

□ 1015

YUCCA MOUNTAIN COURT RULING

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, last week the second highest court in the United States ruled that the proposed radiation standard for the Yucca Mountain project is inadequate to protect the health and safety of the American public and that the EPA knowingly ignored scientists' recommendations when formulating the standard. The Federal Court of Appeals found that the EPA blatantly disregarded the findings of the National Academy of Sciences that radiation levels will reach their peak in 300,000 years, and instead set a 10,000-year radiation standard. The gap between the science and the standard, a mere 290,000 years.

This ruling is the latest proof that the Yucca Mountain project is not based on sound science. When recommending the site to Congress, President Bush knew this radiation standard was not in keeping with scientific findings. Candidate Bush promised that he would not send nuclear waste to any proposed site unless it was based on sound science. President Bush reneged on his promise, ignored sound science, misled the people of the State of Nevada and approved the Yucca Mountain project. Thankfully, the court ruled in favor of science and the people of the great State of Nevada.

HONORING ROLLIE BOREHAM FOR HIS GRACIOUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR COMMUNITIES

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rollie Boreham for his gracious contributions to the Third District of Arkansas. Rollie will be stepping down at the end of the year from his current role as chairman of the board of Baldor, a Fort Smith-based manufacturer. Rollie helped build Baldor into a leader in their field. In doing so, he also generously devoted his time and resources to countless projects in the community.

Before the year is over, the people of Arkansas will see yet another example of Rollie's generosity when the M&N Foundation dedicates their new office. The M&N Foundation is a Fayetteville charity that helps individuals in need. Merlin Augustine, the head of the Foundation, has needed to be very creative to accomplish what he has in their current facilities. Without Rollie's donation for a new building, they would still be working out of that old basement room.

Mr. Speaker, Merlin Augustine and the M&N Foundation can now do their wonderful work from brand-new facilities thanks to Rollie. Rollie's philan-

thropy has changed the lives of many Arkansans, and for that he deserves our praise.

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, after the debacle in the other body over the same-sex marriage amendment which would have been the first time in American history the Constitution would have been used to deny people's rights, there are rumors that the House Republican leadership would like to bring this doomed proposal to our Chamber in an effort to keep us away from issues that we could actually do something about.

One would hope that the Republican leadership would learn from watching the President and the leadership of the Republicans in the other body as they tied up the Senate for days, only to shoot themselves in the foot. Republicans in the other body could not agree amongst themselves, and the Vice President could not agree with his wife. In fact, the Vice President could not even agree with his own position on this issue from a few years ago.

For a President who claimed to come to Washington, DC, as a uniter, this represents another spectacular failure. Efforts to use sexual orientation as a political tool to divide this country for political advantage are shameful and will ultimately fail. One only hopes the voters will hold people who use this tool accountable sooner rather than later.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 10:45 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 19 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 10:45 a.m.

□ 1045

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) at 10 o'clock and 45 minutes a.m.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4818, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 715 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 715

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pur-

suant 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. 4818) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, 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: beginning with the semicolon in section 565(a)(2) through "501" in section 565(a)(3). 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. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST), the ranking member of the Committee on Rules, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

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

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 715 is an open rule that provides for the consideration of H.R. 4818, the Fiscal Year 2005 Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations bill. The rule provides 1 hour of general debate, evenly divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The rule also provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

I would like to take a moment to reiterate that we bring this rule forward in totally open fashion. Historically, appropriations legislation has come to the House governed by an open rule, and we continue to do so in order to allow each and every Member of this House the opportunity to submit amendments for consideration, obviously as long as they are germane under the rules of the House.

This legislation before us appropriates over \$19 billion for operations across the globe. This bill is fiscally sound, while at the same time compassionate and responsive to needs of millions of people plagued by disease, famine and disaster.

H.R. 4818 bolsters the President's Millennium Challenge Corporation to \$1.25 billion, nearly a quarter of a billion dollars more than in fiscal year 2004. This expansion of foreign assistance is meant to help bring economic security, basic tenets of democracy and the rule of law to some of the world's poorest.

