

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, March 19, 2003, I was unavoidably detained in my district of Indianapolis. Had I been present in Washington for votes, it was my intention to vote the following ways:

Rollcall No. 68—"aye."
 Rollcall No. 69—"aye."
 Rollcall No. 70—"aye."
 Rollcall No. 71—"aye."
 Rollcall No. 72—"aye."
 Rollcall No. 73—"aye."
 Rollcall No. 74—"aye."

THE INTRODUCTION OF A HYDROGEN AND FUEL CELL TECHNOLOGY

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, in the January 28, 2003, State of the Union Address, the President proposed a \$1.2 billion hydrogen fuel initiative to reverse America's growing dependence on foreign oil by developing the technology for commercially viable hydrogen-powered fuel cells to power cars, buses, trucks, homes and businesses with no pollution or greenhouse gases. Over the next five years, the proposed hydrogen fuel initiative would develop the technologies and infrastructure to produce, store, and distribute hydrogen for use in fuel cell vehicles and electricity generation.

I rise today to introduce a Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technology Authorization bill that would fully authorize the President's hydrogen fuel Initiative, providing a total of \$1.2 billion over 5 years. Specifically, the bill would fully authorize funding for the President's Fiscal Year 2004 Hydrogen, Fuel Cells, and Infrastructure Technologies budget request at \$182 million and provide an additional \$1.018 billion across the following 4 years to fully fund the initiative through FY08.

Both the Fuel Cell Technology programs and the Hydrogen Technology Programs authorized in this bill are identified as key components of the Administration's FreedomCAR initiative in the FY04 budget proposal and represent a significant portion of the overall programs that make up FreedomCAR. This initiative has also been developed in response to the recommendations of the May 2001 National Energy Policy (NEP), which specifically recommended: (1) the development of next-generation technology, including hydrogen and fusion; (2) Development of an education campaign that communicates the benefits of alternative forms of energy, including hydrogen and fusion; and (3) Focused research and development efforts on integrating current programs regarding hydrogen, fuel cells, and distributed energy.

Additionally, the bill ensures a continued focus on "core" fuel cell power plant technology research and development programs that will be necessary to accelerate the tech-

nology to meet the goals established to bring this technology to market. These core elements include programs that help to address low cost, high-efficiency, fuel flexible, modular fuel cell power systems, improved manufacturing production and processes, high temperature membranes, cost effective fuel processing for natural gas, fuel cell stack and system reliability, durability and cold start capability.

Pursuing the development of this technology strikes at the very core our national security, economic stability, and environmental conscious. We have before us, for the first time in human history, the technology to provide clean, reliable energy for every person, home, business, and vehicle in America. With this technology, we have the opportunity to end once and for all America's reliance on foreign energy sources while at the same time creating quality jobs for the next century in a new and expanding technological field.

I urge my colleagues to support this initiative.

A THREAT TO TAIWAN

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have serious concerns regarding the constant threat to Taiwan from missiles in China, and the signal that this military buildup sends to both the people of China and the people of Taiwan about the eventual peaceful resolution to the Taiwan dispute.

Currently, there are more than 400 Chinese missiles targeted on Taiwan, with fifty or more being added each year. Also, China has devised strategies to destroy Taiwan's political, communications, and production centers within days. What is even more menacing is that China has reiterated that it will use force against Taiwan if Taiwan refuses to accept China's "one country, two systems" unification formula.

I believe that China's intimidation of Taiwan questions its seriousness about being considered a major world power. China must not ignore Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian's repeated pleas for resumption of a cross-strait dialogue. If war breaks out in the Taiwan Strait, China, Taiwan and the rest of the countries in the Asian Pacific will all suffer irreparable economic and political damage.

We in the United States feel most strongly that a military clash in the Taiwan Strait must be avoided. I call upon the Chinese government to dismantle the hundreds of missiles targeting Taiwan and to embrace peace in managing its relations with Taiwan.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE WORDS OF MATT ETHERIDGE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, at the dawn of this new century, we are engaged in an epic struggle, testing whether this nation, dedicated

to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, can defend freedom throughout the world. Many of our nation's brave young men and women have answered the call of service and are currently advancing freedom's cause.

