

security that the United States Armed Forces have access to recruit the best people to serve in this country.

The material previously referred to is as follows:

[From SolomonResponse.Org]

FAIR PARTICIPATING LAW SCHOOLS

The members of FAIR willing to be named publicly are:

1. The Faculty of Capital University Law School
 2. The Faculty of Chicago-Kent College of Law
 3. The Faculty of City University of NY (CUNY) Law School
 4. The Faculty of DePaul University College of Law
 5. The Faculty of University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law
 6. The Faculty of Fordham University School of Law
 7. The Faculty of Georgetown University Law Center
 8. George Washington University Law School
 9. Golden Gate University School of Law
 10. The Faculty of Hofstra University Law School
 11. The Faculty of the John Marshall School of Law
 12. New York Law School
 13. New York University School of Law
 14. Northeastern University School of Law
 15. The Faculty of the University of Minnesota Law School
 16. The Faculty of Pace University School of Law
 17. The Faculty of the University of Puerto Rico School of Law
 18. The Faculty of Roger Williams University Ralph R. Papitto School of Law
 19. The Faculty of the University of San Francisco School of Law
 20. The United Faculty of Stanford Law School
 21. The Faculty of Suffolk University Law School
 22. Vermont Law School
 23. The United Faculty of Washington University School of Law
 24. The Faculty of Whittier Law School
- faculties: 24 (18 public)
institutions: 12 (6 public)

CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4167, THE NATIONAL UNIFORMITY FOR FOOD ACT OF 2005

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 31, 2006, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 4167, the National Uniformity for Food Act. If passed, this bill will be a huge setback to consumer safety, public health and America's war on terror. This bill wipes out over 80 State food safety laws and puts our Nation's food safety standards squarely in the hands of the FDA.

State laws that will be overturned include warnings as to the risk of cancer, birth defects, reproductive health issues and allergic reactions associated with sulfiting agents in bulk food. That is why 37 State attorney generals, Democrats and Republicans, oppose this bill. A bipartisan Association of Food and Drug officials also have strong concerns about the legislation.

Let me quote from them. It says, this bill, H.R. 4167, "undermines our Nation's whole biosurveillance system by preempting and invalidating many of the State and local food safety laws and regulations that provide necessary authority for State and local agencies to operate food safety and security programs. The pre-9/11 concept embodied in this bill is very much out of line with the current threats that confront our food safety and security system."

The Association of Food and Drug Officials also said that H.R. 4167 will severely hamper the FDA's ability to detect and respond to acts of terrorism. Again, quoting from this report, it says our current food safety and security system will be significantly disrupted, and our inability to track suspected acts of intentional alteration will be exploited by those who seek to do our Nation harm.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct your attention to these two pictures. Which meat do you think is older, the red meat on top or the brown meat on the bottom? It is not really a trick question, but both of these packages of meat were packaged at the same time. Both have been sitting in a refrigerator side by side for 5 months. The meat on the top has been packaged with carbon monoxide which causes the meat to look fresh and red long into the future. The meat on the bottom has not been treated with carbon monoxide. It is brown and it is slimy.

Like I said, the meat on the top is 5 months old and looks as good as new, but it is not. If consumed, you could become severely ill from a food-borne pathogen like E. coli and possibly die from the red meat here on the top.

The FDA, without any independent study, has no objection to allowing meat to be packaged in carbon monoxide. The FDA merely reviewed the meat industry's carbon monoxide proposal. Review is not the same as independent research. By allowing the injection of carbon monoxide in meat and seafood packaging, the meat industry stands to gain \$1 billion per year because meat begins to turn brown. When it does, consumers reject it.

Consumers rely on color to determine freshness. Numerous studies from 1972 to 2003 cite color as the most important factors consumers use to determine what meat to buy. The whole purpose behind this carbon monoxide packaging is to extend the shelf life of meat and seafood and to deceive the consumer into thinking the product is fresh. Today, States may pass their own laws and put labels on meat that has been packaged with carbon monoxide, but those laws will be overturned if this bill, H.R. 4167, becomes law.

I will be offering an amendment which allows States to label carbon monoxide packaging of meat, so consumers will know the meat may not look as fresh as it may appear.

Is this really the standard we want for our country? Do we offer low car-

bon monoxide in meat packaging to make it look fresher, to stay on the shelf longer, and expose our country and consumers to the health and risk of eating contaminated meat and seafood? Public health and safety for food primarily have been the responsibility of States. We should not tie the hands of States who want to protect the health of their citizens. I urge my colleagues to support the Stupak carbon monoxide labeling amendment and vote "no" on H.R. 4167.

ADDRESSING THE ROOT CAUSE OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 31, 2006, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, under the leadership of our colleagues JIM KOLBE and JOHN CORNYN, a bipartisan, bicameral delegation attended the 45th meeting of the U.S.-Mexico Inter-Parliamentary group that was held in Mexico. The House Members, on Saturday, then went to the Mexico-Arizona border. We had the opportunity there to meet with local law enforcement officials and hospital administrators to discuss the tremendous strain that illegal immigration imposes on resources and law and order in our communities.

