

FEDERAL LAND GRABBING OF UTAH

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

Mr. STEWART. Today I rise in defense of the people of Utah as I introduce the Utah Land Sovereignty Act, a bill that will prohibit the establishment of national monuments in Utah except by the express authorization of Congress.

More than 60 percent of the State is controlled by the Federal Government. This is not uncommon in western States. And now we know that President Obama intends to use the Antiquities Act to further extend these Federal landgrabs.

Recently, the former Secretary of the Interior suggested and encouraged him to do this. This is another example of the arrogance of the Federal Government and their cavalier attitude towards those of us in western States.

It's time for the President to realize that Federal landgrabs have real consequences for real people.

TERRELL BENTON, JR.

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

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 50 years that Terrell W. Benton, Jr., has served as a member of the State Bar of Georgia.

Terrell Benton earned both undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Georgia and, as one colleague put it, is "the very model of what a lawyer should be."

Terrell Benton believes that all deserve effective representation in our courts. That may be common today, but in 1964, my daddy's first year on the bench, not everybody felt that way. In that year, Terrell defended a black man the State was trying to put to death for killing a white man. He was convicted of the crime he committed, but he was spared the death penalty thanks to Terrell. That would have been no small feat for the most accomplished lawyer in that time and place, but considering that Terrell was just 1 year out of law school made it all the more remarkable.

Today, Terrell is general counsel to three school districts and serves on a host of civic boards.

I know I speak for lawyers everywhere when I thank Terrell Benton for his commitment to equal justice for all and for his 50 years of service to our profession.

THE PATH TO PROSPERITY IS STILL ACHIEVABLE

(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, during Tuesday night's State

of the Union address, the President spoke to the American people, and Michael Gerson in yesterday's Washington Post has judged "it was a pervasive lack of substance and seriousness."

Four years ago this month, the President explained that the deficit was unsustainable, but then proceeded to triple the deficit, putting American families at risk. Sadly, his words do not reflect his actions.

House Republicans recognize the urgency in putting our fiscal house back in order. Over \$16 trillion in national debt is irresponsible. Not only does it threaten senior citizens with the value of the dollar, it places an undue burden on future generations at risk for higher taxes, and it destroys job creation due to economic uncertainty.

The path to prosperity is still achievable. Now is the time for the President to change course and work with Congress to secure solutions enabling small businesses to create jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

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ACHIEVING THE REPUBLICAN POLICY OF SEQUESTER

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, we are on the brink of achieving the Republican policy of sequester. Why do I say it's the Republican policy?

Because on July 19 of 2011, 229 Republicans voted for their Cut, Cap, and Balance bill, which said that the alternative to cutting spending in a rational way would be the irrational imposition of sequester, which cuts across the board irrespective of priorities. It's the wrong thing to do. It will hurt America. It will hurt our economy. It will hurt the growth in jobs.

I am here to tell you, if Democrats were in charge of the House of Representatives, that sequester would not happen; but we've been here 6 weeks, and not a single piece of legislation has been brought to this floor by the majority to stop sequestration from happening, to substitute a rational fiscal policy for an irrational one.

So when sequester hits, as unfortunately as it may, as tragically as it may, as unacceptably as it may, the American people need to know this is Republican policy included in legislation for which 98 percent of them voted on July 19, 2011.

COUNTERING A NUCLEAR NORTH KOREA

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

Mr. COTTON. Mr. Speaker, North Korea's nuclear test earlier this week sig-

nals an increasingly dangerous and defiant stance that the United States and our allies must confront and defeat.

The resolution before the House today condemns the North Korean Government's flagrant and repeated violations of multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions and condemns its repeated provocations that threaten international peace and stability. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I must add that the constraints we face in countering a nuclear North Korea highlight the urgent need to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons capabilities. Iran already exports murder around the world, props up illegitimate regimes like Bashir al-Assad in Syria and supports and sponsors terrorist organizations like Hezbollah and Hamas. Imagine what Iran would do when acting under the umbrella of a nuclear deterrent.

The United States already faces in North Korea one outlaw regime with nuclear weapons. We cannot allow a second outlaw regime to join them.

NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK

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

Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of a resolution authored by Mr. LIPINSKI of Illinois honoring National Engineers Week.

In his State of the Union address, the President emphasized the importance of educating students in the sciences, technology, engineering, and math fields so that they are prepared for the high-tech and high-paying jobs of the future.

STEM education is vital for the economic growth of my district and for the Nation. Just last month, a new report found that in the past 11 years high-tech jobs in my district and in the surrounding areas have grown by 18.6 percent. Many of these jobs are requiring engineers and students who pursue STEM education.

Yet while most parents of school-aged students believe that STEM education should be a priority in the United States, only half agree that it is actually a top priority. That is why I ask my colleagues to support the celebration of National Engineers Week in order to raise awareness of STEM education and its importance to our country's economic future.

EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY

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

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th anniversary of the founding of Emporia State University in Emporia, Kansas.

Founded on this very day in 1863, with a mission of providing outstanding educators for the State of

Kansas, Emporia State is much recognized to this day for its outstanding teachers college. One-third of the degrees earned each year at Emporia State are graduate degrees—the high-est rate of any university in Kansas.

Today, I join more than 5,900 current students and 75,000 alumni in congratulating Emporia State University on their first 150 years, and I wish them the very best in the next 150 years.

