

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FEDERAL SUNSET COMMISSION

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

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Constitutional Caucus headed by Mr. BISHOP and Mr. GARRETT, who are determined to make sure that government in Washington and in this country is limited to the constitutional role. I appreciate their leadership, because that is too often forgotten in this Chamber. One of the pieces of legislation that helps underscore that need is legislation to create a Federal Sunset Commission, legislation I authored 10 years ago.

I have watched and worked in the State legislature in Texas to promote, and here is the benefits of it. What this does is this Commission seeks to abolish obsolete agencies and eliminate duplication by putting an expiration date on every agency and program where they must justify their existence to taxpayers or face elimination.

What it does, in practice, is eliminate agencies that duplicate each other. And the last study showed that Federal programs, on average, duplicate five others. So we are wasting money terribly.

As President Ronald Reagan said, the closest thing to immortality on this Earth is a Federal program. Our goal is to end immortality, make sure that Federal agencies are responsive to tax-

payers and they need our precious tax dollars today; not what they were created for 100 years ago or 80 years ago, but do they deserve our tax dollars today?

The fact of the matter is there is so much duplication, there is so much waste in this government, and we have 500-and-some different urban aid programs, 350 different economic development programs, more than 100 different job training programs, the war on drugs, multiple programs over about 17 different agencies.

It is a terrible waste of tax dollars, and in this day and age when we are fighting a war against terrorism, when we have major deficits, we cannot afford this type of wasteful government.

Our Constitution requires us to trim the Federal Government. In fact, Thomas Jefferson, our third President, wrote a letter to a friend at that time in his Presidency lamenting the fact that he was having trouble cutting back agencies that had outlived their usefulness.

So the fight that we have is an historical fight. We have actually brought this bill up to a vote before in the House. It passed with 272 votes. It did not move further than that. But I am convinced that by assigning agencies, there will be no sacred cows, every agency has to justify their existence.

In Texas we have eliminated 44 State agencies, saved over \$1 billion. I am convinced here at the Federal level, done right in a bipartisan way with real commitment, we can save tax dollars. We can make Federal programs accountable to taxpayers and save dollars.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back, again with thanks to Mr. BISHOP and Mr. GARRETT for leading this caucus at such a key time in our Nation's history.

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

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

REMEMBERING THE HOLOCAUST

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House and speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to pay my respects, and ask my colleagues to join me, in observing Holocaust Remembrance Week.

This morning the Congress, in a bipartisan manner, gathered in the Capitol Rotunda, to remember a period of history that will resonate forever, and which we must never again see occur. We grieve for the loss of life, and the dismissal of humanity.

Around 280,000 Holocaust survivors live in Israel, constituting 40 percent of the population over age 60. It may seem like time progresses, but the Holocaust remains present and an ongoing warning. After over 60 years, the Holocaust is still a presence, and there are living memorials all over the world dedicated to the memory of those who so cruelly lost their freedom and their lives and to the continuing education to conquer prejudice, hatred and injustice.

I am reminded of the time I spent with the Holocaust Museum and a Holocaust Museum family in Houston, Texas. Just recently we commemorated the bringing over of one of those heinous and horrific rail cars that took the Jews in Germany to their death. It is there in Houston for remembrance and an understanding that we should never, never allow that horrific act to occur again.

□ 1845

On April 25, the bustling society of Israel observed 2 minutes of silence while sirens sounded to remember the Holocaust. Traffic paused, individuals stood still on sidewalks, the background then of a robust society waned, and the haunting echo of the sirens cried out for relief and justice and acknowledgment.

Hundreds of people participated in the March of the Living at the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp in Poland. Triumphant walking through the infamous gate that still has an ominous dominance over the camp: Arbeit Macht Frei, Work Will Make You Free.

Memorial services around the country at synagogues, schools, churches, community centers and workplaces read aloud the names of children who perished or reflected on the legacy of uprooted families or the meaning of a cultural identity after genocide. As we walked through the Holocaust Museum in Israel, we were again reminded of the millions of children that died.

The Holocaust's magnitude of destruction numbered more than 12 million deaths, including 6 million Jews and 1.5 million children, more than two-thirds of European Jewry, and the ramifications of racism, prejudice and stereotyping on a society.

We must never, never sit idly by while another country or people are suffering. We must never have patience or tolerance or apathy for others who will commit crimes against humanity. A haunting quote in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum refers to the story of Cain and Abel. The Lord said, "What have you done? Listen. Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground."

The Holocaust forces society and our prosperity to face uncomfortable questions such as the responsibilities of

citizenship and the consequences of indifference and inaction and the importance of education and awareness. The victims of oppression and genocide, whether in Germany, whether dealing with the Armenian people or the people of Sudan, are heard when the world demands justice and accountability. We must speak for them, those who cannot speak for themselves.

The Holocaust is a testament to the fragility of democracy. We must reaffirm the fight against prejudice and intolerance in any form all over the world, no matter what your religious background or ethnic background. It is time for the world to link arms against intolerance and genocide and fight for justice and accountability.

It fills me with grief to know that the leaders of nations can destroy their own, and yet I hope that we can strengthen the means by which we continue to pursue justice. Hope springs eternal, and I hope for us it is of real meaning as we fight for justice and equality and the elimination of genocide.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to pay my respects, and ask my colleagues to join me in observing Holocaust Remembrance Week.

