

the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 26, 2004 at 9:10 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3926.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAH, *Clerk.*

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HON. NANCY PELOSI, DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Democratic Leader:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
OFFICE OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER,  
March 26, 2004.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to (10 U.S.C. 111 note) I hereby appoint retired Army Lt. General H.G. (Pete) Taylor, to the Commission On The Review Of The Overseas Military Facility Structure Of The United States.

Best regards,

NANCY PELOSI.

LIBYA RESPECTS AMERICA'S INITIATIVES

(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, in the global war on terrorism, it is reassuring that President George W. Bush is keeping focused on winning the war which was forced on America by the murderous attacks of September 11.

In the midst of Monday morning quarterbacking, we should see the facts of success: the Afghan and Iraqi dictatorships which supported terrorism have met regime change. An emboldened Pakistan has 70,000 troops uprooting terrorists on the border of Afghanistan, and Libya has abandoned its banned weapons programs.

Libya has seen the light. It is reassuring to learn from Thursday's Washington Post that the Libyan dictator's son Saif Islam Qaddafi has made the case for peace and freedom clear to other Arab countries: "Instead of shouting and criticizing the American initiative, you have to bring democracy to your countries, and then there will be no need to fear America or your people."

In conclusion, God bless our troops. We will never forget September 11.

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, last week I met with the Esperanza Senior Citizen Club in City Terrace in East Los Angeles to discuss the new Medicare pre-

scription drug law enacted last year. The seniors there had many, many questions. They asked me how the law will affect them and will it provide affordable drugs. Unfortunately, I had to tell them that the law does nothing to lower the cost of prescription drugs. In fact, I told them that it prohibits the Secretary of Health and Human Services from negotiating lower prices. They were star struck. They could not believe that that is what we had passed here in the Congress.

In short, the law increases profits for big pharmaceutical companies and fails to protect seniors. The Esperanza Senior Club was shocked when they learned the truth about the new law because they felt that Congress had abandoned them. They told me to go back to Washington and they told me to renegotiate, to open up a discussion on that piece of legislation, because for them and the district that I represent, still they are not able to afford their drugs, their medications; and they want choices. They wanted to know if they were going to have the same physician caring for them in the HMOs.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

UTROK ATOLL VESSEL CONVEYANCE

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 2584) to provide for the conveyance to the Utrok Atoll local government of a decommissioned National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ship, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendments:

(1) Page 2, after line 17, insert:

(c) *Within 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Utrok Atoll local government, in consultation with the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, shall submit a plan for the use of the vessel to be conveyed under subsection (a) to the House of Representatives Committee on Resources, the House of Representatives Committee on Science, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.*

(2) Page 4, after line 6, insert:

SEC. 305. **REBUILDING FISH STOCKS.**

*Section 105 of division H of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2004, is repealed.*

(3) Page 4, after line 6, insert:

**TITLE IV—PACIFIC ALBACORE TUNA TREATY**

SEC. 401. **IMPLEMENTATION.**

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in section 201, 204, or 307(2) of

the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1821, 1824, and 1857(2)), foreign fishing may be conducted pursuant to the Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Canada on Pacific Coast Albacore Tuna Vessels and Port Privileges, signed at Washington May 26, 1981, including its Annexes and any amendments thereto.

(b) *REGULATIONS.*—The Secretary of Commerce, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, may—

(1) promulgate regulations necessary to discharge the obligations of the United States under the Treaty and its Annexes; and

(2) provide for the application of any such regulation to any person or vessel subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, wherever that person or vessel may be located.

(c) *ENFORCEMENT.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) shall be enforced as if subsection (a) were a provision of that Act. Any reference in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) to "this Act" or to any provision of that Act, shall be considered to be a reference to that Act as it would be in effect if subsection (a) were a provision of that Act.

(2) *REGULATIONS.*—The regulations promulgated under subsection (b), shall be enforced as if—

(A) subsection (a) were a provision of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.); and

(B) the regulations were promulgated under that Act.

