

Holocaust survivors and their heirs are being denied what is rightfully theirs. This is nothing more than white collar theft, and it is morally reprehensible. These heirs and survivors deserve what is rightfully theirs, and we will not give up until they are fully compensated.

AMERICA MUST REMAIN ENGAGED
FOR PEACE TO TAKE HOLD IN
THE MIDDLE EAST

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on this day of focusing on national prayer for those who wish to express their faith in their different ways, I think it is an appropriate time to reinforce the importance of peace throughout this world. Particularly as the road map for Mideast peace has been unveiled, it is important to reinforce the key element of that process.

Two years ago, approximately, in February of 2001, I rose to the floor of the House to indicate that the only way that we would have peace in the Middle East is if the United States remained engaged. Unfortunately, that did not occur for a number of months, but I do believe that we are now on the road to peace.

The key element again will be, even if there are difficulties, we must remain engaged. Even as we work with the Palestinians to cease immediately the violence, to break up the terrorist groups, to remove the illegal weapons, we must work with the Israelis as it relates to the road map in stopping the expanding of the settlements, and, as well, the attacks on Palestinians.

These are not easy challenges, and we cannot be daunted by failure. We must continue to work for peace, because it is worth it for all of the people of that region.

THE JUDICIAL NOMINATION OF
PRISCILLA OWENS

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my outrage with the treatment of Justice Priscilla Owen, a fellow Texan and a highly qualified nominee for the Fifth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals.

Mr. Speaker, despite unanimously receiving the highest possible rating from the American Bar Association, despite appearing before the Senate Committee on the Judiciary twice to answer every single question posed to her, despite the fact that the bench to which she has been nominated has been designated a judicial emergency, despite the strong bipartisan support of former Texas supreme court judges and 15 past presidents of the state bar of Texas, Justice Priscilla Owen has still

not received an up-or-down vote in the Senate for almost 2 years.

When Republicans held the majority during President Clinton's term, no judicial nominee was ever deprived of a vote due to a filibuster. Now Democrats want to undermine our Constitution and change the rules.

Mr. Speaker, the President has a right to get a vote on his nominee.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The Chair would remind all Members that it is not appropriate to characterize the action or inaction of the other body.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND THE
ECONOMY

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to comment on telecommunications and the economy. The telecommunications industry, Mr. Speaker, is in a state of crisis. Telecom jobs continue to shrink and capital continues to flow away from the industry.

When given the opportunity to help lead the telecommunications industry back on the road to health and fitness, the Federal Communications Commission failed miserably. I completely agree with the Communication Workers of America that the FCC "missed an opportunity to set out an effective national policy that would promote facilities-based competition in telecommunications."

Instead, the FCC left in place rules that require carriers to lease their network, or pieces of it, to competitors for below-cost rates. This policy has had a disastrous effect on the industry. Over half a million telecom jobs have been lost and investors have lost billions of dollars. The industry is in crisis, and some of that crisis can be traced directly to bad policy at the FCC. It is clear to me that the FCC did not adopt the right rules to promote telecommunications investment.

I sincerely hope that the FCC fixes this mess, or Congress will have to fix it.

FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS
AND THE AIDS EPIDEMIC

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, there is an epidemic of AIDS and HIV in Africa. It is heartbreaking to report this pandemic affecting 42 million souls, 8,500 deaths every day, and entire villages without a single adult.

Earlier this week we heard the President describe a compassionate vision of

moral obligation for the American people addressing this crisis that would bring not only \$15 billion, but would put a priority on the values of the American people, namely, abstinence and faithfulness to marriage, over condom distribution.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, unless the House amends the bill today and adopts the Hyde-Pitts amendment that specifies that 33 percent of the prevention money will be spent on abstinence and monogamy programs first over and above condom distribution, the global AIDS bill will not reflect the values of the American people or the vision of the President of the United States of America.

The timeless values of abstinence and marital faithfulness before condom distribution are the cure for what ails the families of Africa. It is important that we not just send them money, but we must send them values that work.

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AMERICAN PRIORITIES

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, perhaps some of us on our side of the aisle have been a little bit too critical of President Bush. After all he has in his budget a universal health care plan for 23 million people. He has in his budget money for school construction, 25,000 new schools, renovated schools, repaired schools.

The problem, Mr. Speaker, that is the President's budget for Iraq. Universal health coverage for 23 million Iraqis, school construction of 25,000 and renovation of 25,000 schools, but not a penny in the President's budget for school construction in this country, in spite of the fact that our school buildings, many of them are in awful shape, and not a penny for universal coverage of 40 million Americans without health insurance.