In May of this year, the Corporation began the first round of funding assistance by extending aid to 16 developing countries chosen from a total of 63 eligible nations. Each country that will receive this new funding is obligated to meet benchmarks for political, economic and social development, especially in transparency and anti-corruption efforts. Never before has the United States concentrated aid grants to countries that have the capability for reform in this fashion. This program is really, I think, the future of U.S. foreign assistance and a most effective means to responsibly disseminate U.S. taxpayer money in the foreign area.

The underlying legislation provides \$2.2 billion to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. Combined with anticipated funding in the Labor-HHS bill, Congress will commit to fulfill President Bush's commitment to 14 countries on the African continent and the Caribbean by appropriating \$2.8 billion. This continues the important mission to provide the training and technical assistance to private and voluntary organizations that work to eradicate that nightmarish disease.

The United States already has a proven record on HIV/AIDS assistance, but this year's funding will go far beyond previous obligations. In a speech given yesterday, U.S. AIDS Coordinator Randall Tobias remarked on the \$2.4 billion that this Congress provided in fiscal year 2004. He said, "This year, America is spending nearly twice as much to fight global AIDS as the rest of the world's donor governments combined."

Our resolve to help all those across the globe who fight this disease is strong and serious. In addition to funding, the Federal Government enlists the expertise of various agencies, including the Food and Drug Administration, which assures that the medicines we send to Africa and the Caribbean are safe and effective to help those with HIV/AIDS.

Mr. Speaker, the underlying legislation also provides \$2.2 billion for military and economic assistance to Israel. I think we have to continue to ensure that our friends and allies remain secure. A strong Israel is necessary, not only for the region, but obviously we are committed to do everything we can to see that Israel is safe and secure within its boundaries.

I would like to thank the gentleman from Florida (Chairman YOUNG) and the gentleman from Arizona (Chairman KOLBE) for their leadership on this important issue. I urge all of my colleagues to support both this rule and the underlying legislation.

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

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

(Mr. FROST asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, the United States has always fought for a peaceful, democratic and stable world, and now, more than ever, such a world is in our highest national interest. While the United States and her allies are making progress in the war on terror, Congress must remain committed to the ideals of peace and democracy and must do whatever it takes to maintain security here at home and elsewhere.

That is why today, Mr. Speaker, I have come to the floor in support of H.R. 4818, the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act. Along with defense and diplomacy, foreign assistance remains one of the strongest tools we have to ensure that the world is safe for peace and democracy.

The bill before us today helps ensure that the United States is successful in this mission by providing \$19.4 billion for our foreign policy priorities. Among its major provisions, the bill contains significant funding for pressing needs in the war on terror, such as the reconstruction of Afghanistan, and significantly increases funding for HIV/AIDS programs in the Millennium Challenge Corporation.

The bill also provides significant aid to Israel. Specifically, the bill provides Israel with \$360 million in economic assistance and \$2.2 billion in military assistance. Israel has always been a good friend and strong ally of the United States. She shares our common values of peace and democracy, and she continues to struggle to win the war against terror for the protection of her own people, as we do. America's friendship with Israel has never been more important, and I am pleased we can provide our friend and ally with this aid as we continue the joint struggle to achieve peace and freedom in the Middle East.

Today we will consider the foreign operations bill under an open rule, which I support. However, four Members came to the Committee on Rules yesterday with important amendments that required waivers in order to be considered today and which I believe deserve serious consideration by this House. Unfortunately, not one of these four amendments was granted waivers. Each was defeated on a party line vote.

The gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY)

brought important amendments dealing with women's health; the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) brought an amendment designating an additional \$800 million in emergency aid for the global fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria; and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) brought an amendment to help secure peace in the Middle East by transferring \$325 million in aid for the Egyptian military into economic assistance that will improve the quality of life for the Egyptian people. The Lantos amendment, which we attempted to protect from a point of order, was not given an order.

In recent months, Egypt has embarked on a major military buildup that may disrupt our efforts to bring peace to the region. It is my understanding that the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) may offer a modified version of his amendment which will not need a waiver today during debate on the bill.

Although I am disappointed that four amendments were not protected, I am pleased that this bill is being considered under an open rule, and I plan on voting in its favor, as I do the bill. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), a member of the Committee on Rules.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I would first like to express my appreciation to the gentleman from Arizona (Chairman KOLBE) and the ranking member, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), for crafting a foreign aid bill that attempts to balance competing priorities for economic development and security funding. In particular, I would like to express my support for the \$400 million provided for basic education.

