

California's long-term water problems; and also, I recommend to people that we have the Federal Government in the short term align its water policy programs from the EPA—the Environmental Protection Agency—the Department of Agriculture, the Department of the Interior, the Army Corps of Engineers, that those water programs in the short term be aligned with the State of California's bond act so that we can promote, augment, and advance the projects that would be undertaken in the \$7 billion water bond that the California voters passed last November.

My plea to those who think the tunnels are the solution is: stop, take another look. Take another look at the Little Sip, Big Gulp solution. This actually was something that was first proposed by the Natural Resources Defense Council. We were working with this about 5 years ago. They came up with the Little Sip, Big Gulp name, and with some modification, it is now a proposal that would cost a fraction of what the twin, massive, 40-foot-in-diameter tunnels would cost.

So, for California, there is a future. It is the Golden State. It is an economy unmatched by any other in the United States. It is an economy particularly—well, actually, the entire State's economy is stressed as a result of the drought. And if we take the kind of steps that I have been talking about here, we will be able to provide the water that California needs in the next drought and in the years to come as the population grows and as the economy grows.

So that is the water plan for all California. There are many other pieces of the puzzle, one of which I am going to take just a second to talk about. And that is this week, as we take up the appropriations for water programs in the State of California—actually, water plans for the United States, not just the State of California—we ought to be mindful of a project called the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a program that has been in effect for half a century. It takes the royalties from the offshore oil and minerals onshore and allows much of that royalty to be spent on preserving the special places of America—the wildlife refuges, very unique habitat areas—setting aside those areas, using that money to buy up the land and, in some cases, to buy up easements so that the land will forever remain available to future generations in a more natural state. That is the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Unfortunately, the authorization for it expires this year, and at the moment, there is no perceived movement by the Congress of the United States to reinstitute and reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

When I was deputy Secretary of the Department of the Interior in the mid-nineties, we used this fund to set aside redwood forest off along the coast of California, to protect the Everglades of Florida, to set aside some of the land

along the sand dunes on the Great Lakes. This is a project for all of America, one that is worthy of being reauthorized and properly funded.

With that, Mr. Speaker, perhaps enough about California's drought. No, I will take that back.

□ 2015

Mr. Speaker, we have got a problem in California, short term and long term, and it deserves the attention of the Congress of the United States because California is the seventh largest economy in the world and critically important to the future of this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

INJUSTICE AT HOME AND ABROAD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it has been a tough week, for all Christians in the country have lost three brothers and six sisters in the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina. The whole country mourns—well, probably not everybody. Evil has those who support it and wallow in it, as did the evil perpetrator of the killings.

Our prayers continue to go out to the immediate family members and to the church family members for their peace and for their comfort because those of us who are believers know that those we have lost are at the foot of the Saviour in Paradise.

I learned today that the President will be going to speak at the funeral. I recall a speech in Arizona, and so as I encouraged our prayer caucus tonight, we should be praying for the President to be a uniter as he speaks.

I thought about the way a great President named Abraham Lincoln concluded his second inaugural address. The war was not over; there was great hatred and bitterness. Of course, he mentioned in his inaugural address—talking about North and South—both read the same Bible, both pray to the same God, and each invokes His aid against the other.

He goes on to give what is one of the great theological treatises on the nature of God; he quotes from the Old Testament a couple of times, but with all the killing that occurred during the Civil War, he ended trying to encourage uniting. I know there are those who advise the President that he should not let a good crisis go to waste, but for many of us, the hope and prayer is that at this week's funeral, he will be a uniter.

Mr. Speaker, President Lincoln closed his second inaugural with the words: "With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the Nation's wounds,

to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

Mr. Speaker, that was a man who sought to unite, who knew there was a Heavenly Father to Whom we could pray and Who would answer our prayers. I hope and pray that will be the outcome at the funeral of my brothers and sisters in Charleston, South Carolina.

Of course, then there is the judge side of me. Having sentenced people both to prison and to death, the judge side of me says, from what we know, it sure cries out for the death penalty, but we will let the justice system in South Carolina take care of that.

In the meantime, as we think about injustice, it is also hard not to think of our friends and our allies in Israel who have trouble finding any friends. They are persecuted on every side. We got this report from the U.N., an article talking about it from Marissa Newman of The Times of Israel: "Israel slams 'politically motivated and morally flawed' U.N. Gaza report."

The article says: "Israel on Monday said it would 'seriously' evaluate the United Nations Human Rights Council inquiry on the Gaza conflict, while politicians from left and right slammed the international body for bias and declared that the international investigators lacked access to evidence."

The article goes on down further: "'The report is biased,' said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in response. 'Israel is not perpetrating war crimes but rather protecting itself from an organization that carries out war crimes. We won't sit back with our arms crossed as our citizens are attacked by thousands of missiles.'"

The article says: "The Human Rights Council 'in practice does everything but worry about human rights,' the prime minister charged. 'The commission spends more time condemning Israel than Iran, Syria and North Korea put together.'"

It seems that these are the times that cry out for a moral, pragmatic, and unified response to the anti-Semitism that is growing—it is just unbelievable—in Europe and in the United States colleges and universities. It is incredible.

Mr. Speaker, the Bible talks about times when right will be wrong and wrong will be right; perhaps we are entering such an era. A country like Israel is under attack from virtually every front, every side; and Palestinians, radical Islamists, and Iranians declare that they will see that it is annihilated.

Their leaders make statements such as "we are glad that they are gathered in Israel so that we can annihilate them all at once," and the U.N. basically sees somehow level parties on the same plane: terrorists and people who promote democratic beliefs and carry them out, allow people to vote, believe

in the rights of women, and believe in equal rights.