Mr. Speaker, at this very moment, Matt Etheridge of Ridgway, Colorado is serving his nation honorably in the war to liberate Iraq. Recently, Matt sent his mother an email indicating his disappointment as a Navy Sailor in the shortsighted demonstrations of anti-war protestors. Below is the text of that letter:

Dear America,

I am a United States Navy Sailor. I am from Ridgway, Colorado. I have been in the Navy for almost two years. My job here is an Aviation Ordnanceman. My shipmates and I are part of a team that helps to create population control and our profession is landscaping technicians. I have been to 5 different countries, seen 3 different oceans, and have sailed three quarters of the way around the world with 5000 men. I have been away from the people that I love for at least 6 months. When I want to call home it costs a dollar a minute. Sounds great, huh. You should try the food. Could you handle it? Yet I am still proud that I am here doing this for my family and friends. The people that love to have rights, love to be educated and love to have freedom. Did I mention that I am only 20 years old?

How many people in America can sit there and say that they have done anything like that and still serve and protect the country? How about only the people that signed on that little dotted line to risk their lives for the things that they truly believe in. Are they scared? What do you think? Of course they are. They have no idea what is going on and how the outcome will be. They have no idea what is going to happen to them or what is going on with their families at home. We are here to keep you safe and help protect all the things that you love so much. Do you (ANTI-WAR PROTESTERS) think that the military is a joke? Are we here just to look good?

What are the people in America doing? We are the ones here so that you the people do not have to be. I am not talking about everyone. I am talking about the pussy people that have no idea what it is like to be in our shoes and have no respect for us. What if the war was there? What would you do? Would you pick up a gun and protect your families? If we were not the police of the globe we would be taken over by a man that rapes and de-virginizes little innocent 15 year olds. I really do not care what you are all protesting against. Where do you all get your freedom? The Constitution, but we are the ones that enforce it. I guess you do not like to be free.

Do you people really understand what you have? You have no clue. You all have it so good. I think that you all should see some of what goes on in other places. Kids in other countries running around with guns, people burning our national emblem. What kind of barbaric B.S. is that? What would you do if you lost all of your rights? I bet you are glad that we would die for our country and you so that you do not have to live in fear.

I would love to see someone go up to one of the men or women in the Marines sitting 5 miles off Iraq and tell him that he is doing wrong. If you all hate America and what is happening, leave, who would really care? That is your "right." If our nation had a draft I bet all you all would tuck tail and run. We sign so that you do not have to.

Do you even remember what happened to the people of 9-11? Do you even care? Is that just the past and a memory now? Innocent Americans died trying to make a living.

What if you were one of them? I guess we should just stop and let go. Yeah right!

Anti-war protesters are all followers. You should believe in life, liberty and justice for all. Not some rich fancy celebrity just because you like his/her show. I saw a 16 year old female on the news. She said that sixth period was not as important as protesting. How would she even know? Has she been to other countries? She should see what we have. Children all starving and buildings in ruins. Yes we have it in the U.S. but not nearly as bad. You are all lucky. We all are. At least you can go out and get a job if you need to. Hello, welcome to McDonalds, may I help you?

So here I say: No one really wants to go to war. Sometimes it is the action that we must take. Should we just come home and let the world take us over? Uhhh, NO! Protestors, like yourselves, are the people that get mad if someone cuts a tree down or if we eat a cow. I bet a good number of you drive. STOP! You are polluting the air. I will still drive if I need to be someplace and I like my steak medium-well. Do I care? Yes I do.

Our President will make the decision. What he says goes. I respect that and I am ready to do whatever he says and so are all the men and women in the Armed Forces. This is why we are here. When he says "Go" we are on our way. That is why we are getting a raise and we deserve it. Who cares if you do not like it?

As an Army man said, "We are the ones here fighting, so really you do not have a say so!" I am with him.

I would like to thank all the people that support us. I know that my Mom is very worried about me but I know she loves and misses me. I love you all so much and I miss you more than anything.

To all those who oppose and protest, go ahead and do it, whatever! We know who the real men and women are in the U.S.A.!!

I bleed red, white and blue!!

You are right "God blesses everyone." America is #1 on my list.

I wrote this and it is what I feel. I would like it if you passed it on and maybe write back an opinion or something.

Signed, A disappointed Navy Sailor,

MATTHEW A. ETHERIDGE.

Members of this Congress and the American public should sincerely consider Matt's words. Those who seek the true meaning of duty, honor, and sacrifice will find it in devoted servants like Matt Etheridge. I believe his letter to America makes his point very clearly. Mr. Speaker, it should never be in doubt that our nation's servicemen and women have our support, and remain in our thoughts and prayers.

