

NOTICE TO NORIEGA, BUT NO NOTICE TO AMERICAN WORKERS

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the President will veto the trade bill. He says it gives American workers 60 days' notice and he cannot tolerate that.

On the other hand, as just stated earlier, he gives General Noriega, one of America's greatest drug smugglers and enemies, a 75-day notice to find a new job, leave Panama, and in addition he makes him an offer, an offer that would drop all the indictments. All he has to do is leave.

I say, just think about it. If you are a patriotic American worker, you cannot get a minute's notice from the President, but he will give Noriega a 75-day notice.

You know, the Republicans keep saying, "Let Reagan be Reagan."

I say, unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, it looks instead of Reagan being Reagan, he turned into Monte Hall. The only deal America should make is with Panama. You extradite Noriega to America, to stand trial or we will come in after him, and that is the only signal that should go out to drug smugglers in Central America.

BRING EMPLOYEES OF CONGRESS AND THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY UNDER CONSTITUTIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS

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

Mrs. MARTIN of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate when we differ with the executive branch and the President, as the prior two speakers from the other side of the aisle have done, to voice our disappointment and disagreement, but it is even more appropriate if we look at our own House first and perhaps correct what I can only assume on the other side of the aisle is ignorance of a situation that exists, that anyone concerned about civil rights will want to change, and that is I ask your support from the Democrat side of the aisle to be co-sponsors of the bill that would bring the Congress of the United States, all of its employees and the Federal Judiciary, under a Civil Rights Act that would be constitutional, but would end the hypocrisy that now we have as we tell the rest of the Nation what to do, but exempt ourselves.

I am still naive enough to believe that as soon as everyone understands what we have done, they will wish to end this, and the majority party will want to take a leadership role in supporting my bill and end the ultimate hypocrisy of this place, so it will be called the last plantation no more.

SUPPORT FOR INCREASE IN MINIMUM WAGE

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

Mr. BRENNAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to express my strong support for increasing the minimum wage.

It seems to me that we, the Congress, can do one or two things. We can support taxpayer-financed social programs to provide the necessities of life—food, clothing, and housing—to the working poor. Or we can raise the minimum wage so that those who earn it can live on it.

I believe it is far better to reward hard work and promote self-sufficiency by raising the minimum wage, than to force someone to accept a Government handout in order to survive.

As Governor of a State which raised its minimum wage above the national minimum a few years ago, I found few negative effects on our economy. In fact, employment grew at more than three times the national rate.

I urge my colleagues to encourage financial independence and show their respect for those at the lowest end of the wage scale. Vote for human dignity by voting to increase the minimum wage. Support the Hawkins bill.

DEATH PENALTY FOR DRUG TRAFFICKERS

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, as all of us know, drugs are killing thousands of young Americans and ruining hundreds of thousands of other lives.

In addition, drugs are costing Americans hundreds of billions of dollars. Because of that, today I have introduced legislation which would call for the death penalty or life imprisonment without benefit of parole for all major drug traffickers in this country.

A major drug trafficker, according to the Justice Department, is defined as a person who is in possession of 4 or more kilos of pure cocaine, 2 or more kilos of pure heroin, or 200,000 dosage units of PCP or LSD.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to get tough with these people. It is time to put them behind bars forever or to take their lives for killing our young people.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY IN ALASKA

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

Mr. MRAZEK. Mr. Speaker, in the name of energy independence, a

number of my colleagues have suggested that the Interior Committee should immediately move legislation which would open up the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge for exploitation for gas and oil reserves.

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I have never visited any place in the world that rivals Alaska's National Wildlife Refuge for austere primitive beauty. It is a timeless unspoiled landscape that has seen no material change in thousands of years.

There are some disquieting reports, including an analysis done by the Fish and Wildlife Service, that suggest that oil development and gas development in this area could cause far more environmental damage than anyone has anticipated. I can only submit that the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs should be given an opportunity to hold thorough, careful, and deliberate hearings on what the impact of gas and oil development would be in the wildlife refuge before this priceless and primitive habitat is possibly destroyed.

MAKE IT A CABINET POST BY MEMORIAL DAY, 1988

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

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, last November the House approved important legislation elevating the Veterans' Administration from an independent Federal agency to a Cabinet-level department.

The House vote was 339 to 17. I strongly supported the measure. The President has endorsed the proposal. It has substantial backing from virtually every veterans organization.

All those who support this worthy effort and recognize the importance of the bill should urge its immediate enactment into law.

The goal, in fact, should be making it a reality by Memorial Day, 1988. As Chairman SONNY MONTOOMERY recently reminded us: In whatever fashion, in whatever manner, we need to remember our veterans. We need to remember the past, remember the cause, remember the cost.