Israel is a place where Muslims can freely vote and don't have to worry about a radical Islamist killing them if he or she doesn't believe and perform exactly like their radical Islamist leader tells them to.

The article says that the Israeli Foreign Ministry also castigated the U.N. Human Rights Council investigation for failing to distinguish between the Israeli military and Hamas:

"It is regrettable that the report fails to recognize the profound difference between Israel's moral behavior during Operation Protective Edge and the terror organizations it confronted."

"Likud minister Yuval Steinitz compared the conflict to a Palestinian suicide bomber commandeering a bus full of Palestinian civilians and ramming it into an Israeli tank. 'Many Palestinian civilians would die,' he told Army Radio. 'But that doesn't mean the tank is to blame.' The U.N. panel's approach was 'absurd,' he said, in that it would require Israel not to fire back when terrorists fire at its civilians 'because the terrorists are hiding behind their civilians.'"

"Steinitz also said the U.N. Human Rights Commission's obsessive focus on Israel points to anti-Semitism. Asked whether Israel would have done better to cooperate with the panel, he said, 'You can't explain to people who are not prepared to listen.'"

"Yesh Atid leader Yair Lapid also rejected the idea that Israel should have cooperated, saying the panel had drawn its conclusions before it even began its probe."

It goes on to discuss the report from the so-called Human Rights Council. The United Nations Human Rights Council is an abomination. It should be an affront as it is an outrage to anyone who cares about human rights.

What has happened at the United Nations? We have had so many nations join the United Nations that don't care about human rights, and they don't care about women. Of course, they are so brutal in the treatment of those who would oppose it, that apparently it scares off feminist groups who are afraid to attack those who really are inhumane in their treatment of women, enough so the feminist liberal groups are afraid to take them on.

Hopefully, some day, they will gain the courage to see where women are truly being abused in horrendous ways, and they will join with some of the rest of us in trying to stop that, instead of going after Christian groups or groups who believe that everyone, once conceived, should have a right to live.

Maybe if some of those groups quit attacking those who are pro-life and spent a little time attacking those who are true abusers of women, then we would find common footing, and we would be able to work better together.

There is another article here from Anne Bayefsky. This one is headlined:

"U.N. report denies Israel's right of self-defense, advocates arrest of Israelis instead."

It really is outrageous, and the United States, as has been suggested by some writers, should withdraw from participation in the Human Rights Commission. The ICC, International Criminal Court, obviously from its actions and its efforts, is quite anti-Semitic. The United States has no business supporting the efforts of those who support the effort and abuse of Israelis and the effort to eliminate them from off of the globe.

Mr. Speaker, if there had been an Israel during the Holocaust, Jews would have had a place to go, and there would not have been 6 million killed in the Holocaust. This is no time for anyone who cares about world peace and the avoidance of suffering to stand up and decry Israel. This is a time to stand with Israel.

Israel is an actual democratic republic in the middle of the Middle East that respects women like no nation around in the Middle East and supports the value of life and private property. How in the world are we not a better friend to them?

I would like to see, as some writers have suggested, that we withdraw from anything that might lend our support to the International Criminal Court because of its anti-Semitic views.

Mr. Speaker, I realized, as I was reading these articles about additional anti-Semitic efforts by the United Nations, that the U.N. has been overtaken by so many countries that don't believe in human rights for their people.

□ 2030

Many of them, they are abusive, have no problem with torturing those with whom they disagree, have no problem killing people who convert from, for example, Islamic beliefs to Christian beliefs—get the death penalty in some of these countries.

You know, it is time to begin a new organization of democratic republics that respect the rights of women, men, children, and who have fair elections.

Let's have an international community like that. Let's have an international group that, when it speaks, it is not with blood dripping off of the votes of its members. It would mean something.

A human rights commission, for example, for a while had Libya as the head. Are you kidding me? This is outrageous.

Mr. Speaker, I realized, in reviewing these articles, I have not yet filed the bill that I normally file, the U.N. Voting Accountability Act.

What I have learned around this body is, if you keep filing a bill long enough, even if it requires somebody else putting their name on it to get it to the floor, you get that done; you get it passed, and you don't care who gets the credit.

The U.N. Voting Accountability bill is very simple. It basically says any na-

tion that votes against the United States more than half of the time in the preceding year would get no assistance from the United States of any kind whatsoever. As I have said for years, you don't have to pay people to hate you. They will do it for free. It is still true.

It is time to leave that money here. It is time for this administration to stop sending weapons that it knows have continuously fallen in the hands of the Islamic State and made it extremely difficult for the courageous Kurdish fighters to fight and defeat the radical Islamic State.

Let's start sending those weapons directly to the Kurds. Baghdad is not letting them get them. They cannot easily defeat the weapons, the up-armored vehicles, the things that we have sent that we knew ultimately were falling into Islamic State hands.

As some Muslim friends, leaders in Middle Eastern states have continued to ask: Why is it that the United States administration keeps helping the Muslim Brotherhood? Don't they know that is who is at war with the United States?

They ask: Why do you keep helping your enemies?

It is time that we quit helping our enemies. It is time that we help those here at home.

I applaud our conference passing the bills we did tonight. One is going to make it easier for seniors to get access to the health care that ObamaCare has made it very difficult for them to get, so there is some good news.

Our prayers continue so that, by the end of the week, there will be even better news.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. RUSSELL (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today on account of travel in connection with official duties and personal reasons.

Mrs. WAGNER (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today on account of attending the burial mass for her mother-in-law, Lorretto Wagner.

Mr. CLYBURN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today through June 26 on account of official business in district.

Ms. JACKSON LEE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business.

Mr. JEFFRIES (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week.

Mr. PAYNE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of a medical appointment.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.