

BAKASSI PENINSULA

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

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to draw my colleagues' attention to a situation in Africa.

President Abasanjo of Nigeria promised, as a result of a lawsuit several years ago, to withdraw Nigerian troops from the Bakassi Peninsula in the Republic of Cameroon. Today he has not done this, and it is time we see some action from Nigeria.

As the president of the African Union, President Obasanjo has an obligation to set an example for the rest of the African nations by adhering to the International Court of Justice's decision and obey the rule of law.

I call on President Abasanjo to withdraw all Nigerian troops from the Bakassi Peninsula and return the Bakassi Peninsula to its rightful owner, the fine Republic of Cameroon.

 DEMOCRATIC WOMEN UNITED
 AGAINST GOP ABUSE OF POWER

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

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to denounce the Republican abuse of power. Right now, the Senate Republicans are trying to jam through judicial nominations that will hurt the American people, as well as women.

Specifically, I am extremely concerned about the nomination of Janice Rogers Brown from California. Her views are out of the mainstream and out of touch with American values, and this is why: she was the only member of the California Supreme Court to find that a jury should not hear expert testimony in a domestic violence case about Battered Women Syndrome. Janice Rogers Brown was the only member of the court to oppose an effort to stop the sale of cigarettes to children. She even said that a manager could use racial slurs against his Latino employees.

Her record is clear. She does not protect the rights of workers, women, or minorities. She is so far out of the mainstream that she, in my opinion, is viewed as extreme. We cannot allow the Senate Republicans to abuse their power to jam through such extreme judicial appointments.

Our current and effective system of checks and balances protects our judicial branch. The American public must be shielded from individuals like her.

 JUDICIAL NOMINEES

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

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong concern over the unconscionable and harmful stall-

ing tactics we are seeing in the confirmation process over in the other body with regard to several qualified judicial nominees.

Two in particular, Justice Janice Rogers Brown, the nominee that the gentlewoman was speaking about just a minute ago, and Judge Bill Pryor, are outstanding jurists; and I am proud that they are both natives of my home State of Alabama.

Justice Brown is a native of Luverne and the daughter of a sharecropper. She has enjoyed an extremely successful career beginning on the Third District Court of Appeals in California and continuing for the past 9 years on that State's State Supreme Court. Judge Pryor, a native of Mobile, was one of our State's finest attorneys general and served with distinction during his temporary appointment on the 11th circuit of the Court of Appeals.

Both of these individuals are experts in their field, and both of them represent the finest in legal minds anywhere in this country, and they deserve a vote.

 MOURNING THE LOSS OF LANCE
 CORPORAL JONATHAN GRANT

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

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Lance Corporal Jonathan Walter Grant.

Jonathan lived his life by always putting others first. Last Wednesday, he made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in Iraq.

Lance Corporal Grant was among the six Marines killed during combat in Operation Matador when their troop transporter rolled over a road-side bomb in the Al Anbar Province.

Just 23 years old, Jonathan lived life always showing courage and maturity beyond his years. He was born in the Pojoaque Valley of New Mexico and raised by his grandmother, Margie Warner, whom he loved dearly. He received his General Equivalency Diploma in the year 2000 and joined the Marines in the year 2002, working the entire time to support his family and build his future.

Our heartfelt prayers and sympathies are with Jonathan's family and friends during their time of great loss. We will always remember his bravery and the sacrifice he made while serving our great Nation.

 CHINA SAFEGUARD
 IMPLEMENTATION

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and commend President Bush and the Committee on Implementation of Textile Agreements for recently implementing safeguards

against Chinese imports of cotton shirts, cotton trousers, and cotton and man-made fiber underwear. Since the lifting of quotas by the WTO in January, shorts, trousers, and underwear, which represent more textile jobs than any other sector in America, have been under attack due to the flood of Chinese imports currently coming into our country. This fast action will save thousands of textile jobs in this country and in my district.

However, Mr. Speaker, I was disheartened to hear the comments on the safeguard sanctions made by the spokesman for the Chinese Ministry of Commerce. He said in a statement that China believes its exports of cotton knit shirts, trousers, and man-made underwear have not disrupted the U.S. market. I think a 1,573 percent increase and a 1,277 percent increase in the first 3 months of this year constitute a market disruption. Let me repeat, those numbers are for the first 3 months of the year. Think what would happen if we did not implement the China safeguards.

The Ministry of Commerce went on to say, The U.S. decision runs counter to the World Trade Organization's agreements on trade of textile and apparel products and deviates from the WTO spirit of free trade.

I took specific note of this statement because China's idea of fair trade is government subsidies of its textile and apparel exports to the United States, currency manipulation, export tax rebates, forgiveness of loans by its government banks, and direct payments to its State-owned textile and apparel industry. Fortunately, the rest of the world does not think like the Chinese.

I applaud Secretary GUTIERREZ and his panel for helping to level the playing field for our domestic textile and manufacturing.