VOTING RIGHTS ACT CHALLENGE

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, our right to vote is the very foundation of our democracy. In passing the Voting Rights Act, Congress relied on an extensive record of discrimination in voting.

Section 5 is one of the act's most important provisions. It requires covered jurisdictions to submit planned changes in their election laws to Federal officials and judges for prior approval. The areas covered by section 5 were covered the old-fashioned way—they earned it—by implementing poll taxes, literacy tests, gerrymandered election districts, and other schemes.

If the Supreme Court invalidates section 5 in its upcoming decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*, it would essentially allow jurisdictions with a history of discrimination to implement any discriminatory voter scheme and to then place the burden on the victims to raise the money to bring a lawsuit and to, meanwhile, suffer under the discriminatory scheme until the Court rules. Then, without section 5, those same jurisdictions could create another scheme and repeat the whole process.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when America has staked so much of its international reputation on the need to spread democracy around the world, we must ensure its vitality here at home and preserve section 5 of the Voting Rights Act.

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 the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken later.

CONDEMNING NORTH KOREAN NUCLEAR TEST

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 65) condemning the Government of North Korea for its flagrant and repeated violations of multiple

United Nations Security Council resolutions, for its repeated provocations that threaten international peace and stability, and for its February 12, 2013, test of a nuclear device, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 65

Whereas, on February 12, 2013, North Korea exploded a nuclear device;

Whereas reports indicate that the nuclear test was apparently more powerful than North Korea's previous tests in 2006 and 2009;

Whereas North Korea's nuclear test, and its recent ballistic missile test, are violations of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1695 (2006), Resolution 1718 (2006), Resolution 1874 (2009), and Resolution 2087 (2013);

Whereas North Korea's ballistic missile program poses a threat to United States allies and interests in the Asia Pacific region;

Whereas North Korea's ballistic missile program has demonstrated an increasing ability to reach the United States, and could constitute a grave threat to the security of the American people;

Whereas North Korea has violated the July 27, 1953, Armistice Agreement that ended the Korean War, and has since committed unprovoked acts of war against South Korea by sinking the warship *Cheonan*, killing 46 of her crew, and by attacking civilian targets on the island of Yeongpyeong, killing four residents, among many other willful violations and outrages;

Whereas the Government of North Korea has been implicated repeatedly in the illicit laundering of monetary instruments, in international narcotics trafficking, and in the counterfeiting of United States currency and intellectual property;

Whereas North Korea has demonstrated a willingness and ability to proliferate its ballistic and nuclear technology to a variety of countries, including Iran and Syria, both United States designated state sponsors of terrorism;

Whereas the Government of North Korea commits gross human rights violations against the North Korean people, including maintaining a system of gulags that imprison thousands of citizens, and policies that have resulted in starvation deaths of over 2,000,000 people; and

Whereas the Government of North Korea has repeatedly violated its commitments to the complete, verifiable, and irreversible dismantlement of its nuclear weapons program, including the Agreed Framework of 1994, the Joint Statement of September 19, 2005, and the agreement of February 13, 2007: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns the Government of North Korea for its flagrant and repeated violations of multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions, for its repeated provocations that threaten international peace and stability, and for its February 12, 2013, test of a nuclear device;

(2) expresses solidarity with the people of North Korea who suffer severe oppression, denial of basic human rights and political liberties, and material deprivation;

(3) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to its alliances with Japan and South Korea, which are critical for the preservation of peace and stability in Northeast Asia and throughout the region;

(4) calls upon the People's Republic of China, North Korea's closest ally and trading partner, to pressure North Korean leaders to

curtail their provocative behavior, abandon and dismantle their nuclear and missile programs through the curtailing of vital economic support and trade to North Korea that support the Government of North Korea, and comply with all relevant international agreements and United Nations Security Council and International Atomic Energy Agency resolutions;

(5) calls on the People's Republic of China to take immediate actions to prevent the transshipment of illicit technology, military equipment, and dual-use items through its territory, waters, and airspace that could be used in North Korea's nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs; and

(6) calls on the United States Government—

(A) to apply all available sanctions on North Korea, cooperate with United States allies and other countries to impose additional sanctions on North Korea, and secure a new United Nations Security Council resolution imposing stronger sanctions;

(B) to utilize aggressively the range of available legal authorities and resources to defend United States interests against North Korean illicit activities; and

(C) to support the President's commitment to strengthen the United States ballistic missile defense system to protect the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on this resolution.

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

There was no objection.

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

What I want to share with the body is that, on February 12 of 2013, North Korea successfully carried out a nuclear test—a test in flagrant violation of numerous international sanctions and of numerous agreements that North Korea has made in the past.

This test, which is the third time that North Korea has exploded a nuclear device, is a stark reminder that Kim Jong Un is determined to develop his nuclear arsenal while depriving North Koreans of their most basic human rights. When I say their “most basic human rights,” we had an opportunity to speak with the former propaganda minister of North Korea, who told us that 1.9 million North Koreans starved while this regime, in violating every agreement it had made with the international community, plowed forward with a plan to develop nuclear weapons.

North Korea has literally spent billions on its nuclear and its three-stage ICBM program, and that is all money that could have provided enough food to feed this country for years. If you've ever been in North Korea, you've seen