

which were significantly strengthened and made more transparent as a result of the tremendous efforts on behalf of my friend and colleague from Oregon, Senator RON WYDEN, in the Senate.

If an agreement is reached under these new rules, we will have the strongest standards ever to evaluate a trade agreement, and everyone in America will be able to evaluate for themselves, not conjure up some sort of speculation. They will have months to do what I am going to do: see if this agreement is in the best interest of the people in Oregon who I represent. If it is, then they, like I, will support it. If it is not, then I will do, as I have sometimes done in the past, and vote “no” on things I don’t think measure up.

The time to draw the lines in the sand “yes” or “no” is after an agreement is reached, not before. And thanks to the new trade promotion authority, everyone will have an opportunity to make that judgment for themselves well in advance of any decision that Congress makes.

SYRIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KINZINGER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I remember a few years ago visiting Israel, standing in the Golan Heights and looking to the border of Syria. At this time, our guide began talking about the peaceful protests in Syria, the beginning of an era of discontent.

As I looked into the seemingly peaceful area, I never imagined the carnage that was to come: children who on that day attended school, filled with hope for the future and with dreams of becoming a businessman, a policeman, an architect, or any of the host of things building in the minds of such a young person at that age; children and parents who did not know that in a few short years, their lives would be cut down by a ruthless dictator, bent on keeping power at all cost.

As the peaceful protests built in strength, Bashar al-Assad responded in violence. And so began what history will likely judge to be the start of among the most brutal times in Middle East modern history.

Bashar-al Assad began using barrel bombs indiscriminately against innocent people and infamously gassed thousands who struggled to get that last breath of life, only to choke to death, completely aware that that breath would be their last.

As family members died, others joined a group later dubbed the Free Syrian Army, a group the President referred to as a bunch of pharmacists, lawyers, and businessmen, all standing up to reclaim what was theirs rightfully, which was a free Syria. And they fight bravely for a free Syria today.

Through the carnage of this terrible war, a more nefarious group began to assemble, a group not concerned with

human carnage but inspired by it; a group not fighting to protect life but fighting to cut it down; and a group not inspired by freedom of religion but inspired by a hollow and a shallow world view. The group today is now known as ISIS.

□ 1030

Mr. Speaker, before the world paid any attention, this group occupied not just parts of Syria, but also Fallujah, an area fought with American blood and treasure to bring peace and stability to the people of Iraq. The border of Syria and Iraq was torn down, and the world continued to sleep.

I called for America to lead airstrikes against this fledgling group at that time numbering in the low four figures. The reaction I received was not unexpected: people angry that I was interested in starting “Iraq War III.” Yet as this cancer continued to grow, the carnage became worse, and today we find ourselves engaged in limited action against a group growing in numbers faster than they are being dispatched by our airplanes.

Americans feel saddened that the areas that our brave military members fought so hard to win was being thrown away to political expedience, and I am one of those people. I spent a little bit of time in Iraq, on behalf of the United States Air Force, flying airplanes, and I just saw a week ago or a few days ago that Ramadi, the capital of Anbar province, where we saw so much success in the Sunni awakening, has fallen to ISIS.

Now, by the way, Anbar and Ramadi serve as a transportation center for getting goods from Jordan and Syria into Baghdad and are resupply routes for ISIS. So we are seeing not overmuch success in Iraq. But lest we think this fight is limited to just Iraq, all we have to do is look all over the world and all over the Middle East and see ISIS’ influence, from folks arrested near my district in the United States attempting to join and support ISIS, to the problems we see in Lebanon and in Saudi Arabia, and as we see ISIS grow and develop in Libya. This is something that, Mr. Speaker, the President has got to get a control on and reassert American leadership.

We also see that these terrorist groups, these jihadist groups, are coming under the umbrella of ISIS, whether it is al Shabaab, Boko Haram, or al Qaeda in Yemen, or we see the Taliban beginning to join under this supposedly successful group.

What is it we need to do to push them back? In Iraq, I believe we need to use the number of troops and the amount of military force necessary to destroy ISIS and not just necessary to follow the President’s promise of no troops on the ground. I don’t think we need another 200,000 troops in Iraq, and I haven’t heard a single person actually ever suggest that, but we need to use what is necessary to push this back.

By the way, the American military is fierce and desperate to do what needs

to be done, and they are ready to do what the American people and the President calls on.

Lastly, ISIS must be destroyed in Syria; and you can not destroy ISIS in Syria without destroying the incubator of ISIS, who is the evil dictator, Bashar al Assad. There are negotiations in progress now, but until the Syrian people know that the American people stand behind them through a no-fly zone and other means, ISIS will not be destroyed in Syria until that point.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the President to stand up.

REESTABLISH THE GOLDEN FLEECE AWARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, at a time when our Nation is currently over \$18 trillion in debt, we must carefully scrutinize our government programs to ensure that we are funding essential programs, policies, and projects while eliminating frivolous and wasteful spending.

Every day in the news, Americans hear of government waste, fraud, abuse, and regulations that are hindering our small businesses and costing American taxpayers billions of dollars that could be better spent in creating jobs and boosting our economy.

Today, I rise to establish the Golden Fleece Award to once again uncover and bring public attention to the wasteful spending across our Federal Government. The Golden Fleece Award will highlight some of the most egregious examples of government waste of hard-working taxpayers’ dollars and will shed new light on some of the rampant, unnecessary spending by our Federal agencies.

The inspiration behind the Golden Fleece Award was pioneered by the Democratic U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, Bill Proxmire, in March 1975. For the next 13 years, Senator Proxmire went on to issue bulletins announcing a monthly Golden Fleece Award. The Golden Fleece Award became a staple in the U.S. Senate during this time. Senator Robert Byrd once stated that the awards were “as much a part of the Senate as quorum calls and filibusters.”