 REPUBLICAN ABUSES OF POWER

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, 36 years ago, Republican Senator Howard Baker took to the Senate floor during a Republican-led filibuster of Abe Fortas, President Johnson's nominee to be Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Senator Baker justified the Republican filibuster by stating, "On any issue the majority, at any given moment, is not always right."

Some people might be surprised that Senate Republicans led a filibuster against a judicial nominee. After all, Senator FRIST continues to claim all judicial appointees are entitled to an up-or-down vote, no matter what. It is a disingenuous statement when he himself and other proponents of this extreme measure have used the filibuster to delay and defeat judicial nominations of the past. It is a hypocritical statement when the Republican majority in the Senate derailed and defeated 65 of President Clinton's judicial nominations without ever permitting them

a vote or even a hearing, not a vote in committee, not a vote on the floor.

And now that the Republicans are in the majority and have a President, they want to prevent Democrats from taking the very same actions they have used. They are now trying to change the rules of the Senate in the middle of the game to try to take away the rights of the minority.

Senator Baker was correct in 1968 when he said the majority was not always right, and it is time Senate Republicans realize that their extreme power grab is not in the best interests of either this Congress or this Nation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DEBBIE PETERSON

(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, today I would like to congratulate Debbie Peterson from my district, a social worker at Pope High School. Last week, Habitat For Humanity named her the Southwest Regional Volunteer of the Year for Georgia, Florida, and Alabama. She is one of those special educators whose energy is contagious.

For her, Habitat For Humanity is more than building a house on the weekends. Sponsoring the Student Club is her way of giving back to the school, to the community, and to those who want a hand up and not a hand out, as Habitat's slogan states.

Throughout her 31 years in public service, Debbie Peterson has always remembered that it is about the students and their accomplishments. What have they done? Increased club membership from 25 students to 525, over one-quarter of the entire student body. Raised over \$160,000 for Habitat projects to build seven homes; become one of the five largest chapters of Habitat at U.S. colleges and high schools.

At the end of this school year, she will retire from Pope High School. The lessons she has taught the thousands of students who helped provide a hand up to countless others will last a lifetime. Congratulations Debbie Peterson.

MAKING PROGRESS IN SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM

(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, I rise today to highlight the progress, yes, the progress we are making towards meaningful reform of an ailing Social Security system.

Because of the efforts of my colleagues and President Bush to communicate the truth of the impending Social Security shortfall, Americans are talking, and their elected representatives are listening.

I know I am only one of many Members who have been hosting listening

sessions to hear the questions and concerns of my constituents on these important issues. On every one of these meetings, ideas are put forth. Many Members have translated these ideas into legislative proposals. Though the details differ, the message remains the same: we must do something to ensure Social Security will remain strong for our children and our grandchildren.

Unfortunately, not all Members are equally committed to solving the problem. Some opponents of reform have admitted that they would rather stand in the way of honest debate than be part of the solution. Mr. Speaker, this is a disservice to the constituents they represent and the millions of Americans who would benefit from reform.

I would encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to be part of the solution, not part of the problem.

SUPPORT THE SAVE OUR WATERS FROM SEWAGE ACT

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

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong concerns about an EPA proposal that would allow local treatment plants to discharge inadequately treated sewage into our waterways. It is disappointing that the EPA would even consider a policy change that would worsen our Nation's water quality and threaten public health.

I am a cosponsor of the Save Our Waters From Sewage Act to prevent the EPA from finalizing this misguided initiative. The mere thought of routinely allowing human sewage that is only partly treated to be dumped into our local waterways is very disturbing.

The EPA's wastewater guidelines have generated understandable concerns among my constituents in Westchester, Dutchess, and Orange counties. They seriously undermine the protections in place for our water resources in the Hudson Valley. We have a responsibility to fully treat all wastewater.

We already face enough health and environmental risks in our local communities that are beyond our control. It is senseless to initiate a new policy that knowingly puts the public at greater health risk. When it comes to the safety of our water and our local citizens, it is far more important to do what is right than to do what is most convenient.

I want to thank my colleagues, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW), for leading the fight to protect public health and prevent the EPA from enacting this policy. I urge support for the Save Our Waters From Sewage Act.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 415

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 415.

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

There was no objection.

CONDEMNING THE PRESENCE OF RACIALLY RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS IN HOUSING DOCUMENTS

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 259. I recently introduced this resolution to condemn the presence of racially restrictive covenants in housing documents.

Mr. Speaker, during the early 20th century, racially restrictive covenants were used in housing documents such as plats, deeds, and homeowner association bylaws to prevent racial, ethnic, and religious minorities from renting or buying property. While they are now illegal and technically unenforceable, most were never removed from housing documents. In my district alone, one survey identified more than 1,200 documents that still contain discriminatory language.

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In many jurisdictions, the process of removing racially restrictive covenants is administratively burdensome, time consuming and costly. This resolution urges States to adopt legislation similar to California and commends the Missouri State Senate for passing a bill that streamlines the process for removing these relics of the Jim Crow era.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 259 and join me in condemning racially restrictive covenants.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2361, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 287 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 287

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. 2361) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of