenges in hiring and retaining qualified administrators and certified school teachers. Insular area educational systems face other challenges such as geographical barriers, high unemployment rates, shrinking economies, aging buildings which are strained by the acceleration of weathering caused by an unforgiving tropical environment, the high cost of importing and providing equipment and supplies, and a host of other limited resources.

As the delegate from Guam to the U.S. House and a lifelong educator, I have always advocated for improvements in the manner in which the Federal Government in its treatment of the insular areas. Gratefully, the insular areas are included in most educational programs, but mostly as afterthoughts. As a result, educators in the insular

areas must follow a patchwork system of funding arrangements varying from State shares to special formulas for outlying areas in order to obtain needed and fair funding of Federal program resources. I am pleased to note that the territories are included in many of the increases, including the President's proposal to increase by \$5 billion reading programs from kindergarten to third grade.

But I am also concerned that H.R. 1 leaves out funding for parental assistance centers. In my home, the Guam sanctuary program has a program called Ayuda Para I Manaina, Help For Parents, which provides services for over 1,000 families on Guam each year. The Senate bill includes funding for this program, but the House does not, and I urge my House colleagues to recede to the Senate.

I have been a longtime advocate for establishing a Federal educational policy for the insular areas that would help bring consistency to their treatment throughout H.R. 1. In the absence of such a policy, I proposed an amendment which would require a Federal policy for the insular areas. Unfortunately, this amendment was struck down along with over 100 other amendments proposed for H.R. 1.

So I stand again before my colleagues today to urge consideration for the special needs of children in the territories. The Federal Government has recognized that special attention must be given to the challenging circumstances of insular area educational systems. Why should our educators be left searching for information in footnotes and obscure reference to find the policies which apply to them? We need to work in concert to level the playing field for all American children wherever they live, whether they live in a State or whether they live in a territory.

I hope my colleagues will join in supporting this proposed amendment to ensure that no American child is left behind in our national educational programs, no matter where they live.

I also would like, Mr. Speaker, to acknowledge the presence of Paulo Madlambayan, who is our congressional art contest winner from Guam. He came the furthest to be with us today with the other congressional art contest winners, along with his Uncle Jesse.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order at 2 p.m.

The Reverend Joseph A. Escobar, Pastor, St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Pawtucket, Rhode Island, offered the following prayer:

Let us remember that we are one Nation under God.

O God, our help, our justice, hear our prayer as we begin this session of the House of Representatives. Enlighten our deliberations by the light of Your law, so that our legislation may reflect Your divine wisdom. May we keep before our eyes the truth that we have been created in Your image, that each man and woman has a dignity which we have been empowered to preserve and to protect.

Help us to see that dignity in each other and in those who have empowered us to serve. May we build a society wherein we can live in a harmony which reflects the harmony in which You created our world. We place our confidence in Your saving help this day and every day, for in You we trust. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

THE REVEREND JOSEPH A. ESCOBAR

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

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Father Joseph Escobar of St. Anthony's Church in Pawtucket, Rhode Island as our guest chaplain.

Established in 1926, St. Anthony's has long served Rhode Island's English and Portuguese-speaking communities.

The large influx of Portuguese immigrants to Rhode Island resulted in the first Portuguese parish in the State, Holy Rosary Parish in 1885. Next was St. Elizabeth's, in Bristol in 1913. It was soon followed by St. Francis Xavier in East Providence in 1915; and St. Anthony's was added in 1926, along with its mission at Little Compton.

Father Escobar will soon be leaving to transition to be the pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Providence, his hometown. Father Escobar was educated in East Providence public

schools before attending Providence College, my alma mater, where he received a BA in mathematics. He completed his seminary studies at the Dominican House of Studies right here in the Washington, D.C. area.

He was soon ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Francis X. Roque in Washington, D.C. on May 20, 1988, and returned to Providence College where he worked towards a Master's Degree in the Religious Studies program.

He served as assistant pastor at St. Pius the Fifth Church in Providence, and St. Elizabeth Church in Bristol, Rhode Island. Father Escobar has been the administrator of St. Anthony's Parish in Pawtucket since 1977. He was incardinated into the diocese of Providence in 2000.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that parishioners of St. Anthony's will miss him as much as his new flock at Our Lady of the Rosary are looking forward to greeting him. It was an honor and privilege to welcome Father Escobar to this United States House of Representatives, and I thank him for his invocation.

