

Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Parliamentary Assembly during the One Hundred Ninth Congress:

The Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN).

The message also announced that pursuant to section 276h-276k of title 22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the following Member as Vice Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group conference during the One Hundred Ninth Congress:

The Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD).

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 106-567, as amended by section 1102, Public Law 108-458, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, appoints the following individual to serve as a member of the Public Interest Declassification Board: Joan Vail Grimson of Virginia.

IN MEMORY OF BETTY EASLER

(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, this afternoon the people of South Carolina honor the late Betty Easler with a memorial service at Asbury Memorial United Methodist Church in Columbia.

Betty was a graduate of Dreher High School, and she received undergraduate and masters degrees at the University of South Carolina.

Betty selflessly and tirelessly advocated for persons with disabilities and special needs and their families. She served as a counselor at the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation. She was executive director of the office of the Governor's Development Disabilities Council for Governor Carroll A. Campbell.

Betty was executive director of Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities and was employed as case manager for Intracorp, a division of Cigna Insurance Company.

All of this was achieved although she was born with spina bifida and was for a lifetime in a wheelchair.

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

RESTRAINING SPENDING

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

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, President Bush says he wants to restrain spending. But regardless of the budget that the House passes this week, President Bush has never used his two constitutional powers to restrain spending. Number one, the big veto: he has never used it. He is the first President since James Garfield in 1881 never to use the veto. And poor President Garfield was

only in office for 6 months. President Bush is now in his fifth year of his Presidency.

Secondly, the little veto: I wrote an article on this in the New York Times last Friday. The rescission power. All President Bush needs is a majority of House and Senate Republicans to support his spending cuts, and he can cut anything in the Federal Government that he wants to. The rescission power is filibuster-proof. He does not need 60 votes in the Senate. He has Fast Track pressure on Congress to respond, but he has never used that little veto power either.

President Clinton used it 163 times. When has President Bush ever used either the big veto power or the little veto power? The American public needs to know.

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Social Security was an innovative program back in 1940 when the first Social Security recipient, Ida May Fuller, opened her mailbox to find a check from Uncle Sam. To Americans back then, the Social Security program was a dream come true and real security.

For every Ida May Fuller, there were 42 younger workers contributing to their retirement; 42 workers for every retiree.

Now let us fast forward to today. Under the current system, your payroll taxes are immediately used to pay the benefits for today's retirees. This pay-as-you-go system works when many people are paying in and fewer are collecting benefits.

But today seniors are living longer and collecting more benefits. As a result, there are fewer workers paying into the system per retiree; 3.3 to be exact. And in the near future, there will be fewer than two workers per retiree.

Mr. Speaker, if we do not fix the system now, the only thing our children and grandchildren will receive in their mailbox is a giant IOU. Let us work together to provide real security for all Americans. The time to act is now.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable BILL THOMAS, Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means:

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING,
Washington, DC, February 7, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I am forwarding to you the Committee's recommendations for certain positions for the 109th Congress.

First, pursuant to Section 8002 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the Committee designated the following Members to serve on the Joint Committee on Taxation: Mr. Thomas, Mr. Shaw, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Rangel, and Mr. Stark.

Second, pursuant to Section 161 of the Trade Act of 1974, the Committee recommended the following Members to serve as official advisors for international conference meetings and negotiating sessions on trade agreements: Mr. Thomas, Mr. Shaw, Mr. Herger, Mr. Rangel, and Mr. Cardin.

Third, pursuant to House Rule X, Clause 5(a)(2)(A)(i), the Committee designated the following Members to serve on the Committee on the Budget: Mr. Portman, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Hulshof, Mr. Neal, and Mr. Jefferson.

Best regards,

BILL THOMAS,
Chairman.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 161(a) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2211), and the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House as congressional advisers on trade policy and negotiations:

Mr. THOMAS, California,
Mr. SHAW, Florida,
Mr. HERGER, California,
Mr. RANGEL, New York and
Mr. CARDIN, Maryland.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF CHARLES R. BAXTER

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, it is my sad duty to report to the House that we lost a pioneer in medicine this weekend down in Dallas: Dr. Charles Baxter, a surgeon whose research in clinical skills saved thousands of lives over the years.

Dr. Baxter will be remembered for a lot of things back home, not the least of which was his treatment of a severely burned patient and his introduction of very aggressive fluid management in the initial hours after the burn had occurred, saving countless patients from going into acute renal failure, dealing with what was then one of the principal causes of death in the severely burned patient.

It was reported in the newspaper this weekend that Dr. Baxter, in an effort one time to bring the spirits up of a young 8-year-old girl who had been burned over 92 percent of her body, brought an Airedale puppy into the burn unit at Parkland. He scrubbed it down with antibacterial cleanser and brought the girl a new reason to continue on in her struggle to recover from her burn.