This morning, the Congress gathered in the Capitol Rotunda to remember a period of history that will resonate forever, and which we must never again let occur. We grieve for the loss of life and the dismissal of humanity.

Around 280,000 Holocaust survivors live in Israel, constituting 40 percent of the population over age 60. It may seem like time progresses, but the Holocaust remains present, and an ongoing warning.

After over 60 years, the Holocaust is still a presence, and there are living memorials all over the world dedicated to the memory of those who so cruelly lost their freedom and their lives, and to the continuing education to conquer prejudice, hatred, and injustice.

On April 25th, the bustling society of Israel observed two minutes of silence while sirens sounded to remember the Holocaust. Traffic paused, individuals stood still on sidewalks, the background din of a robust society waned and the haunting echo of the sirens cried.

Hundreds of people participated in the March of the Living at the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp in Poland, triumphantly walking through the infamous gate that still has an ominous dominance over the camp: Albeit Macht Frei (Albeit Mahkt Fray), Work Will Make You Free.

Memorial services around the country, at synagogues, schools, churches, community centers, and workplaces, read aloud the names of children who perished, or reflected on the legacy of uprooted families, or the meaning of a cultural identity after a genocide.

The Holocaust's magnitude of destruction numbered more than 12 million deaths, including 6 million Jews and 1.5 million children (more than 2/3 of European Jewry), and the ramifications of prejudice, racism and stereotyping on a society. We must never, NEVER, sit idly by while another country or people is suffering. We must never have patience, or tolerance, or apathy, for others who would commit crimes against humanity. A haunting quote in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum refers to the story of Cain and Abel:

"The Lord said, 'What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground' (Genesis 4:11).

The Holocaust forces society and our posterity to face uncomfortable questions such as the responsibilities of citizenship and the consequences of indifference and inaction, and the importance of education and awareness.

The victims of oppression and genocide—whether in Germany, whether dealing with the Armenian people or the people of Sudan—are heard when the world demands justice and accountability.

The Holocaust is a testament to the fragility of democracy. We must reaffirm the fight against prejudice and intolerance in any form.

It fills me with grief to know that the leaders of nations can destroy their own—and yet I hope that we can continue to strengthen the means by which we can pursue justice.

MINIMIZE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FORTENBERRY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to, first of all, commend the work of a gentleman from whom we will be hearing shortly, the gentleman from Utah, for his efforts to come to the floor on a regular basis to lead the charge of the Constitutional Caucus to return the focus of this House and also the American public on what our Founding Fathers intended, and that is the basis of this country, the U.S. Constitution; and also to rise to commend the work of a Member from Texas who has just previously spoken on his efforts toward that goal and his aim on his legislation that he spoke to previously just a few moments ago on setting up a Sunset Commission in order to try to rein in this ever-growing government that we have today.

We know this government has been growing over recent years. If we can go back to 1925 when then-President Calvin Coolidge said then, when the government was as small as it was at that point in time, he said, quote, government is growing, quote, to encumber the national government beyond its wisdom to comprehend or its ability to reach alternatives and to advocate for the people, end quote. Even then in 1925, Calvin Coolidge realized the government had far exceeded the merits the Founding Fathers intended for this country.

Today we see it as well. Today, of course, we have official reports to confirm the same thing. GAO recently came out with a report and certified and stated that the GAO cannot certify the government's financial records for the last 8 years in a row. They say there are weak accounting practices, mismeasurements and mismanagement of assets and liability and costs. We see that today.

Why is this that we see this? Because of certain problems in different areas.

The size of government has grown tremendously, we have cause to understand. There is a sense today that a larger government will meet the requirements of the citizens today because one size fits all. We know that in practical life that does not ring true, nor does it ring true when we have a country today of over 300 million people and a government that has tried to meet it with one-size-fits-all philosophy.

We see it also in a sense that a government is not like a business. You know, in the private sector, there are certain economies of scale. As a business grows bigger, there are economies of scale that makes it more efficient. That is not the case with the government. There are no such economies of scale.

Instead, there is a lacking of coordination. There is an overlapping of agencies, and, again, what we have to do is look to recent GAO reports that just recently came out. This case, in the case of FEMA, overlapping of the agencies, of other agencies, mismanagement in the agencies, we saw that this agency could not deal with the circumstances that came before it.

Our Founding Fathers understood this. Thomas Jefferson realized that as the government grows, he said, quote, the natural process of things in government is for liberty to yield and for government to gain ground. Government has gained ground in too many specific areas, and our liberty has been yielding. Again, I commend the gentleman from Texas for his efforts to try to rein in that size of the government.

I would just make some suggestions as we go forward with that piece of legislation. What we need to do, I believe, is make sure that legislation has some real teeth to it to be able to get the job done. We know that there is already outside organizations that are always looking at the Federal Government to see to it whether it is being efficient or not.

We need an agency within the Federal Government that will have teeth, be able to get the job done. It needs more than just to analyze it. One of the ways we can do that is to have that Sunset Commission have a BRAC-like formula to it so that way it will be easier for the proposals to come to Congress, just like we did with the BRAC Commission to have simply an up-or-down vote on those agencies that are no longer doing their job and those agencies are just simply not getting the job done.

But we have to go a little bit further than that, because we are not simply looking at duplication of services and efficiencies. We also have to add one additional criteria to that BRAC-like commission for the Sunset Commission. That is a very fundamental one, and that is the question, are the agencies that this Commission is going to be looking at, are the agencies doing something that they have the legal right to do? That is to say, do they