PRESIDENT'S DECISION ON VIEQUES WILL BE SHOWN TO BE WISE AND INSIGHTFUL

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

Mr. WICKER. Madam Speaker, please put me down as one of a substantial number of Republicans who applaud the decision of President Bush to discontinue our Naval training on the island of Vieques.

As Secretary England pointed out last week, this decision is the best way to decompress a highly charged situation which was clouding other issues between Puerto Rico and the mainland. The Bush administration has made it clear that, while providing effective training for Naval forces is our first priority, alternative sites already exist and other ranges can and will be found. I hope this can be done before May 2003.

To those who decry the "political" nature of this action, I invite them to go to Puerto Rico, listen to the people and gauge the depth of their intensity and ask this: Does anyone realistically believe it is in our national interest to disregard, year after year, the overwhelming popular will of our United States citizens on Puerto Rico? The President's decision will be shown to be wise and insightful.

CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL AWARDED TO GERMAN COMPANY WITH NAZI ROOTS

(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, first the Air Force buys Chinese boots.

Then the Pentagon buys black berets made in China. To boot, visitors at Quantico get gifts from the Marines made in China.

If that is not enough to spoil your Chinese dinner, digest this, Congress: U.S. bureaucrats awarded a construction contract for the new World War II Memorial to be built on The Mall to a German company with Nazi roots. A German company that built war planes for the Nazis, that helped kill hundreds of thousands of American troops. Unbelievable. What is next, a Nazi memorial on the World War II sites? Beam me up.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the need for Congress to hire a proctologist to train Pentagon procurement officials on the buy American laws.

BRING MONTGOMERY GI BILL INTO 21ST CENTURY

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Madam Speaker, I am so appreciative that the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) points out from time to time the seemingly nonsensical approach that Washington bureaucrats can take to the challenges we confront. How refreshing it is, Madam Speaker, that today on this House floor, we can strike a bipartisan blow for common sense as we bring the GI bill into the 21st century.

Madam Speaker, a decisive bipartisan majority is poised to pass this bill that will increase benefits some 70 percent because we understand to maintain the integrity of our all-volunteer force, we need to have that promise of education.

The former senator from Arizona, Ernest McFarland, is part of this tradition, in the post World War II days; and our former colleague and former chairman of the Committee on Veterans Affairs, Sonny Montgomery of Mississippi, also striking a blow; along with the dean of our delegation, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP). We thank them for this commonsense legislation.

Madam Speaker, I would hope that the temptation to engage in petty politics would be put aside for this sound piece of legislation this afternoon.

JAMES SMITH WINS CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION FOR FIFTH DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE

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

Mr. CLEMENT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor James Smith, winner of the Congressional Art Competition for the Fifth Congressional District of Tennessee. James is a recent graduate of my alma mater, Hillsboro High School in Nashville, with his award-winning photograph entitled "Angels Come From Istanbul."

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to look at James' photograph, along with all of the other winning artwork that will be on display for the next year. It is important that we honor our artists for various reasons. By providing others with their art, artists contribute to an educational process that not only gives us an alternative form of communication, but also invokes thought and stimulates one's analytical skills.

Furthermore, artists are inventive and perceptive people who learn to express themselves in powerful, positive ways. For these reasons and countless more, I rise to congratulate and honor Mr. James Smith.

IRS RECORDS SHOW 340,000 FEDERAL EMPLOYEES OR FEDERAL RETIREES HAVE FAILED TO PAY THEIR TAXES

(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, the Scripps Howard News Service reported Sunday that IRS records show 340,000 Federal employees or Federal retirees have failed to pay their income taxes. 340,000, including, get this, almost 3,000 IRS employees. This information came from a report prepared by the government's own General Accounting Office.

Already we know from news reports that almost half of the tax advice that the IRS itself gives out is wrong. Now we discover from this GAO report that while the IRS comes after private citizens, it cannot clean its own house. Almost 3,000 IRS employees not paying their own taxes is scandalous. Federal ethics laws require Federal employees to pay their taxes as a condition of employment. These 3,000 IRS employees who have not paid their taxes should be ordered to pay immediately, or they should be fired.

But the best thing, Madam Speaker, we could do would be to tear up or burn the confusing, convoluted Tax Code we now have, come up with a new, simple system and do away with the IRS monster as we know it today.

HOUSE NEEDS TO ENSURE VETERANS GET WHAT THEY DESERVE

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

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, today I rise because we have a major bill before us, H.R. 1291, that will talk about the Montgomery GI bill; but I want to take this opportunity to discuss the process.

Madam Speaker, I am concerned that as people learn about the political process and how it is supposed to operate, here is a bill on the House floor today that is very important, yet it