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AMENDMENT PROCESS FOR H.R. 3132, CHILDREN'S SAFETY ACT OF 2005

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Rules may meet next week to grant a rule for the consideration of H.R. 3132, the Children's Safety Act of 2005, which may require that amendments be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD prior to their consideration on the floor.

The Committee on the Judiciary ordered the bill reported on July 27, 2005, and is expected to file its report with the House on Friday, September 9, 2005. Members should draft their amendments to the text of the bill as reported on July 27, 2005.

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JUDGE JOHN ROBERTS, A QUALIFIED NOMINEE FOR THE SUPREME COURT

(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, since President Bush nominated John Roberts to serve on the Supreme Court in July, we have heard countless stories confirming Mr. ROBERTS' character, leadership abilities, and commitment to justice. Throughout his career, he has achieved an accomplished record of government service and has demonstrated his dedication to protecting our rights. The more Americans learn about him, the more they like him.

On Sunday, President Bush nominated Judge Roberts to follow in the footsteps of Chief Justice William Rehnquist as our Nation's highest ranking judge. When the Senate begins its confirmation process next week, I am confident that they will continue to discover that Judge Roberts is well suited for this position. From serving as a law clerk for Chief Justice Rehnquist to arguing 39 cases before the Supreme Court, he possesses a unique wealth of knowledge and experience.

After losing Chief Justice Rehnquist, our judicial system needs a similar leader who will fairly and effectively guide our courts. I strongly believe our Nation has found such a person in John Roberts.

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

PROVIDING FAMILY ASSISTANCE IN THE WAKE OF HURRICANE KATRINA

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as we offer our sympathy and reflection today to the victims of 9/11, we stand here again looking at another horrific and unspeakable tragedy, Hurricane Katrina.

The numbers are clear that the greatest victims will be children. Some 400 children are homeless, and we know that between one-third and a quarter of them will have a traumatic experience after the end of their journey through Hurricane Katrina. We know that 35 percent of them that experienced this terrible tragedy will have a severe mental illness, and we also know that there are 800 missing children that are now lost or presumed dead through Hurricane Katrina.

I think it is important as we look toward more legislation bills and moving quickly to address the horribleness of this tragedy that we provide for a one-time grant assistance for the children who have been impacted by this hurricane and that legislation be drafted and passed by both bodies to secure their protection and that we provide a structure that will monitor these children through adulthood, through reaching the age of majority.

We have heard from psychiatrists that say that the most vulnerable victims of this tragedy who will suffer a horrific experience will be our children. We must rally around them. It is imperative that this Congress work together to provide them with the financial, social, psychiatric, and, of course, family assistance that is necessary.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SODREL). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

A WEEKEND IN SEPTEMBER 1900

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the devastation of Hurricane Katrina is a vivid reminder to Texans of another hurricane that occurred 105 years ago, the weekend of September 8, 1900, in Galveston, Texas. That hurricane, known to many as "the storm," was the deadliest natural disaster to take place in American history.

In 1900, Galveston was the showplace of the Gulf of Mexico, referred to by

many as the Jewel of Texas and the wealthiest city in the State of Texas. On that weekend in September, as 40,000 residents and vacationers were bidding farewell to summer, weather forecasters were watching closely an unnamed hurricane brewing in the Gulf of Mexico. Having very little of today's weather forecasting equipment, the trackers lost the location of the storm in the gulf after it passed the predicted landfall of Florida.

It began as a tropical storm on August 27, 1900, and no one could imagine what it would become. Twelve days later, in the darkness of the night on September 8, 105 years ago today, it started to rain in Galveston and the water silently and quickly began to rise. It crept and covered the low-lying island. The island was barely above sea level at 5 to 9 feet. There was no time for any evacuation.

The strong winds and rains ravaged the city. Houses were devastated and families were swept away. As the power and phones went out, people started wading through the murky mounting water. They sought shelter in downtown buildings and churches as the gale winds and incessant rain continued to increase.

Nuns in the local orphanage tied a roped around the waists of the children and unsuccessfully tried to lead them to higher ground. Of the 93 children and 10 Catholic nuns, only three boys survived.

No one was prepared or adequately warned for this Category 4 hurricane that hit the city of Galveston. The force of the 140-mile-an-hour winds caused a water surge that covered most of the 3 mile by 30 mile island in minutes.

The nameless hurricane destroyed 3,500 buildings, over half of the city. The loss of life was staggering. It reminds me of the scripture of old, that the rains came down, the waters rose, and the winds blew and beat against the houses. But when the rains stopped and the wind blew no more, over 8,000 people had died. Hundreds more were never accounted for. Nearly everyone on the island knew a friend or relative who had perished.

Isaac Cline, a Galveston forecaster, never believed that the hurricane could ravage this paradise island. After the calm came once more, Cline described the storm's aftermath as "the most horrible sight that was ever witnessed by a civilized people."

When the hurricane finally moved inland, and it did not end its winds until it got to Canada, the task of recovery was overwhelming. Prisoners of the State penitentiary were used in the cleanup to find the dead, buried at sea, only to resurface on the beaches. Bodies were still being found in February of the next year. Since it was not possible to bury the thousands that died, they were eventually cremated.

The story of Galveston's hurricane is a story of death and devastation and ultimate determination.