Over the past 3 years, increased funding levels for basic education has made it possible for USAID to expand its education programs from 20 to 43 countries. These increases have also had positive effects on other U.S. development priorities, such as preventing HIV/AIDS and promoting agricultural development and maternal and child health. It is my hope that over the next couple of years Congress will increase funding for basic education to \$1 billion annually. I believe this is the kind of leadership and funding America must demonstrate to achieve universal education by the year 2015. I look forward to working with the gentleman from Arizona (Chairman KOLBE) and the ranking member, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), in achieving this goal.

I would also like to touch upon one other priority in this bill that continues to trouble me deeply, U.S. policy and aid for Columbia. Yesterday, a

representative from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees described the dire situation of the internally displaced inside Colombia and the increasing number of Colombian refugees fleeing to neighboring Ecuador, Venezuela and Panama.

I have traveled to Colombia on three occasions over the past 4 years, and each time I have visited communities of the displaced. By most estimates, there are around 3 million internally displaced Colombians, mainly women, children and elderly. This bill makes \$5 million available to help displaced Colombians, or approximately \$1.66 for each displaced person. This hardly seems adequate to me.

Mr. Speaker, I have traveled to nearly every region in Colombia, and everywhere I go, Colombians of all political viewpoints, including mayors and governors, plead for funds to support community-based programs to generate income, provide basic healthcare, education and nutrition, and to bring some measure of economic stability and security to their towns and villages.

Now, I do not mean to imply that none of these funds in this bill will serve these purposes, but we all know that precious little of U.S. aid is allocated for these types of programs in Colombia, especially when weighed against the need. The simple fact remains that the majority of U.S. funding for Colombia is military and security assistance for counterinsurgency and counternarcotics programs.

Over the past 3 years, along with my distinguished colleague, the ranking member of the Committee on Armed Services, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON), I have offered amendments to cut military aid for Colombia, but the Committee on Rules refuses to consider amendments on their merit and grant some waivers for amendments to appropriations bills so that key foreign policy issues can be more fully explored and debated.

For example, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) and I have never been able to offer an amendment to the foreign operations bill that reflects what many of my House colleagues believe would be a better set of priorities for the hundreds of millions of dollars we send down to Colombia each year; or an amendment that would condition U.S. funding for Colombia's agreement with the paramilitaries to an assurance that paramilitaries with outstanding U.S. extradition warrants will serve prison time in the U.S. or Colombia.

I cannot offer an amendment conditioning U.S. funding to ensure that the land paramilitaries took by violence be restored to the original inhabitants, who are now destitute and desperate displaced people or refugees.

So I sympathize with my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), each of whom went before the Committee on Rules the other evening and were denied

waivers to debate their important amendments.

□ 1100

We all know that foreign aid authorizing bills come out very rarely and, frankly, the aid for Colombia has never been authorized. It has always been presented to Congress in supplemental spending bills and the Foreign Operations and Defense appropriations bills and hardly ever has a designated line item in the bill. Over \$3 billion has gone to Colombia since Plan Colombia was launched, all with very little debate and, in some instances, no debate.

Mr. Speaker, in the future, I hope that the leadership of this House will allow Members to have a more comprehensive debate on whether and how to shape our new and different priorities for the military, security, and economic assistance we are sending to Colombia. I, for one, look forward to that day.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, before yielding to the distinguished chairman of the subcommittee, I yield myself such time as I may consume to say that with regard to the issue of the displaced people in Colombia, it is an extraordinary human tragedy, and the reason that there are displaced people in Colombia is because of the terrorists. What this bill is trying to do, and it does in a very important way, is to help the democratically elected government of Colombia fight the terrorists.

Also, there is aid for refugees in this legislation. I know the people of Colombia are very grateful for it. I had the privilege of visiting them some months back. But obviously, it is not only in the interest of Colombia, but of the United States, to defeat the terrorists, the cause of the displacement of hundreds of thousands of innocent people in Colombia; and we do not lose sight of that. Neither does, obviously, the government of Colombia, because the people there are suffering at the hands of those brutal murderers that are being fought day in and day out by the Colombian people; and, obviously, the American people, through this Congress, are helping the Colombian people fight those terrorists.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE), the chairman of the subcommittee.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to say that I think this is a good rule, it is an open rule, it is a fair rule. I think it is one in which we can carry on a good, healthy debate about foreign policy and our foreign assistance programs, and I hope this body will support it and we can do it quickly and hopefully get on to consideration of the bill very soon.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY).

