

Despite the fact that the bill passed with bipartisan support of the majority of this Nation's elected leaders, the bill remains stalled. A couple of members in the other body are using an unusual delay tactic to prevent them from going to conference.

Filibustering judicial nominees is one thing, but blocking a bill that both Chambers have already passed overwhelmingly is just wrong. Their tactics threaten how Congress works and how our democracy functions. Even worse, every day this bill sits in no-man's land, more babies can be partially delivered and then killed.

We need to get the bill to conference, to the President to honor the commitment of both Chambers of Congress to the American people to end this terrible practice for good.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members that they should avoid characterization of Senate actions.

SUPPORT H.R. 2738, CHILE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, this week Congress has an opportunity to pass legislation to implement a free trade agreement with our partner in commerce, the nation of Chile. I might mention also Singapore, but I am going to focus on Chile.

Since 1997, when Chile adopted free trade agreements with MERCOSUR, Mexico, and Canada, U.S. companies' share of the Chilean import market has fallen by 7 percent, amounting to something like over \$1 billion. Meanwhile, the countries that have a free trade agreement with Chile gained over 9 percent of that market. There can be no question that our loss to the Chilean market is directly related to missed trade opportunities. The Chile FTA will turn this around.

If we vote to pass H.R. 2738, we ensure future American competitiveness in Chilean markets and the continued growth of our own economy, which will benefit all Americans. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support and vote "yes" on the Chilean Free Trade Agreement.

SUPPORT FREE TRADE WITH CHILE AND SINGAPORE

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

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, the House will vote tomorrow on a free trade agreement, not just with Chile, but also with Singapore.

Free trade agreements have transformed other countries now allied to the United States. For example, our agreement with Jordan boosted Jordanian trade from \$5 million to \$400 million. We have that opportunity with Chile, a country whose economic policy sometimes is more advanced than our own. We proposed this agreement in 1991 when I served in the State Department. It is about time.

And Singapore. Singapore has become the de facto Southeast Pacific base for the United States Navy. With trouble from North Korea to Iran, strengthening our ties to Singapore strengthens our national security.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to vote "yes" on free trade with Singapore and with Chile.

REFORMS FOR HEAD START THROUGH SCHOOL READINESS ACT

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, every child should enter school with the basic skills needed for learning. Although Head Start has provided children with satisfactory nutrition and health care, it needs reform to significantly improve in their ability to learn.

As spearheaded by the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER), the School Readiness Act will address this problem in Head Start by increasing academic and teacher requirements, while preserving and strengthening health, nutrition, parental literacy, and family services. Additionally, we are asking for an additional \$202 million in funding for fiscal year 2004 for a total of \$6.87 billion, an amount that is double the amount in 1996.

A very important part of the School Readiness Act is a pilot program in eight States that would integrate existing State prekindergarten programs with Head Start. I am excited that South Carolina will be eligible to take part, as it will help ensure all children enter kindergarten with the academic tools necessary to succeed.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of the School Readiness Act.

In conclusion, God bless our troops.

TRIBUTE TO THE LAO-HMONG AND HONORING NATIONAL LAO- HMONG RECOGNITION DAY

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

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Lao-Hmong on the occasion of National Lao-Hmong Recognition Day.

The Lao-Hmong fought alongside American soldiers in Vietnam in opposition to tyranny and Communist con-

trol. The Lao-Hmong have been recognized for their dedication and bravery displayed in defense of freedom. However, they deserve more than recognition. The Lao-Hmong are worthy of our most sincere gratitude and the deepest appreciation for all they have done.

I am proud to say the first official recognition of the Lao-Hmong's courageous achievements took place in my district in Golden, Colorado, on July 22, 1995. Last year, Congress officially recognized, through legislation, July 22 of every year as a day to remember, reflect, and pay homage to the Lao-Hmong community in America.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor today to speak in celebration of National Lao-Hmong Recognition Day. I commend the Lao-Hmong community for their courage and join my fellow Americans in celebrating this day with a grateful heart.

□ 1015

FRESHMAN CLASS MISSION TO STOP WASTE, FRAUD AND ABUSE

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, the freshman class agrees that the waste has got to stop. The President agrees, the Congress agrees. Taxpayers must manage their own money, and so should the government. We are saddled with too many costly programs that are duplicated across too many agencies.

It is our goal to provide effective government efficiency by eliminating programs that do not use our resources wisely. By using outcome-based measures and full cost accounting, this scrutiny can provide a powerful motivation for agencies to improve the efficiency of the programs that they oversee.