The reason? The tax cuts the President has asked for of \$500 billion in tax cuts. Half of those tax cuts go to the richest one percent of the people in the country. The people whose incomes average \$968,000. Money for school construction and health care in Iraq. No money for school construction and health care in the United States and tax cuts for the most privileged. It is the wrong priorities.

ISRAELI AND PALESTINIAN PEACE

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to note an encouraging sign that yesterday, the President of the United States evinced a willingness to become an active player in seeking a peaceful resolution of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. And I do so because it is clear

that the United States of America is the only world force that has the ability to offer both peoples meaningful hope in this region. And as such, it is very important that our President of whatever party be engaged in that process. This President evinced some reluctance to do so early in his term. But I believe now has, by issuing this road map, stated an interest to become personally involved in trying to find a resolution of this dispute.

Both Democrats and Republicans have to note that this is a positive step at a very difficult time. Ending the violence by the Palestinians is paramount. And there is going to be daunting challenges working with our Israeli allies involving settlement issues; but the American President has to stay engaged. This is a first step. We welcome it. We look forward to its successes.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1298, UNITED STATES LEADERSHIP AGAINST HIV/AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS, AND MALARIA ACT OF 2003

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, by the direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 210 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 210

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1298) to provide assistance to foreign countries to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on International Relations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on International Relations now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. No amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a

separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my good friend, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, Mr. Speaker, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

MODIFICATION TO AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART OF FLORIDA

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that during consideration of H.R. 1298, pursuant to House Resolution 206, it shall be in order to consider the amendment that I have placed at the desk as amendment No. 8 in House Report 108-80.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Modification to Amendment No. 8 printed in House Report 108-80 offered by Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida:

Page 83, line 14, strike "For" and insert "(a) THERAPEUTIC MEDICAL CARE.—For".

Page 83, after line 22, add the following new subsection:

(b) ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN.—For fiscal years 2006 through 2008, not less than 10 percent of the amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations under section 401 for HIV/AIDS assistance for each such fiscal year shall be expended for assistance for orphans and vulnerable children affected by HIV/AIDS, of which such amount at least 50 percent shall be provided through non-profit, nongovernmental organizations, including faith-based organizations, that implement programs on the community level.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the modification be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the modification is agreed to.

There was no objection.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 210 is a structured rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 1298, the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003. The rule provides 1 hour of general debate evenly divided and con-

trolled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on International Relations.

Additionally, this rule makes 11 out of 13 amendments submitted to the Committee on Rules in order. Nearly half, 5 of the 11 of the amendments made in order were sponsored by members of the minority party. This is a fair rule that will allow all Members ample opportunity to debate the important issues associated with this bill.

The underlying legislation is as crucial as I think it is timely. The AIDS pandemic has affected the world like no other in recent history. The epidemic has claimed, just in the year 2002 alone, more than 3 million lives. I think we need to pause for a second and think about what that means, 3 million lives in one year. Also, an estimated 5 million people acquired the virus, the human immuno-deficiency virus, HIV, in 2002, according to the best estimate, bringing the number of people globally living with the virus to over 40 million.

This is, by all means, by every conceivable estimation, a catastrophe. However, this is not just a moral question, this critical situation has begun to threaten the security of the world, especially the developing world. The fragile governments often do not have the resources or the capability to handle threats as dangerous and as growing as this one. If states in the developing world begin to implode, collapse, the effects on the United States' national security and on the security of the international community could be absolutely disastrous.

A state absent of all order makes for a perfect climate for terrorists and drug traffickers to grow their enterprises to develop their enterprises. For example, Mr. Speaker, in key states in Africa, including Nigeria, South Africa and Kenya, it has been reported that over a third of their armed forces may be infected with this deadly virus. This is an inconceivable catastrophe.

The pandemic of AIDS also threatens on the prospects for democracy and economic prosperity, especially in Africa. According to the U.S. National Intelligence Council, "AIDS and the health problems associated with AIDS will hurt prospects for transition to democratic regimes as these problems undermine civil society, hamper the evolution of sound political and economic institutions, and intensify the struggle for power and resources."

The National Intelligence Council also estimates that the disease could reduce gross domestic product in some sub-Saharan African countries by 20 percent or more by the year 2010. We should consider the following fact from the most recent U.N. aids epidemic update, "In 4 southern African countries national adult HIV prevalence has risen higher than thought possible, exceeding 30 percent."

If the necessary investments, Mr. Speaker, to combat this pandemic is not made today, there will undoubtedly