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the rule, but I rise to express my disappointment with this rule.

On a party-line vote, the Committee on Rules refused to make my amendment in order to provide funding on a limited basis to the United Nations Population Fund. I requested that it be made in order so that the full House would have the opportunity to discuss this matter of grave importance, not only to the poorest women and their families, but also to United States national security. Unfortunately, we are being denied the opportunity to debate this issue.

Many of my colleagues think they have voted on this issue before. However, the debate we could have had today would have been different from those of the last 3 years.

To begin with, this amendment would have maintained the Kemp-Kasten restrictions in the bill in their original form. As many of my colleagues know, these restrictions prohibit funding to any organization that supports coercive abortion and sterilization.

The amendment would have provided funding for UNFPA in only six countries, all of which are strategically important to United States national security: Iraq, Afghanistan, Jordan, Pakistan, Kenya, and Tanzania. If UNFPA is found to be supporting coercive practices in any of these countries, the amendment would have prohibited funding for the UNFPA program in that country.

The amendment would have maintained prohibitions on funding for the UNFPA in China and would have restored a prohibition included in previous Foreign Operations bills that requires a reduction in U.S. funds to UNFPA programs for every dollar spent by UNFPA in a country which is alleged to support coercive practices. Currently, China is the only such country.

Essentially, my amendment would have asked a very simple question: Should we let concerns about UNFPA's programs in one country, China, stop the United States from investing in a proven, multilateral program that could, in fact, reap benefits for United States national security?

By improving the health of women and their children, reducing the rate of maternal deaths, and preventing the transmission of HIV/AIDS, UNFPA chips away at the demographic trends and public health disasters that threaten the stability of the world's poorest nations. As we all know, achieving global stability is a primary United States foreign policy goal. I am really disappointed that we will not have the opportunity to debate it today.

I am also displeased that the rule did not grant waivers to other Democratic amendments. One such amendment proposed by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) would have provided an additional \$800 million in emergency funding to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB, and malaria. While we have provided \$400 million in the bill for the Global Fund, an amendment equal to last year's bill and \$300

million above the President's request, the Global Fund will require much more in order to meet current and future commitments. It is unfortunate, I say to my colleagues, that we will not be able to vote on this sound policy initiative today.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), the chairman of the Committee on Rules.

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this rule. It is, as the distinguished chairman of the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations stated, an open rule, which allows for any germane amendment to be considered.

I see my friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) here, and I would like to say that he knows very well that we tried very much to work with him to accommodate his desire to have an amendment as it relates to our policy towards Egypt; and I know that under this open amendment process, he is going to be able to offer an amendment that is different than the one he had intended to offer. But, as has traditionally been the case, we have provided protection for the bill as it has been reported out of the Committee on Appropriations, and then provided for an open amendment process not moving into this extra area of providing waivers for the amendments that the distinguished ranking minority member of the subcommittee mentioned.

So I believe that the opportunity for a very fair and open and rigorous, and I know it will be a somewhat lengthy, debate, to the consternation of a few of my colleagues here, it will take place; and I think it is very important.

Mr. Speaker, I remember very vividly when the President of the United States stood in his State of the Union message and talked about the need for us to ensure very important support for a number of initiatives. HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, malaria, all very important programs that are funded in this appropriations bill.

I had the privilege of going last year to Africa and I met with leaders in west and north Africa; and the Millennium Challenge Account is a very important thing, providing an incentive for those nations as they move and take bolder steps towards political pluralism and the rule of law and free and fair elections, and all of the structures that follow that. And the Millennium Challenge Account, I believe, is a very important tool as we continue to encourage that kind of development and growth on the very important continent of Africa.

I also want to say that as we focus on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria and the issue of the Millennium Challenge Account, to me, Mr. Speaker, there is nothing more important in this bill than the important items that focus on the global war on terror.