**SEC. 402. SOUTH PACIFIC TUNA TREATY ACT AMENDMENT.**

*Section 6 of the South Pacific Tuna Act of 1988 (16 U.S.C. 973d(a)) is amended by striking "outside of the 200 nautical mile fisheries zones of the Pacific Island Parties." and inserting "or to fishing by vessels using the longline method in the high seas areas of the Treaty area."*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST).

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 2584 passed the House on November 11, 2003, by voice vote. The bill, as passed by the House, included a number of important provisions including the transfer of a decommissioned NOAA vessel to the local government of the Utrok Atoll, the reauthorization of the Yukon River Salmon Act of 2000, the reauthorization of the Fishermen's Protective Act of 1967, and a provision to correct and ratify certain promotions within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Corps.

The Senate has made several additions to the legislation which make it a stronger conservation measure. These additions include language to implement the Pacific Albacore Tuna Treaty, a measure which will help ensure the sustainable conservation and management of the albacore tuna fishery shared by the United States and Canada; and language to allow certain U.S. fishing vessels access to South Pacific tuna stocks consistent with revisions to the 1988 South Pacific Tuna

Treaty. The bill was further amended to strike a provision of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004, which would have delayed the implementation of important conservation and management measures in the Northeast multispecies fishery management plan. This provision is important to the continued rebuilding process for New England groundfish stocks and to meet court-ordered timetables.

Finally, the amendments include a requirement that a plan for the use of the decommissioned vessel be submitted to Congress by the local government of the Utrök Atoll in consultation with the government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

I urge Members to support these important provisions by voting "aye" on the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. UDALL of New Mexico asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from Maryland for his hard work and his leadership on this bill.

H.R. 2584 is a noncontroversial piece of legislation previously passed by the House on November 21, 2003, that would convey a decommissioned National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA, research vessel, to the local government of Utrök Atoll located in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The conveyance of this vessel will allow more convenient transportation for the residents of Utrök Atoll who have to make a 265-mile trip to the neighboring island of Majuro to receive testing and critical medical treatments as a result of the U.S. nuclear testing program we conducted in the Northern Marshall Islands between 1946 and 1958.

I commend the Delegate from American Samoa for introducing this legislation to help alleviate the burden shared by the residents of this very remote atoll in the Pacific Ocean.

H.R. 2584 also contains an important provision to address procedural lapses in promotions and appointments within NOAA's commissioned officer corps. It is important not to disrupt the NOAA corps chain of command while our Nation is at war against terrorism. This provision should prevent any future operational or command dysfunctions from arising, and we should act expeditiously to pass it.

This legislation as amended by the other body also contains provisions passed last year by the House in H.R. 2408 to reauthorize the Fishermen's Protective Act and the Yukon River Salmon Act, and two amendments to reauthorize and clarify fisheries management agreements concerning tuna in the Pacific Ocean. None of these are controversial.

I urge Members on both sides to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to thank the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA), the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), and the staff on both sides of the aisle for helping to bring this measure to the floor. I hope for a unanimous vote later on this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD an exchange of letters between the chairman of the Committee on Science and the chairman of the Committee on Resources regarding this legislation.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE,  
Washington, DC, March 26, 2004.

Hon. RICHARD W. POMBO,  
Chairman, Committee on Resources, House of Representatives, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I understand that the House plans to take up H.R. 2584 as amended by the Senate. Thank you for your support in having the Committee on Science added to the list of Committees to which the Utrök Atoll local government must report after receipt and use of the decommissioned National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ship.

The Committee on Science supports passage of this bill as amended, but wishes to clarify the Committee's jurisdiction over the NOAA Corps. Based on conversations with the Office of the Parliamentarian, the Committee on Science understands it would receive a sequential referral of legislation involving the NOAA Corps.

Recognizing your wish that the House of Representatives consider this bill as soon as possible, I will not exercise the Committee's right to a sequential referral of H.R. 2584 based on the Committee's jurisdiction over the NOAA Corps. This decision to forgo a sequential referral does not waive the Committee's future jurisdiction over the NOAA Corps.

I ask that you include our exchange of letters on this matter in Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 2584.

Thank you for your consideration regarding this matter.