The survivors in Galveston were committed to protect their city in the future. They dredged the ship channel and the island was literally raised 17 feet by the dredging. It would be an engineering marvel even today. A massive sea wall was built to protect the city from future hurricanes. The economic loss, property loss, and loss of life had a serious impact on the coastal city.

Although the great storm in Galveston was extraordinary, those who survived and pitched in to help rebuild Galveston were just as extraordinary in their grit and character. Those brave Texans who survived faced the challenges head on, and eventually Galveston rose back from that murky mud.

Galveston has come a long way since that weekend in 1900. It is once again a thriving community, rich in history, opportunity; and the citizens are as resilient as they were 105 years ago today. Galveston did lose, however, its title of "wealthiest city" to another place up the bayou called Houston.

Today, as our Gulf Coast neighbors struggle to put their lives back together after the devastating blow they received from Hurricane Katrina, our thoughts and prayers go out to the victims and families. The devastation caused by this hurricane affects the entire Nation, and we must come together to provide for our friends, our relatives and our neighbors in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama during this time.

On the anniversary of the "great storm," the Galveston storm, the people of southeast Texas are ready and showing their compassionate spirit to those devastated by Katrina. I commend them for their kindness in this time of need. Just as Galveston was rebuilt, we remain optimistic that this recent disaster will be overcome by collective efforts of all Americans. As Americans, we are all in this together, Mr. Speaker; and we need to be on the same page in the hymnal. That is just the way it is.

SMART SECURITY AND THE IRAQI CONSTITUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, tonight on the heels of Hurricane Katrina, I cannot help but ask how the victims would have been helped had our National Guard and our military and our Corps of Engineers equipment been made available here at home, not across the world, making trouble instead of fixing troubles here as we responded to Katrina.

Tonight I will discuss what is happening in Iraq since we were last in session 5 weeks ago. For the last 4 years, the Bush administration has often justified the war in Iraq by boasting of the new-found freedoms Iraqi women would

supposedly enjoy thanks to our military intervention.

Many of us remember that staple of the President's stump speech, that the first voter in the Iraqi elections was a 19-year-old woman. In this very Chamber, an Iraqi woman sat with the First Lady during the State of the Union address and flashed the victory sign in celebration of the election that had just taken place.

Well, that was then, Mr. Speaker. That same woman, now Iraq's ambassador to Egypt, is one of several Iraqis now publicly criticizing their nation's draft constitution and its treatment of women's rights.

"When we came back from exile," she said, "we thought we were going to improve rights and the position of women. But look what has happened. We have lost all of the gains that we made over the last 30 years. It is a big disappointment."

In fact, the very second article of the Iraqi Constitution declares that Islam is "the official religion of the state," and that "no law may be enacted that contradicts its established provisions."

You do not have to be a theologian, Mr. Speaker, to know that adherence to strict Islamic tradition is incompatible with equal rights and dignity for women.

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Most depressing of all, perhaps, is that this constitution may actually represent a weakening of women's rights from the previous regime. That is right. Women may have fewer legal protections in this new so-called democracy than they had under the rule of that famous feminist and egalitarian Saddam Hussein. Is this what nearly 1,900 American soldiers have died for, so that Iraq could slip into repressive theocracy? Perhaps this is the noble cause, the cause we have been hearing so much about: second-class citizenship for Iraqi women.

The weapons of mass destruction claim was discredited long ago. The Iraq-al Qaeda link is nonexistent. Now it even appears that the spreading-freedom-and-democracy rationale for this war is also a fraud.

Mr. Speaker, this is just one more reason that we must end this occupation and bring our troops home as soon as possible.

One week from Thursday, I will be holding a hearing here on Capitol Hill where we will hear from experts about how we might achieve military disengagement while still playing a constructive role in the rebuilding of Iraq. Bringing the troops home should be the beginning; it should not be the end of a reassessment of our national security policy. It is time to end the reflex impulse of using military force to solve world conflicts and erroneously planned actions based on citizens' fears. This has the appearance of strength; but as Iraq has shown, it often undermines our national security rather than enhancing it.

I have proposed a new approach. It is called SMART Security. SMART stands for Sensible, Multilateral American Response to Terrorism. SMART is based on the belief that war should be an absolute last resort, to be undertaken only under the most extreme circumstances.

But that does not mean that SMART is not serious and smart about protecting America. It is vigilant about fighting terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. But it does so with strong multilateral alliances, improved intelligence capabilities, vigorous inspection regimes, and aggressive diplomacy. SMART would reshuffle our national security budget. No more billions thrown at outdated Cold War weapons programs. That money would instead be invested in energy independence and other efforts that truly are relevant to the modern security threats we face.

SMART also includes an ambitious international development agenda, to help address the root causes of terrorism: Democracy-building that includes women as equals; education for women and girls; addressing resource scarcity—these are key ingredients to building stable societies in Iraq and elsewhere.

It is my hope and belief that the grievous mistakes we've made in Iraq will lead us to this new, smarter national security policy. SMART Security protects America by relying on the very best of American values—our capacity for global leadership, our dedication to peace and freedom, and our compassion for the people of the world, all people, women and men alike.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SODREL). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the Special Order time of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON).

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

There was no objection.

HURRICANE KATRINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, America has really seen a lot, we have been through a lot, in the past week. We have watched Hurricane Katrina from start to finish. We have seen it form in the Atlantic, sweep across Florida, and enter the gulf. And we have watched in horror as it has devastated the southern portions of Louisiana and Mississippi and Alabama.