There are many people who are often hypercritical of the foreign assistance packages that come out of the United States Congress. We all know that it is a fraction of the overall Federal expenditures. But now it is, in many ways, even more important for us to focus on important foreign assistance. Why? Because since September 11 of 2001, we all know that our world here as Americans changed. The rest of the world dealt with terrorist attacks on a regular basis, but we know that September 11 clearly changed our world here. And that is why I believe it very important that we do everything that we possibly can to continue to provide strong assistance to our allies and those who are standing up to the global war on terror. And we know that there are many people who are part of that, many nations are part of that, the coalition is strong and growing; and I believe that this legislation that we are going to consider will go a long way towards building that very important support.

So I congratulate both the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) for the hard work that they have put into this important legislation; and I thank my colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) who, as a Cuban American, understands how important it is for us as a Nation to do what we can to encourage political pluralism, democratization, free and fair elections, the rule of law, and all of those institutions which we all hope one day the people of Cuba will be able to enjoy.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS).

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend, the gentleman from Texas, for yielding me this time.

First, I want to pay tribute to the bipartisan leadership of this very important subcommittee of the Congress. They have done a great job, and I want to commend them. I also want to thank the scores of my colleagues on the Republican and Democratic sides who have seen the wisdom of an amendment I will propose which will represent a fundamental change in U.S. foreign policy with respect to the Middle East. It is an amendment, the prime beneficiaries of which are the Egyptian people. I will explain.

I am proposing to shift one-quarter of the military aid we are providing on automatic pilot to Egypt and shift that dollar-for-dollar for economic aid, for education, health programs, democracy-building, free media.

Egypt is fortunate enough to have no military threat aimed at it. There are three neighbors Egypt has: the Sudan, which certainly is no military threat to Egypt; Israel, which has peace with Egypt; and Libya, which has just surrendered to the United States all of its weapons of mass destruction. Egypt is one of the most fortunate nations on the face of this planet in terms of its

security situation. It has no threat against it.

Yet, year after year, as if we were on automatic pilot, we are providing the Egyptian military with high-tech equipment amounting to \$1.3 billion. It is one of the worst expenditures of our foreign aid program.

My measure will shift one-quarter of that military aid to economic and social aid. Egypt will lose not one thin dime, but the Egyptian people will gain an enormous amount in their effort to enter the 21st century.

I would like to suggest that this amendment, \$325 million in military aid, traded for \$325 million in economic aid, may be subject to a point of order. It is the absurdity of our system that if that point of order is sustained, I will be forced to offer an amendment shifting a larger amount, which will not be subject to a point of order.

So I want all of my colleagues to clearly understand that my initial intent is to propose a shift of \$325 million. That is all I wish to achieve. However, if I am blocked by parliamentary maneuvers from accomplishing this, I will be compelled to shift a larger amount, which I am sure the vast majority of my colleagues on the Republican and the Democratic side will support.

Egypt desperately needs economic assistance. Per capita income in Egypt is less than \$1,000. The majority of Egyptian women over the age of 15 are illiterate. The last thing this society needs is the ultimate in high-tech weapons in a security situation which is safe, which is unassailable. There is no threat to Egypt.

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It would be the ultimate of irresponsibility for us to continue following the path of recent years and automatically appropriate \$1.3 billion in military assistance to Egypt.

I will urge at the appropriate time all of my colleagues to support my amendment. This amendment has the support of civil society in Egypt. High-ranking members of the Egyptian parliament have advised me that they are hoping and praying that this amendment will pass because it will provide a major boost to economic and social development by the Egyptian people.

I want to thank my colleague for yielding me time.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, we reserve the balance of our time.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time and for his leadership on so many issues.

Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed that the Committee on Rules did not accept an extremely important amendment that I had hoped to offer today. I went to the committee because the issue of funding the United Nations Population

Fund is essential to the health and well-being of millions of women around the world. Women are dying, and the U.S. has turned its back on them.

I offered an amendment that would have ensured that the money in this bill will go to UNFPA and go to help young women and girls who are suffering from obstetric fistula, a terrible condition that occurs during prolonged labor and leaves the women leaking urine for life.

Unfortunately, on a party line vote, the Committee on Rules voted not to protect my amendment.

I assure my colleagues that I have made every effort to compromise on this issue and to break this logjam.

In April of this year, I wrote a letter to the President, signed by many of my colleagues, asking him to put aside our differences and reach a compromise that would help millions of women and girls around the world by funding UNFPA's work on obstetric fistula. Sadly, I received a response ignoring the facts.

