

Let us just say that the rain forests are valuable and let us save them.

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ROHRABACHER. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say that the number of facts that are out there dealing with carbon dioxide, methane, and a number of other greenhouse gases show that in the last 50 years the dramatic increase in those gases are evidence that human activity is causing the climate to warm.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, let me say that means one would clear-cut all of the jungles to get rid of the CO₂ buildup if that was true.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK).

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2131. I would like to particularly thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) for his strong leadership on this issue. He is one of our environmental leaders here in the Congress, and I salute him.

I also want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) for bringing this legislation to the floor and thank Tim Miller from the staff of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) for his work.

Under President Bush's 1990 Enterprise for the Americas Initiative Act, the United States sponsored many debt-for-nature swap programs. The Tropical Forest Conservation Act, based on this idea, was first introduced by the gentleman from Ohio in 1997 with bipartisan support and was signed into law in 1998.

As a congressional staffer, I had the honor to work on that legislation and help him achieve that goal. I am pleased to support this bill which continues in that tradition.

Bangladesh is the first country which benefited from this program. Because Bangladesh has been able to restructure its debt, it was able to create a national forest fund of almost \$9 million, which went to protecting the Mangrove Swap area, home to over 500 wild tigers. Currently, there are 11 nations on three continents interested in considering debt forgiveness under this program, including places like Belize and El Salvador.

I think the United States has an important national interest in supporting the protection of the world's natural resources, including tropical forests. Tropical forests are home to half of all known plants and animals. We are losing an area equal to a football field a minute, and this must stop.

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) is our leader on this issue

and built on the work of the previous Bush and Clinton administrations. Later this year, the Congress will consider legislation building on this model to protect coral reefs. Coral reefs are home to most aquatic plants and animals. Many reefs are disappearing, and most of them are in developing countries.

I salute the leaders on this issue, commend the gentleman for this legislation, and urge the House adoption of this bill.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Tropical Forest Conservation Act Reauthorization. This bill extends the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998, which passed in this body and was signed into law by President Clinton. Today's legislation allows the U.S. Agency for International Development to relieve some of the foreign debt owed to the United States. In return, participating nations agree to establish trust funds to protect local tropical rainforests and other environmentally sensitive areas. This bill authorizes \$225 million to be spent over the next three fiscal years to pay for this important conservation program and for the cost of debt forgiveness.

This innovative tool, the so-called "debt for nature swap", helps countries with undeveloped natural resources reduce their foreign debts by buying it back and agreeing to spend a portion of the proceeds on conservation projects. This is especially vital because tropical forests contain half of the world's known species of plants and animals. They contain a diversity of organic materials that could lead to the development of life-saving new medicines and tropical forests help slow global climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide. Increasingly, however, these fragile forests are succumbing to logging, roadbuilding and development. Since 1950, half of the world's tropical forests have disappeared and they are disappearing at a rate of 30 million acres each year. The countries that carry the heaviest debt contribute significantly to this loss because they extract valuable natural resources in order to generate needed revenue.

A recent report in the Journal of Science highlights the problems affecting Brazil's tropical forests. The report states that the rapid growth of Brazil's population is leading to the equally rapid expansion of railroads, pipelines and highways into the delicate Amazon forest areas. The devastation of the Brazilian rainforest will take place in only 20 years because of a \$40 billion project to encourage development.

In tropical countries throughout the world, the deterioration of the rainforest will have dramatic and devastating effects on wildlife habitat, genetic diversity, the quality of watersheds and the global climate. The United States, because of our role as an economic leader, should promote creative solutions such as the one contained in this bill.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, at this time I want to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) for reminding us of tragedy of the rapidly disappearing tropical forests, and the importance of protecting the world's most diverse ecosystems.

Tropical forests contain approximately half of the world's species of plants and animals. Unfortunately, over half of the tropical forests on Earth have disappeared, and, with more

than 30 million acres which are lost each year, the destruction of these volatile ecosystems continues.

The majority of those forests are located in developing nations that are plagued by poverty and extensive debt burdens. The Tropical Forests Conservation Act offers up to \$325 million in debt relief to developing nations in exchange for the sustained protection of threatened tropical forests. These conditions also include the creation of a favorable climate for private sector investment, cooperation on narcotics measures, on state-sponsored terrorism, and a democratically elected government.

This bill enjoys wide bipartisan support, support from the administration, and from various environmental groups. I urge support for this bill, and, once again, commend the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) for introducing legislation to extend this important environmental program.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2131, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read:

"A bill to reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 through fiscal year 2004, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AMENDMENT PROCESS FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2360, CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM AND CITIZEN PARTICIPATION ACT OF 2001, AND H.R. 2356, BIPARTISAN CAMPAIGN REFORM ACT OF 2001

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Rules is planning to meet this week to grant a rule which may limit the amendment process on campaign finance reform legislation. Let me say that I and Members of the Committee on Rules and our staff have been working very closely with the key authors of this very important legislation, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MEEHAN). And we have the distinguished chairman of the House Committee on House Administration, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY), here, and we have been working with him on that.

I would like to say that the Committee on House Administration, as we all know, reported H.R. 2360, the Campaign Finance Reform Citizen Participation Act of 2001, as well as H.R. 2356, the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2001 on June 28; and the reports are expected to be filed later this afternoon.

While we have made no final decision on which version will actually end up

being the base text for further amendment, I would like to ask Members to draft their amendments to both bills, both the Shays-Meehan bill and the Ney legislation as they were introduced in the House.