Sincerely,  
SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES,  
Washington, DC, March 26, 2004.

Hon. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT,  
Chairman, Committee on Science, Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 2584, a bill to provide for the conveyance to the Utrök Atoll local government of a decommissioned National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ship, and for other purposes. The Senate has returned the bill to us with additional provisions and I appreciate your cooperation in allowing it to be considered expeditiously by the House of Representatives.

Based on discussions with the Office of the Parliamentarian, the Committee on Science would be entitled to a sequential referral of the portion of the bill containing the text of S. 886, which was added to H.R. 2584 during the original Floor consideration of the bill on November 21, 2003. Because the Committee on Resources plans to consider S. 886

only in the context of H.R. 2584, I appreciate your willingness not to seek a referral of the amended bill. By doing so, I agree that the Committee on Science does not waive jurisdiction over this provision, nor does it serve as precedent for any future referrals. In addition, I will be happy to include our exchange of letters on this issue in the Congressional Record at the appropriate time.

Thank you again for your cooperation on this and many other issues between our committees.

Sincerely,

RICHARD W. POMBO.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, again, I rise in support of H.R. 2584, a bill I introduced to assist our friends from Utrök Atoll as they continue efforts to resettle and rehabilitate their islands as a result of the effects of the United States nuclear testing in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI).

At this time, I would like to thank Chairman RICHARD POMBO and Ranking Member NICK RAHALL of the Resources Committee for their continued support of Pacific Island issues. I would also like to thank my distinguished colleagues and co-sponsors—Congressmen ANIBAL ACEVEDO-VILA, DAN BURTON, JOHN DOOLITTLE, ELTON GALLEGLEY, JEFF FLAKE, and Congresswoman MADELEINE BORDALLO.

I would also like to thank members of the Senate for voting in favor of this legislation. The purpose of this legislation is to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to convey a decommissioned, operable NOAA vessel to the Government of Utrök. The vessel will be used to provide support for radiological monitoring, rehabilitation and resettlement of Utrök, an atoll that is part of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

During the 1940s and 50s, many of the Marshall Island atolls were devastated by the effects of U.S. nuclear testing activities. From 1946 to 1958, the United States detonated 67 nuclear weapons in the Marshall Islands, representing nearly 80 percent of all atmospheric tests ever conducted by the United States. If one were to calculate the net yield of these tests, it would be equivalent to the detonation of 1.7 Hiroshima bombs every day for 12 years.

On March 1, 1954, at 6:45 a.m. at the Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands, the United States detonated the Bravo shot, a 15 megaton hydrogen bomb 1,000 times more powerful than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Acknowledged as the greatest nuclear explosion ever detonated, the Bravo test vaporized 6 islands and created a mushroom cloud 25 miles in diameter.

Residents of Utrök atoll were forced to evacuate 72 hours after the miscalculated Bravo shot. Two months later, the U.S. assured the people of Utrök that it was safe to return home. The U.S. now acknowledges that it was a grave mistake to return the people to Utrök only 2 months after the detonation of Bravo.

Utrök residents have since suffered severe health problems and genetic anomalies. Today, the people of Utrök are seeking to rehabilitate their home island so that it is a safe place to live. Last year, a comprehensive scientific report recommended a potassium fertilizer treatment to accompany the ongoing resettlement process on Utrök, a treatment which would suppress the remaining radioactive Cesium-137 in the soil and prevent its further uptake in the food supply.

In addition, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Utrök that committed the DOE to build a Whole Body Counting (WBC) facility in order to monitor radioactivity levels in the people of Utrök. This new facility is located about 265 miles away in Majuro and will be used to ensure that the potassium fertilizer regime is effective and the administration of the fertilizer treatment is done properly.

However, Utrök residents are responsible for their own transportation to Majuro. Transportation by plane is expensive and available only once per week. Air service is also unreliable as the Utrök runway is in disrepair and the airline often declines to land. Travel by commercial ships, although less expensive, is infrequent.