I remember Dr. Baxter when I was a resident down in the operating room. He had a heart attack a few days before, but was down there in the wheelchair in the surgery office barking out

orders to his residents at the surgery board to keep them on schedule.

And, of course, the country remembers Dr. Baxter. From that terrible day in November of 1963, Dr. Baxter was the head of the emergency room when John Kennedy was brought into the facility at Parkland Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, all of us in Dallas and across the country mourn the passing of Dr. Baxter, and our thoughts and prayers will be with his family during this time.

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.

ADJUSTING THE NUMBER OF FREE ROAMING HORSES PERMITTED IN CAPE LOOKOUT NATIONAL SEASHORE

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 126) to amend Public Law 89-366 to allow for an adjustment in the number of free roaming horses permitted in Cape Lookout National Seashore.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 126

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

SECTION 1. ADJUSTMENT IN NUMBER OF FREE ROAMING HORSES PERMITTED IN CAPE LOOKOUT NATIONAL SEA- SHORE, NORTH CAROLINA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The first subsection (b) of section 5 of Public Law 89-366 (16 U.S.C. 459g-4) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “100 free roaming horses” and inserting “not less than 110 free roaming horses, with a target population of between 120 and 130 free roaming horses.”;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following new subparagraph:

“(B) unless removal is carried out as part of a plan to maintain the viability of the herd; or”;

(3) in paragraph (5), by striking “100” and inserting “110”.

(b) REPEAL OF DUPLICATE SUBSECTION.—Section 5 of Public Law 89-366 is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “(a)” after “(a)”;

(2) by striking the second subsection (b).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. 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. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 126, introduced by me, would allow for the adjustment in the number of free-roaming horses permitted in the Cape Lookout National Seashore. Specifically, H.R. 126 would permit the number of free-roaming horses to increase to 110 from its current level of 100, with a targeted population between 120 and 130 horses, and would not permit the removal of the horses unless the removal is carried out as part of a plan to maintain the viability of the herd.

H.R. 126 is identical to legislation that was supported by the majority and minority and passed the House of Representatives during the 108th Congress.

I urge adoption of the bill.

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

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

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, as the majority has explained, H.R. 126 makes a number of slight adjustments in the management of the herd as a means to assure their long-term survival.

Over the course of the last several hundred years, a herd of wild horses has established itself on the Shackelford Banks area of Cape Lookout, North Carolina. The herd developed on the banks because of shipwrecks and abandonment. When the National Seashore was established, there were approximately 100 wild horses on the barrier island. Since that time, the National Park Service has taken steps to control the herd size to prevent damage to park resources.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 126 is a workable solution to the wild-horse management needs at Cape Lookout, and we support adoption of this legislation by the House today.

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

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 126.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LLAGAS RECLAMATION GROUND- WATER REMEDIATION INITIA- TIVE

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 186) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation and in coordination with other Federal, State, and local government agencies, to participate in the funding and implementation of a balanced, long-term groundwater remediation program in California, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 186

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Llagas Reclamation Groundwater Remediation Initiative”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

For the purposes of this Act:

(1) GROUNDWATER REMEDIATION.—The term “groundwater remediation” means actions that are necessary to prevent, minimize, or mitigate damage to groundwater.

(2) LOCAL WATER AUTHORITY.—The term “local water authority” means the Santa Clara Valley Water District.

(3) REMEDIATION FUND.—The term “Remediation Fund” means the California Basins Groundwater Remediation Fund established pursuant to section 3(a).

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. CALIFORNIA BASINS REMEDIATION.

(a) CALIFORNIA BASINS REMEDIATION.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF REMEDIATION FUND.—There shall be established within the Treasury of the United States an interest bearing account to be known as the California Basins Groundwater Remediation Fund.

(2) ADMINISTRATION OF REMEDIATION FUND.—The Remediation Fund shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation. The Secretary shall administer the Remediation Fund in cooperation with the local water authority.

(3) PURPOSES OF REMEDIATION FUND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the amounts in the Remediation Fund, including interest accrued, shall be used by the Secretary to provide grants to the local water authority to reimburse the local water authority for the Federal share of the costs associated with designing and constructing groundwater remediation projects to be administered by the local water authority.

(B) COST-SHARING LIMITATION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not obligate any funds appropriated to the Remediation Fund in a fiscal year until the Secretary has deposited into the Remediation Fund an amount provided by non-Federal interests sufficient to ensure that at least 35 percent of any funds obligated by the Secretary for a project are from funds provided to the Secretary for that project by the non-Federal interests.

(ii) NON-FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY.—Each local water authority shall be responsible for providing the non-Federal amount required by clause (i) for projects under that local water authority. The State of California, local government agencies, and private entities may provide all or any portion of the non-Federal amount.

(iii) CREDITS TOWARD NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—For purposes of clause (ii), the Secretary