

It does make a difference. We have to have clean water, and this legislation hopefully will move quickly.

It is being sponsored and introduced in the Senate today by Senators Torricelli and Corzine from New Jersey, and hopefully we will get a lot more support for it and we can move it quickly so that it becomes law.

REPORT ON H.R. 5093, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2003

Mr. KOLBE, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 107-564) on the bill (H.R. 5093) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2003, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1 of rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

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.)

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

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

RESOLUTION OF CONFLICT BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND ERITREA

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

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to discuss an important issue in the Horn of Africa, a final and binding resolution of the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

The Horn of Africa is one of the poorest regions in the world but also one of the most strategic. It is a region plagued by years of war and conflict, some of which were caused by colonial legacies, the Cold War, and border disputes, but now with the help of the international community, the nations of Eritrea and Ethiopia sit at the cusp of permanently breaking a cycle of conflict.

One of my top priorities when I came to this House was to help end conflict on the continent of Africa by serving as a member on the Subcommittee on Africa. There have been many wars in Africa. Some were just wars where African peoples fought to overthrow the yokes of colonialism and systems of

racism. However, other wars in Africa fall into the category of unjust or senseless wars.

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In the category of senseless wars in Africa, very few would top the 2-year border war between Eritrea and Ethiopia, two former brothers-in-arms who once fought together for over 30 years against dictatorships and for the right to self-determination.

The conflict that erupted in 1998 between the two countries was the result of a dispute over land in a barren, roadless area of shrubs and desert, and subsequent claims of military incursions. Two years of fighting left tens of thousands of people dead and more than a million refugees on both sides of the border displaced. What made this war even more destructive was that these nations, two of the poorest nations in the world and dependent upon foreign aid, were able to spend \$3 billion to purchase weapons to wage this war.

Mr. Speaker, during the war, I always kept my doors open to officials from both nations. The only side I ever chose during the conflict was to stand on the side of all Ethiopians and all Eritreans who were committed to peace and who opposed the voices of militarism on either side.

On December 12, 2000, the two countries signed a United Nations-backed peace treaty, resulting in the end of hostilities and the creation of an independent commission to study and demarcate the disputed border area. According to the treaty, the border demarcation by the Hague Commission was to be final and binding. At the time, both countries stated their commitment to peace by vowing to fully implement the commission's ruling no matter what the outcome.

Mr. Speaker, on April 13 of this year, the Hague Commission released its decision on the demarcation of the Eritrean and Ethiopian border. Their decision reiterated the senselessness of the war by leaving the border substantially unaltered. Hence, what was this war about? Why did thousands of Ethiopians and Eritrean men and women have to die to resolve a border dispute?

Following the decision by the Hague Commission on May 13, 2002, the Ethiopian Government requested an interpretation of the commission's decision and order to implement the border demarcation process. While the original peace agreement gave no room for appeals by either party, the Hague Commission decided to accept the request by Ethiopia and pledged to provide a response within 30 days. This is why I wanted to speak on this issue today.

On June 24, the Hague Commission released its clarification report in response to Ethiopia's request. While the commission reviewed each of the points in Ethiopia's clarification request, it concluded by saying, "The Ethiopian request for clarification and interpretation appears to be founded on

a misapprehension regarding the scope and effect of the Boundary Commission's Rules of Procedure. The commission does not find in any of the items that appear in section 2, 3 or 4 of the Ethiopian request anything that identifies an uncertainty in the commission's decision that could be resolved by interpretation at this time. Accordingly, the commission concludes that the Ethiopian request is inadmissible and no further action will be taken upon it."

With this decision, it is high time for a newly created African Union, the United States, and the entire international community to emphasize the following points to the leaders of both Eritrea and Ethiopia:

One, that the Hague Commission's decision and reply to Ethiopia's clarification request must be adopted by both parties as the final decision, once and for all; that both countries must abide by the Hague Commission's ruling, and the international community should offer support to both nations to fully implement the decision.

Two, both societies should learn the lessons of the history of this war so that its causes are not repeated in the future. Conflicts over boundaries using extreme forms of nationalism or ethnic exaggerations are senseless struggles.

Finally, I would like to urge the leaders of both nations to have the courage to place the will of their citizens over the interests of their power and outdated ideas about security.

Neither society won anything from the war and both sides lost. Previous progress was set back and both Ethiopia and Eritrea wasted human and financial resources. The only winners in unjust wars, are international arms sellers and traders.

I am confident that the peoples of both nations are tired of war. It is up to the leadership of both nations to serve the will of their citizens and demonstrate the vision to chart an irreversible course towards a permanent peace. I would like to challenge the leaders of both nations to understand that real power comes from leading a strong and prosperous society in a nation that is respected and able to assume its rightful place and responsibilities in the global community.

More importantly, real security and sustainable processes of peace are not attainable simply by having defined borders and territorial integrity. In this era of globalization, well defined borders and territorial integrity do not and can not always guarantee security.

Yes borders and territorial integrity are important, but they can't prevent instability and insecurity in any nation whose citizens face poverty, health crises and other forms of violence. Real security for any nation or society in the 21st century is linked to the degree of the political, social and economic conditions, rights, and opportunities of its citizens.

So I say to the Governments of Ethiopia and Eritrea: Accept the principle contained in OAU's framework for peace agreement which calls for both sides to: "Reject the use of force as a means of proposing solutions to disputes." Recognize that it is in your national security interests to accept the ruling as final and binding. Recognize that it is in your national strategic interests to put a senseless

war behind you once and for all, because you have real wars to wage.