Mr. Speaker, women are dying around the world, and this body can do something about it. It is time that we did.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK).

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I first want to commend the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE), my chairman, and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), our ranking member, for the fine job they have done on this bill. It is not a perfect bill, but it is a bill that we can live with and work for. There is much distress around the world, and this bill begins to address some of that.

I, too, am a little upset about a part of the rule that did not allow for some very serious debate, as well as some help, for the children and the women who live around this world who need attention that this bill, unfortunately, because of our limited means, is unable to address.

I do commend the rule for continuing the process and that we fund Haiti and begin to help that Western hemisphere's poorest country to begin to get back to normal.

Also, the Sudan, as my colleagues know now, in the Darfur region of the Sudan, genocide is taking place, and this bill begins to address that, but I wish and hope that we will withhold our money to Sudan until they, the leadership in Khartoum, addresses the Darfur problem. It is unfortunate, and I hope that we move forward in that regard.

HIV/AIDS is a pandemic in the world. In just completing the World Conference in Thailand, we heard many, many stories about it and what is happening in the world. Africa, Asia, the former Soviet Union, India, it is a pandemic that must be addressed. This bill offers \$2.5 billion for that, the largest we have ever appropriated. We wish we could do more. It is unfortunate that

one of the amendments offering \$800 million more is not going to be able to be offered today, but overall, it is a good bill, not a perfect bill. We must do more to help our neighbors around the world.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE), the chairman, and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), the ranking member for their support and leadership in ensuring funding for Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh. I want to particularly thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG), my co-chair of the Armenia Caucus, for all that he did in the subcommittee.

Through their support, \$65 million was allocated to Armenia in economic assistance, and an additional \$5 million was allocated in military assistance and \$5 million was secured for assistance to Nagorno-Karabakh. I am pleased with these levels of aid, and I would like to reiterate my steadfast support for maintaining these levels as we go to conference.

I am particularly pleased with the fact that parity was restored in the levels of military aid given to Azerbaijan and Armenia. When the Bush administration's budget was released, I was quite troubled that the FMF request for Azerbaijan was four times as high as the request for Armenia. This imbalance simply could not be allowed. When the President waived section 907 of the Freedom Support Act in the aftermath of 9/11, a commitment was made by the Bush administration of parity in any military aid to Armenia and Azerbaijan. Because Azerbaijan continues to blockade Armenia and also has threatened Armenia militarily, it is more important than ever to maintain parity in military aid between the two Nations.

Additionally, it is essential that the people of Nagorno-Karabakh receive the aid and assistance that they need.

I support the language directing the USAID to spend \$5 million in fiscal year 2005 for programs in Nagorno-Karabakh. This support is in our country's interests and will help alleviate the conditions of the people there.

Lastly, I would like to thank again the subcommittee for maintaining a high level of economic assistance to Armenia in order for the country to overcome the dual blockade by Azerbaijan and Turkey, which continues to impede Armenia's economic well-being. Despite the dual blockades by Azerbaijan and Turkey, Armenia continues to implement economic and democratic reforms, which have met with considerable success. While Armenia continues to make important reforms, as long as Armenia suffers from blockades on its east and west borders, continued and robust U.S. assistance is necessary to help minimize their impact.

I want to thank the subcommittee again.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I would advise the gentleman from Florida that we have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of our time and urge adoption of the rule.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank all of our colleagues who have come to the floor to debate this important rule. This measure before us that we bring to the floor is extraordinarily important and should be supported by the overwhelming majority of our colleagues today.

I particularly am proud of the leadership that the President has provided and really the congressional leadership has also joined in to create an unprecedented assistance program to fight HIV/AIDS in the world. I think we all have to be very proud of that, and it is a very significant part of the legislation that we bring forward with this rule today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on three motions to suspend the rules postponed yesterday in the following order:

H. Res. 615, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 713, by the yeas and nays; and

H. Con. Res. 462, by the yeas and nays.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first such vote in this series.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN SUPPORT OF FULL MEMBERSHIP OF ISRAEL IN THE WEQG

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 615, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 615, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 418, nays 0, answered “present” 1, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 377]

YEAS—418

Abercrombie
Ackerman

Aderholt
Akin

Alexander
Allen