

Only help build our strength to the highest peak
No one can ever put us to defeat
For America's heart will always continue to beat.
I am privileged to represent the Szewczuk family in the United States Congress.

THE RURAL PROBLEM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, in 1908, President Roosevelt charged the Country Life Commission with the task of solving the "rural problem." He identified this problem as the fact that the social and economic institutions of this country are not keeping pace with the Nation as a whole.

□ 1245

Uttered almost 100 years ago, those words just as easily describe our situation in America today.

Many people are aware that there is indeed a farm crisis plaguing rural America. However, this crisis does not stop at the farm. Consider the crumbling infrastructure, lack of educational and employment opportunities, out-migration of our youth, inadequate health care facilities, and a growing digital divide. These are just a few of the struggles our rural communities must overcome.

Consider the following sobering statistics: of the 250 poorest counties in America, 244 are rural; 28 percent of the housing stock in rural America is considered physically deficient; rural workers are almost twice as likely to earn the minimum wage than their urban counterparts; 12 percent of rural workers earn the minimum wage, whereas only 7 percent of the urban workers earn the same. Because of this, the face of poverty in rural America is a working family. Two-thirds of the rural poor live in a family where at least one member is working.

These are serious problems that require our attention. In the light of these and other difficulties, it is not surprising that we are witnessing a great hollowing out in rural areas. Consider the recent statistics. The census says that people are leaving in large numbers from rural America. The growing gap between rural and urban America threatens to turn this into an irreversible gulf. We must take steps to close this gap before it is too late.

Tomorrow, I will join with my colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PETERSON), to offer an amendment to the farm bill that will seek to provide rural America with additional resources to address these pressing problems. The amendment will increase critical funding to three important areas.

First, it will provide almost \$50 million annually for drinking water and

wastewater facility infrastructure grants for small towns and rural areas. In a recent survey of its members, the National Association of Counties, which has endorsed this amendment, found that water infrastructure needs was the number one concern of its counties nationwide.

Rural and small non-metropolitan areas face particular needs and challenges in meeting their drinking and wastewater infrastructure needs. Water systems located in communities with less than 10,000 residents account for 94 percent of community water systems in this country. Many of them with low tax bases. The Environmental Protection Agency reported in 1997 that small communities, serving less than 3,300 residents, are in need of \$37.2 billion through the year 2014 just to keep up with the current challenges. A sound infrastructure is a prerequisite for both quality of life and for economic development. We must not allow a disproportionate amount of infrastructure dollars to flow simply to urban areas.

Second, this amendment will provide almost \$50 million annually to provide rural areas with strategic regional planning and implementation grants. Unlike our urban areas, rural communities often do not have the capacity to inventory their assets and to plan for their collective future. Just as our urban communities require careful planning, strategies and long-term thinking, so do our rural communities.

This important funding would enable rural communities to join together across county lines to have a marketing area where they could be competitive across jurisdictions so they can work together for the good of rural residents throughout the region. We must not consign our rural communities to a slow disappearance by doing nothing. We must help them increase their own capacity and draw upon their natural assets and to develop their future collectively.

Finally, this amendment provides \$10 million per year for value-added agricultural development grants. If our agricultural producers are to innovate and survive, we must enable them to capture more of the profit in their own communities.

This amendment does not add new policy to the farm bill as passed out of the committee or change current policy in the bill. It simply seeks to build upon the work that the committee has already done by increasing resources available to the areas that the chairman and the ranking member of the committee have determined appropriate.

I am aware that some will say that I am taking away from farmers, but I submit to my colleagues that rural communities include farmers, their families, their neighbors, and communities. So I urge my colleagues to consider this rural amendment to the farm bill.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 51 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 by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, source of life and constant guide to Your people, yesterday Members of this House stood at ground zero in New York City. Their stunned silence grieved the loss of over 5,000 lives; and hopefully, brief words of encouragement helped so many workers remove the dreadful consequences of evil which tried to crush the ordinary work-a-day world of America.

With Your power to save, strengthen this Congress and Your people across this Nation that we may realistically embrace both the loss and the mighty task of the future.

Throughout the history of New York and this Nation, You have blessed us, Lord, time and time again.

Whereas evil has no imagination and feeds only on itself, Your blessings of goodness spiral into a dynamic of creativity and help us to see signs of hope born of pain and standing in the midst of suffering.

May the vacuous space left by the World Trade Center open the minds and hearts of peoples of the world to deeper compassion and a new level of human understanding.

Already in the smoking crater of death, we witnessed apostles of self-sacrifice and dedicated service: police, firefighters, FEMA workers, public officials, and volunteers.