RECOGNIZING THE VON STEUBEN PANTHERS

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, believe it or not, Von Steuben Metropolitan Science Center's basketball team has a chance at the state title. Now, that might not mean much to many of my colleagues, but for those of us who live on the North Side of Chicago, Von Steuben's appearance in the Elite Eight, their first since 1938, is a big deal.

Von Steuben's season did not begin that well. In fact, they lost four of their first five games, but the Panthers rebounded. On Mon-

day, March 17, 2003, they convincingly defeated Brother Rice 65-56 to secure the Class AA supersectional.

Every student should be proud of Von Steuben, and not only because of their success on the basketball court, but because Von Steuben is truly a great school. There are many different types of Chicago Public Schools. Von Steuben is a "science center," meaning it has stronger math and science curriculums than most of Chicago's public schools. It is this demanding and stimulating college preparatory curriculum, combined with the school's diverse student body, innovative teaching methods and state-of-the-art technological equipment which set it apart. I'm proud to represent Von Steuben and honored to congratulate its basketball team.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the Panthers of Von Steuben will play Peoria Central. I wish Von Steuben the very best of luck and know that regardless of the outcome, the residents of Chicago and the Albany Park Neighborhood are proud of their accomplishments.

TAX RELIEF, SIMPLIFICATION, AND EQUITY ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 19, 2003

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1308, and in particular, a provision I offered in the Ways and Means Committee during consideration of another tax measure. This provision is very simple, and very fair—it will provide tax benefits to the families of the victims of the Columbia Shuttle disaster. In the same manner our government provides benefits to the families of soldiers killed in the line of duty or to victims of terrorist attacks, I offered this provision to honor the spirit and courage of our nation's brave astronauts.

Under current law, when a soldier is killed in the line of duty or a citizen is the victim of terrorism, our government views all income received in the year of their death, or the preceding year, as exempt from income tax. In addition, any death benefits paid by the U.S. Government or employers to the families of the victims are also exempt from taxation. And finally, we reduce the state tax of the heirs to 20%.

H.R. 1308 would extend these modest benefits to all astronauts who die in the line of duty, beginning with the families and victims of the Columbia tragedy. These seven men and women gave their lives exploring the bounds of human experience. For their sacrifice and contributions to our nation and mankind, we wish to honor them by caring for the financial security of their loved ones.

I would add that this provision was adopted in Committee without dissent. Although it would provide much needed, meaningful relief to the families of our astronauts, its revenue impact is negligible.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I didn't commend our colleague CHET EDWARDS of Texas who originally filed legislation extending these benefits to astronauts. I appreciate his leadership on this most solemn and important measure.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to demonstrate their support for our astronauts by voting for H.R. 1308. Our nation is forever in their debt.

AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the American Citizenship Amendment. Under current U.S. laws, any person born on American soil can claim American citizenship, regardless of the citizenship of that child's parents. This means that any alien who happens to give birth in the United States has just given birth to an American citizen, eligible for all the benefits and privileges afforded to citizens.

Mr. Speaker, this is unacceptable and is far from what our Founders intended when they drafted the Constitution. It undermines the very concept of citizenship as enshrined in the United States Constitution: to be constitutionally entitled to U.S. citizenship one must be "born . . . in the United States" and "subject to the jurisdiction thereof." This second, and most important, part means that in order to gain U.S. citizenship one must owe and actively express allegiance to the United States in addition to the act of being born on United States soil.

What the current state of events has led to is a booming business in smuggling pregnant mothers over the border to give birth to new "American" citizens, who in turn become eligible for all the benefits thereof. Practically, what this does is cheapen citizenship: rather than impart all the obligations and responsibilities of being an American it becomes merely a ticket to welfare and other benefits. The history of the United States is that of immigrants: individuals from diverse backgrounds accepted the obligations of citizenship in exchange for the great benefits of living in the freest nation on earth.

This proposed Constitutional amendment restores the concept of American citizenship to that of our Founders. This legislation simply states that no child born in the United States whose mother and father do not possess citizenship or owe permanent allegiance to the United States shall be a citizen of the United States. It is essential to the future of our constitutional republic that citizenship be something of value, something to be cherished. It cannot be viewed as merely an express train into the welfare state.

NATIONAL BOARD-CERTIFIED TEACHERS IN LOW-PERFORMING SCHOOLS ACT OF 2003

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the National Board-Certified Teacher in Low-Performing Schools Act of 2003 to place these highly skilled teachers