As an advocate of greater security at our borders, I have long supported addressing the root cause of illegal immigration, and that is a lack of economic opportunity that exists at home for the people in Mexico. We know that the majority of illegal immigrants come to this country for one very simple reason. They are seeking economic opportunity. They want to better their lives. They want to feed their families. Economic growth, job creation, and higher wages in Mexico are special components to a long-term solution to the very serious problem of illegal immigration.

By pursuing an open trade agenda that expands economic engagement in this hemisphere, we are not only shoring up our regionally based economy, and creating new opportunities for the United States workers, we are benefiting workers, the business owners and investors as well.

Mr. Speaker, we are hoping to drive the economic growth necessary to reduce the number of illegal immigrants who are trying to make that dangerous trek across the border, doing so simply because of the fact that they are wanting, as I said, to feed their families. It was therefore with great interest that I read a recent Business Week article describing the emergence of a growing middle class in our neighbor to the south.

The success of the North American Free Trade Agreement can be seen in the greater economic stability outlined in this Business Week piece. It talked

about steady growth, tame inflation, climbing wages and falling interest rates. This increasingly stable and healthy economic environment has helped Mexico become, and I quote from the Business Week article, a middle-class nation where millions have access to mortgages, solid jobs provide security, and a class of strivers saves to put its kids through college.

Mr. Speaker, Mexico's middle class has grown to over 10 million families or 40 percent of all the households in Mexico. Business Week also credits home ownership as another key factor in the emergence of a robust middle class. Strong economic fundamentals have slashed mortgage rates in half in just 2 years. The growing ranks of Mexican homeowners buttresses middle-class growth by allowing families to build equity, plan for their financial futures and move further up the economic ladder.

The middle class has also been able to afford additional consumer goods. Last year, auto sales in Mexico were up 33 percent from 2000 as a record 1.3 million cars and trucks were purchased. Home appliance sales have tripled in the past decade. Even extras like concert tickets and sporting events tickets are increasingly accessible to the average working family.

Mr. Speaker, most of us would not consider refrigerators or baseball games to be major luxuries. But for a country that has struggled greatly with poverty and deep economic crises, these are signs of tremendous economic progress. They are proof that our policy of economic engagement through agreements like the North American Free Trade Agreement are working to bring new opportunities for the people in Mexico and also for the people right here in the United States.

They are an important step forward in ensuring that the swollen ranks of illegal immigrants are losing their incentive to come here illegally to find opportunity. Mexican officials are demonstrating the fact that they recognize the reality of the problem of illegal immigration as well. On February 16th, the Mexican Congress adopted a resolution that acknowledged the graveness of the illegal immigration issue and outlined the principles of its agenda to combat the problem. This resolution cited economic opportunity as critical to a successful campaign to prevent illegal immigration to the United States and to encourage the return of migrants to their homes in Mexico.

I am encouraged by the Mexican Parliament's bold language in accepting responsibility for action, and putting forth the outline of a plan. I am heartened that economic growth is central to Mexico's long-term strategy, because we know a growing Mexican middle class is a shrinking illegal immigrant class.

With greater hope for the future, there is a greater incentive to stay and build a life at home. Mexico is pledging to remain committed to a pro-growth

agenda. We must remain equally committed to an open trade agenda that helps our southern neighbor to continue down a path of economic growth and greater opportunity.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PUTNAM) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord our God, around the upper part of this Chamber are profile medallions which recall the personal history of lawmaking. In the center, full-faced and bold before us, is the image of Moses, the great lawgiver of the Hebrew scriptures.

May the people of this Nation and, in particular, those elected to the 109th Congress, who gather here to protect and guide this Nation, be faithful to Your commands.

Your revelation, Lord, gives us nothing less than the lessons we need to address the issues of the day. Your commandments are the foundations on which we build hope. They are the supports which strengthen faith in public action and the food which nourishes the human heart.

By obeying Your laws, those in representative government inspire those they represent, the governed. To internalize Your commands and live according to Your Word is to lead to fulfillment and bring promise to a disillusioned world, when left on its own.

Therefore, in the midst of everything, from You, Lord our God, we choose to draw wisdom and strength, now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. THORNBERRY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 6, 2006.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 6, 2006, at 11:05 am:

That the Senate Passed with an amendment and requests a conference with the House on H.R. 2830.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk of the House.

PRIVILEGED REPORT ON RESOLUTION OF INQUIRY TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr. THORNBERRY, from the Committee on Armed Services, submitted an adverse privileged report (Rept. No. 109-384) on the resolution (H. Res. 645) requesting the President and directing the Secretary of Defense to transmit to the House of Representatives all information in the possession of the President or the Secretary of Defense relating to the collection of intelligence information pertaining to persons inside the United States without obtaining court-ordered warrants authorizing the collection of such information and relating to the policy of the United States with respect to the gathering of counterterrorism intelligence within the United States, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PRIVILEGED REPORT ON RESOLUTION OF INQUIRY TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr. THORNBERRY, from the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, submitted an adverse privileged report (Rept. No. 109-385) on the resolution (H. Res. 641) requesting the President to provide to the House of Representatives certain documents in his possession relating to electronic surveillance without search warrants on individuals in the United States, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

THE BARE FACTS ON THE ECONOMY

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