Mr. Speaker, the Golden Fleece Award will once again serve as an important reminder that taxpayers need to watch, control, and provide the necessary reforms, through this Congress, about Federal spending and regulations.

I will utilize social media and the Internet to provide a unique platform for my constituents to share with me examples that they spot, that they see, of waste of our Federal Government resources by using, #goldenfleeceoversight on Twitter, or emailing me at goldenfleece@mail.house.gov. I have

also established a Web site that allows users to submit their recommendations for future Golden Fleece Awards at hill.house.gov/goldenfleece.

Americans are crying out for accountability from our leaders, and I look forward to working with them and my colleagues to spot waste and find ways to effectively eliminate that kind of spending and regulatory overreach in Washington.

DO UNTO OTHERS AS WE WOULD HAVE THEM DO UNTO US

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the great Mahalia Jackson was a gospel singer. The great singer and civil rights activist Mahalia Jackson, once proclaimed by Harry Belafonte to be the most powerful woman in America, the great Mahalia Jackson gave us some words to live by, some words that can add meaning to life. She, in one of her songs, indicated that, and I shall paraphrase, if I can help somebody as I travel along, then my living shall not be in vain. Live not in vain; help somebody—that is the essence of the message that she presented.

I am here today to speak of persons who are in harm's way and who are suffering. The people of Nepal have had two earthquakes visited upon them: one a 7.8 magnitude, the other a 7.3 magnitude. These two earthquakes have done great damage. More than 8,000 people are dead. I am looking at the statistical information: more than 16,000 injured, 8 million persons affected, nearly 500,000 homes destroyed, another 200,000-plus damaged. They are still in harm's way, but there is something we can do. We can do unto others as we would have them do to us if we had suffered a similar tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, this is a great opportunity for us to do something to help without actually expending a lot of American dollars, although we have spent quite a bit. I am proud to say that the United States has accorded approximately \$40 million to this effort—\$40 million. It will take a lot more, but the United States is involved in doing its part. We have had our rescue teams there; and one of our rescue teams, unfortunately, suffered some tragedy. One of our military helicopters went down. We have lost lives there. People have been there living not in vain, trying to do what they can to be of assistance, doing unto others as we would have them do for us under similar circumstances.

One of the things that we can do is sign on to a bill that will allow those persons who are in this country from Nepal, who are here lawfully, to stay in this country for an extended period of time while their country is recovering. H.R. 2033 affords Nepalese who are in the United States of America to stay for a while longer. They will not have their status in the country change.

They won't become persons on a pathway to citizenship. They will simply have more time here. We will not send them back in harm's way. We will do unto them what we would have them do unto us if we were in a similar circumstance.

Mr. Speaker, this bill has many persons who are supporting it. More than 50 persons have supported this piece of legislation. I am proud to say that some of the persons who have supported it are persons who have great Nepalese communities, and there are others who do not. They just want to be of help.

I want to mention a few whose names I did not mention when I mentioned names previously, or I did not state them correctly. This is a chance for me to correct the RECORD: Congressman MIKE CAPUANO, Congressman TONY CÁRDENAS, Congressman JOE CROWLEY, Congressman MARK DESAULNIER, Congressman RAÚL GRIJALVA, Congressman LUIS GUTIÉRREZ, Congressman JARED POLIS, Congressman CHARLES RANGEL, Congressman CEDRIC RICHMOND, Congresswoman LORETTA SÁNCHEZ, and Congresswoman LINDA SÁNCHEZ—all persons who are supportive, along with many others, nearly 50.

I am proud to say that the community in Houston, the Nepalese community has come together, and they have a goal of raising \$100,000. They have exceeded that goal, under the leadership of Mr. Ghimirey and Mr. Nepal. They have exceeded the goal of \$100,000, and they are still raising additional funds.

I believe that H.R. 2033 affords all of us to live not in vain. I think this is a great opportunity to do unto others as we would have them do unto us. I ask that we support H.R. 2033 and live not in vain. Help somebody as we travel along our way.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 41 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Minister Michael Greene, Lehman Avenue Church of Christ, Bowling Green, Kentucky, offered the following prayer:

Dear God, Our Creator and the One from whom we receive our unalienable rights, we give You our thanks for this day and for all the bountiful blessings You have poured out upon this great

land, this country, and these peoples. We pray these blessings will continue through Your grace.

We are thankful for the opportunity to serve wherein is found greatness. We pray for those assembled here today as they deliberate in this august body. We pray Your guiding hand be upon them.

Bless them with wisdom. Bless them with courage to do the right as You have revealed the right.

Help them to remember that what is being done in this place is not just an exercise in debate but will affect millions of people.

Help us, Father, to preserve our heritage of freedom for future generations.

This we pray on this 20th day of May in the year of our Lord.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. KUSTER 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.

WELCOMING MINISTER MICHAEL GREENE

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Mr. Michael Greene to Washington. Mike is serving today as guest chaplain in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Speaking just moments ago, Mike prayed for all of us serving this great institution and the work we do each and every day. I have been fortunate to know Mike as my minister in Bowling Green, Kentucky, and have always appreciated his prayers.

Throughout his 44 years as a minister, Mike has served Churches of Christ in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Georgia. He also serves on the board of directors of Foundation Christian Academy in Bowling Green.

I always enjoy having a little bit of Kentucky here in Washington. Today, I am proud to welcome you, Mike, to the U.S. Capitol. Thank you for your prayers and for taking the time to be with us in our Nation's Capitol today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee). The Chair will