Members must submit 55 copies of each amendment and one copy of a very brief explanation of each amendment to the Committee on Rules in room H-313 no later than 8 p.m. today. So they have until this evening, Tuesday, June 10.

Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure that their amendments are properly drafted and should check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain that their amendments comply with the Rules of the House.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to run upstairs to see if there are any amendments that have been filed.

AUTHORIZING ROTUNDA OF CAPITOL TO BE USED FOR A CEREMONY TO PRESENT CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS TO THE ORIGINAL 29 NAVAJO CODE TALKERS

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 174) authorizing the Rotunda of the Capitol to be used on July 26, 2001, for a ceremony to present Congressional Gold Medals to the original 29 Navajo Code Talkers.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 174

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Rotunda of the Capitol is authorized to be used on July 26, 2001, for a ceremony to present Congressional Gold Medals to the original 29 Navajo Code Talkers. Physical preparations for the ceremony shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as the Architect of the Capitol may prescribe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY).

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

Mr. Speaker, during the Second World War, the United States Government called upon 29 Navajo men from the Navajo Nation to support the military effort by serving as Marine Corps radio operators. The actual number of enlistees later increased to over 350.

The Japanese had deciphered the military code developed by the United States for transmitting messages and the Navajo Marine Corps radio operators, who became known as the Navajo Code Talkers, developed a new code using their language to communicate military messages in the Pacific.

Throughout its extensive use, the code developed by these Native Americans proved unbreakable. The Navajos were people who had been discouraged from using their own language. Ulti-

mately, the code they developed using the same language would be credited with saving the lives of many American soldiers and several successful United States military engagements during World War II. It is an extreme honor to bring this legislation to the floor today authorizing a ceremony to be held in the Capitol Rotunda presenting Congressional Gold Medals to the original 29 Navajo Code Talkers. Their contribution to this Nation proved immeasurable.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. NEY. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I would simply like to congratulate the gentleman on his statement and say that we look anxiously towards that program which will be held later this month.

I, last week, had the opportunity to meet with some people at MGM, and the motion picture which is going to be coming out on the work of the Navajo Code Talkers should be fascinating. I have the trailer upstairs. I have not seen it yet, but I know from the early reports we have seen that it will be a wonderful presentation of the work of these courageous people and the role that they played during the Second World War.

I would like to strongly support the effort that is being led by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY), and it looks to me as if the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) is also working on this. I believe that it should be a great motion picture and a wonderful ceremony here, and I thank my friend for the leadership role he has played on this.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman of the Committee on Rules, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), for his support on this important measure.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me begin by thanking the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for their efforts in bringing House Concurrent Resolution 174 to the floor today.

I introduced H. Con. Res. 174 on June 26, 2001, to authorize the Rotunda of the Capitol to be used on July 26, 2001, for a ceremony to present Congressional Gold Medals to the original 29 Navajo Code Talkers. This legislation will bring us one step closer to making the special and long overdue ceremony a reality.

I would also like to thank the 14 Members on both sides of the aisle who joined as original cosponsors to this measure.

During the 106th Congress, Senator JEFF BINGAMAN introduced legislation

to honor the Navajo Code Talkers who played a pivotal role in World War II. I introduced the companion measure so that both Chambers could support these original 29 heroic men with the Congressional Gold Medal. In addition, a Silver Medal will be presented to the other Navajo Code Talkers who later followed the original 29.

Thanks to Senator BINGAMAN's efforts, language was included in the last year omnibus bill to honor these men. This was an effort that I and many of my colleagues supported in the House. These Code Talkers will soon receive their long overdue recognition for their service and the honor they brought to our country and to their people. This is a historic moment for the Navajo Nation and for all World War II veterans.

The medals that the President will present to these 29 men on behalf of Congress will express our appreciation for their dedication and service as Navajo Code Talkers. Of the 29 original Navajo Code Talkers, 5 are still alive today. They are John Brown, Jr., of Navajo, New Mexico; Chester Nez of Albuquerque, New Mexico; Allen Dale June of West Valley City, Utah; Lloyd Oliver of Phoenix, Arizona; and Joe Palmer of Yuma, Arizona.

Mr. Speaker, during World War II, the Navajo Code Talkers took part in many assaults conducted by the U.S. Marines in the Pacific. In May 1942, the original 29 Navajo recruits attended Marine Boot Camp and worked to create the Navajo Code. The Navajo Code Talkers created messages by first translating Navajo words into English and then using the first letter of each English word to decipher their meaning. Because different Navajo words might be translated into different English words for the same letter, the code was especially difficult to decipher.

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The use of Native American languages in coded military communications was not new to World War II. Choctaw Indians, for example, served as Code Talkers in World War I. The idea of using Navajo as code in World War II came from a veteran of World War I, Phillip Johnston. Johnston knew of the military's search for a code that would withstand all attempts to decipher it. He was also the son of a missionary, raised on the Navajo Indian Reservation, spoke fluent Navajo, and believed that the Navajo language was the answer to the military requirement for an indecipherable code, given that it was an unwritten language of extreme complexity.

The Navajo Code Talkers served in all six Marine divisions, Marine Raider battalions and Marine parachute units. They transmitted messages by telephone and radio in a code derived from their Native language, a code, I may add, that was never broken by the Japanese. The Navajo code remained so valuable that the Department of Defense kept the code secret for 23 years