From the dust and twisted steel of Ground Zero, may the twin towers of liberty and unity lift all of us to a new dedication to perform our daily tasks well as true believers and builders on Your blessings, both now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HINOJOSA 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.

PRIVATE CALENDAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is Private Calendar day. The Clerk will call the bill on the Private Calendar.

NANCY B. WILSON

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 392) for the relief of Nancy B. Wilson.

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be passed over without prejudice.

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the Speaker signed the following enrolled bill on Monday, October 1, 2001:

H.R. 2510, to extend the expiration date of the Defense Production Act of 1950, and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING AMENDMENT PROCESS FOR H.R. 2883, INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION, FISCAL YEAR 2002

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

Mr. GOSS. Madam Speaker, last night a Dear Colleague was sent to all Members informing them that the Committee on Rules may meet later this week to grant a rule for the consideration of H.R. 2883, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002.

This letter stated that the committee amendment, including the classified annex, is now available for Members to review on request to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. The committee report was filed last Wednesday, September 26.

In order to have an informed debate, I invite and encourage Members to come to H-405 in the Capitol and review the classified annex and allow committee staff to explain the provisions or answer any questions they may have about the bill. This opportunity is offered to any Member of the House. It does not include staff. Members will be asked to sign the customary non-disclosure agreement prior to access to the classified annex. That is routine. Members may call Mr. Bill McFarland, the committee's director of security if they are so inclined.

The Committee on Rules may grant a rule which would require that amendments be preprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. In this case, amend-

ments must be preprinted prior to their consideration on the floor. Amendments should be drafted to the version of the bill reported by the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. This is the normal process that has been followed in previous years.

Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure 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.

Given my expectation that H.R. 2883 will reach the floor later this week, I urge any Members who plan to file amendments to do so at their earliest opportunity.

NORTH KOREAN ATROCITIES

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak of the suffering people of North Korea. I am sending each of my colleagues in the House a copy of the most recent Life and Human Rights in North Korea publication, published by the Citizens Alliance for North Korean Human Rights. I urge Members to read this publication, which includes eyewitness accounts of the horrifying torture inside North Korean prison camps and reports by the United Nations.

Many North Korean's understandably attempt to flee, but some of them are captured. For women, especially those who have been trafficked into China as sex slaves or domestic servants, a return to North Korea is especially difficult.

For example, North Korean women who have dyed their hair or worn earrings undergo painful punishment. Their heads are pounded against the wall; earrings wrenched with pliers from their ears. They said afterwards, after the beatings, starving, and forced labor, they are hard to recognize.

In addition, the reports state that "North Korea not only conducts terrorist operations, but operates warfare training facilities to train international terrorists and other revolutionaries around the world."

Madam Speaker, the North Korean people must be helped. I urge all Members to take a good look at this book and do whatever they can for the population of North Korea.

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY WATER RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2001

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

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, the people in the Rio Grande Valley of South Texas are facing what looks to

be one of the worst drought years of all time. After 6 years of record low rainfall levels this summer, for the first time in recorded history, the once mighty Rio Grande River stopped flowing completely before it reached the Gulf of Mexico. The region's two reservoirs are currently at less than one-third of capacity, with no relief in sight.

Today, several of my South Texas colleagues and I have introduced the Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Resources Conservation and Improvement Act of 2001. Our legislation will help provide badly needed water relief to the farmers, ranchers, and communities of South Texas. This legislation incorporates modern technologies into our water management system to conserve and maximize our limited water resources.

Much remains to be done. However, the legislation that we are introducing today will provide a valuable first step; and I hope that all my colleagues will join me in supporting it.

REVITALIZING THE TOURISM ECONOMY

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, since the evil terrorist act of September 11, thousands of Nevadans have been laid off; and they now face an uncertain future, just as other Americans employed in the tourism industry do. Like many tourist destinations, visitors to Las Vegas, Reno, Lake Tahoe, and other Nevada destinations depend heavily upon convenient and safe airline travel.

The administration has gone to great lengths to ensure that airline travel today is safer than ever before, and this Congress has provided over \$15 billion in emergency funds to the airline industry. Yet, our tourism economy continues to suffer. I believe that this downturn is temporary; and for the first time since the terrorist attacks, now many hotels are beginning to report more reservations than they are cancellations.

Madam Speaker, supporting our tourism industry is a crucial component of our national well-being, just as is our war against terrorism. We cannot allow terrorists to scare the American public into staying home.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the elected officials who, like myself, have been traveling our Nation's airways. I hope that the American public will follow our example and return to the skies and to the fun and entertaining vacation sites in Nevada and across the United States.

GENERAL SHELTON CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

(Mr. ETHERIDGE asked and was given permission to address the House