One solution to help facilitate transport between Utrök and Majuro is to transfer a decommissioned NOAA vessel to the Utrök Atoll Local Government. In addition to transport of Utrök residents to the WBC facility, the vessel will be used for moving several tons of potassium fertilizer, transporting equipment and materials for radiological remediation, and transporting USDA food supplies. Because of the Cesium-137 contamination in locally grown food, at least 50 percent of the diet of Utrök residents must be imported to limit the risk of radiological poisoning.

The Utrök Atoll Local Government fully supports this measure and adopted a resolution (022-03) on July 4th 2003 stating that the NOAA vessel transfer would be "one of the crucial needs that will fully support our future goals to develop, rehabilitate and resettle the atoll after the aftermath of the Bravo fallout." The Utrök Government also expects the ship to be available for use by other atolls for their respective communities, who will help pay for the ongoing maintenance of the vessel.

As the Ranking Member of the House International Relations Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, I am hopeful that this bill will remind Congress of our ongoing responsibility to the people of RMI for the mistakes the United States made regarding its nuclear testing activities in the Asia Pacific region. Once again, I thank my colleagues in the House and Senate for their support and I urge final passage of this important legislation.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 2584.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2584, the bill just considered.

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

There was no objection.

#### VAUGHN GROSS POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3723) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8135 Forest Lane in Dallas, Texas, as the "Vaughn Gross Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3723

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. VAUGHN GROSS POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8135 Forest Lane in Dallas, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "Vaughn Gross Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Vaughn Gross Post Office Building.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER).

□ 1415

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

On behalf of the Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to rise in support of H.R. 3723. This meaningful legislation designates the Dallas Postal Service facility as the "Vaughn Gross Post Office Building."

Vaughn Gross has spent 35 years educating children in Texas and more than 30 of those years working in the Richardson Independent School District outside of Dallas. She began her career in the district by teaching special education classes at Skyview and Canyon Creek Elementary Schools in the 1970s. She later taught second grade students for 5 years at Northlake Elementary.

Ultimately, Vaughn Gross worked her way up to become Assistant Prin-

cipal at Aiken Elementary in 1989. In 1992, she held the same position at Brenfield Elementary School. A year later, she was elevated to Principal, a capacity in which she served for 6 years. In 1999, Vaughn Gross moved over to Hamilton Park Magnet School to act as principal there. Today, Ms. Gross is Assistant Superintendent For Curriculum and Instruction in the Richardson School District.

Mr. Speaker, Vaughn Gross is a respected, appreciated leader in the Dallas area. She earned a Teacher of the Year Award from the Richardson Association of Children with Learning Disabilities in 1977 and PTA life membership status in 1999. She is precisely the type of quality individual after whom the Congress ought to name post offices in our great Nation.

I commend the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) for introducing H.R. 3723. I know the gentleman from Texas genuinely wanted to be present, and I will be submitting a statement for the RECORD on behalf of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS).

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge every Member of the House to support H.R. 3723.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of the House Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join with my colleagues in consideration of H.R. 3723, legislation naming a postal facility in Dallas, Texas, after Vaughn Gross. This measure, which was introduced by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) on January 21, 2004, and unanimously reported by our committee on March 4, 2004, enjoys the support and cosponsorship of the entire Texas delegation.

A graduate of the University of Texas with a degree in special education, Mrs. Gross has dedicated her life to teaching and working with children with learning disabilities. Her vast teaching experience has not gone unnoticed or unappreciated. Mrs. Gross has won the distinguished Teacher of the Year from the Richardson Association of Children with Learning Disabilities and has achieved the Parent Teacher Association life membership status.

Currently, Mrs. Gross is serving as the Assistant Superintendent in the Richardson Independent School District. She is involved in a number of community organizations such as the Psychoanalysis Professional Development and Appraisal System, the District Instructional Strategies Committee, the Central Math Textbook Committee, and the Richardson Independent School District Professional Development Strategic Action Team.

And, finally, Mrs. Gross has received her school district's Silver Cup Award for Community on Campus and has been nominated for the YMCA Women of Achievement Award.

Mr. Speaker, it is obvious that Mrs. Gross has a distinguished record of