Virtually every committee in Congress can make this effort a priority, reviewing the areas of jurisdiction for waste, fraud and abuse. At the Committee on Government Reform, we are particularly attuned to this effort and are well into reviews of agencies and programs that simply spend and spend without any results.

I would argue that any money wasted is too much, but we are talking millions and billions of dollars. I hope my colleagues will join my fellow freshmen and me as we are going after this abuse.

Mr. Speaker, now is the time for us to prioritize and reorganize government.

BUSH STATE OF THE UNION AND URANIUM INTELLIGENCE

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I come to the House floor today expressing a

word of caution to my friends on the other side of the aisle. Recently there have been questionable advertisements on television that present a misleading picture of President Bush.

During this year's State of the Union speech President Bush cited intelligence about the possibility that Iraq was attempting to purchase uranium from Africa. To hear the advertisements sponsored by the Democratic National Committee, you would guess President Bush, on a whim, decided to add this language without any consultation or evidence.

Let me enlighten my colleagues with the facts by reading our President's entire quote. "The British Government has learned that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa." This is quite different from the half statement, 10 words, that our colleagues in the minority attribute to President Bush.

Shame on some of my colleagues for politicizing the war on terrorism for their own political gain and using half-truths while pretending to seek the whole truth. I call for the immediate removal of these blatant misleading ads.

USA-ASIA RELATIONS

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

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, this is an historic moment for U.S.-Asia relations. The United States and Singapore have agreed to formalize their mutually beneficial economic relationship with the ground-breaking U.S.-Singapore Free Trade Agreement. This monumental agreement is the first free trade agreement between the United States and an Asian country. It opens new markets for U.S. businesses and provides strong protections for U.S. companies and investors.

Singapore is an important economic ally of the United States. In 2002, Singapore was the 12th largest U.S. trading partner. Not only is Singapore itself an important market to the United States, but it also serves as a bridge between the United States and other markets in the Asia-Pacific region. This agreement builds on Singapore's many strengths and solidifies an important economic relationship between the two nations, presenting new opportunities for U.S. businesses and investors.

The U.S.-Singapore Free Trade Agreement will set an example for economic relations with other U.S. allies in the Asia-Pacific region. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the U.S.-Singapore Free Trade Agreement.

CONDOLENCES EXTENDED TO THE HONORABLE SHELLEY BERKLEY

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

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest sympathies to my dear friend and colleague, the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY).

Yesterday, Estelle Auslander, the mother of the gentlewoman from Nevada, passed away after a long battle with cancer at the age of 74. As many of my colleagues know, the gentlewoman from Nevada left Washington last week to be with her mother during this very serious time.

My thoughts and prayers are with my colleague and all of Mrs. Auslander's friends and family. I know that my colleagues will join me in these sentiments.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2800, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, by the direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 327 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 327

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. 2800) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. 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 Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI are waived except as follows: sections 568(a)(3), 572, and 575. Where points of order are waived against part of a section, points of order against a provision in another part of such section may be made only against such provision and not against the entire section. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. 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. 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. BASS). The gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of

debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for purposes of debate only.

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

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 327 is an open rule that provides for the consideration of H.R. 2800, the fiscal year 2004 Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs Appropriations Act.

The rule provides 1 hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member on Appropriations. The rule also provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The legislation we bring today to the floor, Mr. Speaker, appropriates over \$17 billion for operations across the globe. This bill is fiscally sound while at the same time, I think, is responsive to many of the needs that we are seeking to address throughout the world where there are extraordinarily difficult issues related to disease and famine and many other forms of international disaster.

H.R. 2800 provides over \$1.4 billion to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. It is \$86 million above the President's request. The funding will continue its important mission to provide training and technical assistance to private and voluntary organizations that work to eradicate debilitating diseases from both individuals and, in fact, societies.

The majority of this funding will be included in the Child Survival and Health Programs Fund, dedicated to lowering infant, child and maternal mortality rates in developing countries. The fund will see, through this legislation, a substantial increase of over \$400 million over last year's appropriation.

The Agency for International Development, AID, will receive over \$4.7 billion, \$166 million above last fiscal year. Continuing its mission first defined by the Marshall Plan following World War II, AID has embarked on aggressive plans to promote health and economic strength through environmental protection, agricultural assistance and educational programs.

As with many other agencies following September 11, 2001, AID has recently seen its work extend to essential tasks related to the elimination of terrorism and social unrest through programs that attempt to contribute to stability. Although AID's work on terrorism is vital, H.R. 2800 goes much further, seeking to ensure significant funding for international security through assistance programs and activities in other realms.

The bill provides over \$2.6 billion for assistance to Israel. As the roadmap to peace in this very delicate process