

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

are experiencing amongst our youth. From Columbine, from Texas, to Germany we have seen the tragic consequences of youth violence.

The video game industry is a \$9 billion industry. But it is not about money, it is about our children. As an adult, you can shoot a gun, you can drink a beer, you can smoke a cigar. But if you are giving these substances to a child, you are a criminal. When it comes to video games with violent or sexual content, the same should be true.

The pornography industry, the gun industry, the tobacco industry, and the alcohol industry all accept regulations on their products when it comes to kids. And so must the video industry do the same.

We, as parents, need to take responsibility for our children. We have to monitor where and what they are learning and the type of behavior. We are the first and last line of defense. But stores also have a responsibility. Parents cannot be undermined by stores that are only looking to make a profit.

□ 1400

Nine out of 10 parents want the stores to prevent our children from buying these games. The fact is that these stores are not enforcing their own policies. When stores have to decide whether to sell a game or make it quick, they do not enforce the policies. That is why, Mr. Speaker, I have introduced H.R. 4645, the Protect Children from Video Game Sex and Violence Act.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1643

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida) at 4 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, on roll-calls 288 and 291, I inadvertently voted "no" when I intended and should have voted "yes."

THE 14TH INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE FOR KNOWLEDGE AND COMMITMENT TO ACTION

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

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, this weekend in Barcelona, Spain, 15,000 people came

together for the 14th International AIDS Conference for Knowledge and Commitment for Action.

I had the privilege to participate in this very important conference and can say with certainty that while Congress and the administration are waking up to the desperate call of millions of individuals living with HIV and AIDS, and those yet to be born to this scourge, we are still not doing enough.

Let me bring the Members up to date on this global pandemic. In 2001, there were 5 million new AIDS infections across the globe. Today there are 40 million people living with AIDS worldwide, and there are 14 million AIDS orphans.

In the United States, 950,000 have been diagnosed with AIDS. African Americans make up only 13 percent of the total United States population, but 54 percent of new infections and 82 percent of women who are newly infected with HIV are African American and Hispanic.

In my district in Oakland, California, we declared a state of emergency in order to focus attention on this tragic, tragic crisis. The latest statistics indicate that the number of new infections is slowing in Alameda County; yet we must do more.

□ 1645

AIDS is a disease that affects the entire human family. It has impacted every corner of the Earth. Therefore, we must discuss this problem in a global context. We must address prevention, treatment, vaccines, access, and funding in a comprehensive fashion.

At the conference, I heard repeated over and over again that while developing a vaccine we must help developing countries develop the required health care delivery systems and infrastructure to ensure equal access. We cannot repeat the pattern we have seen on the African continent where access to anti-retroviral drugs and AIDS treatment are far from equal. Currently in Africa more than 28 million people are living with HIV and AIDS. However, only 30,000 are in treatment. In comparison to the United States, nearly 100 percent of people who are infected are in treatment and they need it and they receive it.

At the conference we again engaged the ongoing debate over prevention versus treatment. Most concluded, and rightfully so, that it must not be an either/or dilemma. Working to prevent the mother-to-child transmission must not exclude keeping the mother, father and child alive. Once again, there is no way we should buy into an either/or strategy.

While I am pleased that President Bush has acknowledged the need for drugs to reduce mother-to-child transmissions, that is only one component of what should be a multifaceted approach to tackling this pandemic. In Barcelona at a remarkable AIDS march for life, thousands came together to call for treatment now and presented

the Barcelona Declaration, which was read into the opening session of the conference.

This declaration called for securing donations of \$10 billion per year for global AIDS; antiretroviral treatment for at least 2 million people with HIV/AIDS in the developing world by 2004; lower affordable drug prices and universal access to generics in the developing world; and a new global partnership between government and NGOs.

Mr. Speaker, the entire Barcelona Declaration is as follows:

BARCELONA DECLARATION

\$10 BILLION FOR AIDS TREATMENT

2 MILLION PEOPLE WORLDWIDE IN TREATMENT BY 2004

Whereas every single day AIDS claims 8,500 lives, or the equivalent of three World Trade Center disasters daily;

Whereas by December 2001, 40 million people were living with HIV/AIDS, and by 2005 an estimated 100 million will be infected;

Whereas more than 40 million children—most of them in developing nations—will be orphaned by AIDS by 2010;

Whereas the World Health Organization this year has stated that anti-retroviral treatment is medically essential and has issued specific treatment guidelines, monitoring standards and regimen recommendations;

Whereas those on treatment represent less than 2% of all those infected with HIV because such treatment is almost completely unavailable in developing nations;

Whereas over 500 non-governmental organizations globally have endorsed the Barcelona March for Life, which demands treatment access to at least 2 million individuals in the developing world by the time of the 2004 International Conference on AIDS in Bangkok;

Whereas these organizations represent AIDS activists from Africa, Asia and the Pacific Islands, Australia, Europe, Central and South America, and North America

Therefore, we declare as activists pledged to life for all persons with HIV/AIDS that we are committed to the following goals:

1. Securing donation of \$10 billion dollars per year for global AIDS;

2. Antiretroviral (ARV) treatment for at least two million people with HIV/AIDS in the developing world by the 2004 Bangkok AIDS conference;

3. Lower, affordable ARV drug prices in the developed world and universal access to generics in the developing world by Bangkok, 2004; and

4. A new global partnership between government and NGOs recognizing the primary role of NGOs in the global fight against AIDS.

We call on the delegates of the Barcelona International AIDS Conference to pledge themselves to these goals.

Now, I must mention a very disappointing turn of events leading up to the Barcelona conference. Many African delegates, especially those living with HIV and AIDS, were singled out and denied visas by Spain for questionable reasons. Therefore, the conference did not benefit from the insights of those living with this disease at its epicenter in Africa. We lost the voices we heard at the 13th conference in Durban, South Africa, in 2000.

In Barcelona we heard many strategies and staggering statistics of lives destroyed, but we also heard models of