A war against poverty and HIV-AIDS which demand that both governments shift the focus of your energies and your scarce resources to not only to rebuild your economies to help those hurt most by the war, your citizens. But to also face the challenges of transforming the public and private institutions and structures in the economy for the development of your societies in the 21st century.

These are the wars which must be waged if the vision of a strong and vibrant African Union is going to be realized. An African Union which needs the Horn of Africa to be stable. I will work in this Congress to support new forms of broad based US engagement with both nations, as long as both nations demonstrate their commitment to fighting for peace, development, health care, education and democracy.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The Chair announces that at 2 p.m. we will cut off 5-minute special orders, and so we will expeditiously move forward.

HIV-AIDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the brutality of the corporate scandal that has occurred here in this Nation is one that clearly we should all be concerned about. But the idea of ignoring the crisis of HIV-AIDS should be one that we abhor.

When I refer to the tragedy of the corporate scandal here in the United States, it is to the loss that so many have suffered and so many millions and billions of dollars that have been lost. It is my belief that those billions of dollars could be vitally used for the tragedy of what is going on in HIV-AIDS.

It is important to note that the World Conference on AIDS has said progress has been made. But in addition to progress being made, we also find that there is much work to be done, particularly as it relates to the infection of HIV-AIDS, to the issues dealing with immune systems and the kinds of infections that are now becoming immune to the various drugs that are being utilized, the lack of monies for developing nations, the lack of dollars for helping with the mother-to-child infection transmission. We have found that where you have the circumstance of mother-to-child transmission and you have intervention, you will find that it works to save lives.

The increase of HIV-infected persons is enormous. The increase in countries like India and Bangladesh and China is enormous. The number of HIV-infected people who do not know that they are infected is enormous. The key thing we must do is to be able to find a way to address this question.

The Millennium Project has been announced. There has been a request for \$1 billion. There has been an additional request for \$2 billion. Mr. Speaker, let me suggest that that is not enough. We are being tortured in this country by our own increase in HIV-AIDS, particularly among African American women, and I believe it is important for us to be able to focus our concern on many issues.

Corporate accountability is particularly important, as is corporate responsibility. Accountability is particularly important. So, too, are the concerns regarding HIV-AIDS infection, as has been indicated by the World Conference on AIDS.

I am delighted to have this opportunity to address the House on this very important issue because we cannot forget. As we parallel our track on the issues of corporate accountability and recognizing the billions of dollars that have been lost in insider trading and the need to provide security for our own employees with pension reform and protections as relates to bankruptcy issues, we cannot afford to lose sight of the devastation of HIV-AIDS.

I am looking forward to working on the increase in funds coming from this House and this body, and the President signing legislation to intervene internationally on the tremendous costs of HIV-AIDS. We lose people, we lose the ability for nations to thrive and grow, we undermine their economy, and they simply cannot thrive. They cannot feed the malnourished, they cannot provide affordable housing, and they cannot provide education because large percentages of their budget are taken up with issues such as HIV-AIDS.

We need to do proactive things, and one of them is to increase the relief or the forgiving of the debt that our Third World developing nations have so they can use those resources to provide health care for those in need. South Africa has been a leader, Zimbabwe; Zambia has been a leader, and now it is important that we find our way to emphasize HIV-AIDS intervention and protection thereof.

This is an important issue. It is important for this Nation, and I cannot leave, Mr. Speaker, without acknowledging that each is our brother's keeper. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, and as we need to help those in this country, we must help those who are seeking our aid in fighting HIV-AIDS and the intervention of such.

FARM SUBSIDIES

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, today the Committee on Appropriations marked up and passed out the agricultural appropriations bill. That will be on the House floor next week.

In that effort this morning, there was an attempt to put language into that appropriations bill that would have the effect of having limits on the payments that go out to some of the very, very, big, big farmers. That amendment was squelched. A tremendous amount of pressure.

In the House, where we attempted to instruct conferees when the farm bill went through, that vote was overwhelming in giving the will of this House, this body, that we should have some kind of payment limits for farmers on farm price supports.

Let me just briefly, Mr. Speaker, explain the problem. We sort of hoodwink a lot of the American people by saying there are limits on what a farmer can receive. Not so. Because there is a loophole in the law. It is called generic certificates. After a farmer reaches the \$75,000 limit that is allocated in the bill as a limit, from that point on there is a gimmick called generic certificates, that the government will sell the farmer the generic certificate to pay for the commodity. The farmer ends up getting the same kind of benefit as what is limited under the \$75,000 limitation.

I would call to my colleagues' attention that next week we are trying to get language in the agricultural appropriations bill that will have some kind of a limit. So some of the farmers that are huge, that are big, are not getting million dollar payments that put the smaller farmer at a very distinct disadvantage, and that is good policy.

We should not have programs that wipe the small farmer out, and that is what is happening. Because the farm program is capitalized on land values, land values have gone up because of this last farm bill, and that means that it is harder for a small farmer to survive.

Let me just ask my colleagues to seriously look at this issue in the next several days and consider the amendment that we intend to offer on the floor.

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. I yield to the gentleman from California.

VIDEO GAME BILL

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, while our Nation is defending ourselves from attacks from abroad, we are facing another battle here at home. We are in a battle for the hearts and the minds and souls of our children. We must address the cultural issues that are influencing the behavior of our children.

They are being drowned by the flood of sex and violence from the video game industry. When four out of five kids walk into the neighborhood stores and buy video games that show people having sex with prostitutes, killing police officers, using drugs, and attacking our senior citizens, it is time to take action. These games are brainwashing our children. They teach them the skills and the will to kill.

I am a parent, a grandparent, and I have had enough of violence that we