What could be more fitting or more appropriate in honoring our veterans than to see this bill making the VA part of the President's Cabinet become law by Memorial Day.

This would make Memorial Day, 1988, one we will not forget.

OPPOSING THE OERAS AMENDMENT TO THE HATE CRIMES STATISTICS ACT

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

Mr. AuCOIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the Gekas amendment to H.R. 393, Hate Crimes Statistics Act. For a number of reasons, that section that Mr. GEKAS seeks to eliminate is perhaps the most important part of this bill.

Last year, the House Criminal Justice Subcommittee, chaired by my friend, Mr. CONYERS, heard testimony from a wide range of experts indicating that antigay violence was on the rise and becoming more pervasive. This increase in volatility is fueled, sadly enough, by AIDS paranoia and hatred of the gay community.

Statistics support this belief. In New York City alone, the victims on anti-gay violence increased 83 percent last year. Studies have shown that nearly 1 in 4 gay men and nearly 1 in 10 women had been physically abused because of their sexual orientation.

In fact, hate and violence motivated by sexual orientation more than doubled between 1985 and 1986. To me, it is a grave injustice to tell thousands and thousands of victims that their pain, their suffering, and their fear are unworthy of the attention of a government that is supposed to safeguard the rights and freedoms of all Americans. To me, it is a grave injustice to tell aggressors that the Government will turn its face from their crimes, if only they carefully select their victims. But those are exactly the messages which the Gekas amendment would send.

Mr. GEKAS maintains that this provision does not belong in this bill. I could not disagree more strongly. Whether it is crime motivated by prejudice against a person because of race, ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation. Hate and violence do not discriminate and we should not either.

Perhaps most importantly, it is crucial that Congress send a message to the aggressors and the community of potential victims that violence against people based on their sexual orientation is not acceptable. The gay community deserves this fundamental justice. Basic human decency demands it. And, aggressors must be made to understand that we will not stand by and tolerate any violence or compromise of civil liberties.

Violence against sexual orientation has motivated many of the Nation's leaders to action. Cardinal John O'Connor, of the Roman Catholic Diocese of New York, vehemently stated before the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights last year that the Catholic Church "categorically rejects all forms of violence against homosexual persons. . . . I have publicly abhorred, orally and in writing, against any individuals or classes, regardless of reasons given to justify it. . . ."

Archbishop John R. Quinn of San Francisco, joins Cardinal O'Connor saying that, "Nothing can justify attacks on homosexual persons, and the church must clearly repudiate all such acts. Violence is not the way of the

Gospel. Violence is not the way of the church. Violence is not the way of Christ."

For all of these reasons, please join me in voting against this regressive and damaging amendment.

MEDICAL UPDATE ON CONGRESSMAN FLOYD SPENCE

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

Mr. RAVENEL. Mr. Speaker, I know the Members will be interested in hearing about the progress of our respected colleague FLOYD SPENCE of South Carolina. As you know, he is at the University of Mississippi where he has received a double lung transplant. FLOYD had another good night last night, and he continues to improve. This morning he will be transferred from "coronary intensive care" to "coronary care," the next step in his recovery. His condition will then be upgraded to "serious but improving" from the current grade of "critical but stable." There are no signs of rejection and he has no fever. FLOYD was removed from the respirator yesterday afternoon—and today he is breathing with his new lungs. He is asking for letters to sign and wants to begin sending memos to his staff.

I have a personal message from FLOYD to all Members:

I would like to thank all of my friends in the Congress for their prayers, calls and letters of support. I will be back with you very soon.

TRADE BILL VETO

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

Mr. STAGGERS. Mr. Speaker, today the President is readying his Presidential inkpen to veto the trade bill. Such an absurd action is an astrological abomination. Mr. President, I thought that Aquarians were known for their humanitarian spirit. Come on, Mr. President, be true to your sign.

The trade bill is an equitable response to an inequitable world trade environment. It would provide workers with advanced notice of impending layoffs or plant closings. Such a provision is only fair.

America needs a stronger trade policy that will reverse the exportation of U.S. jobs to foreign shores. The relief which this bill would bring to my State is needed, our unemployed who have already lost their jobs need the retraining and assistance that this bill would provide.

Under the Reagan administration, the American trade deficit has soared to become the largest on record. This administration's idea to combat the deficit seems to be a reliance on the decline of the dollar. Economists predict that, if such a plan continues, the

standard of living in America will be reduced by over 7 percent. While such a drop in the standard of living could mean only one less meal with imported Russian caviar for the Reagan White House, such a drop could mean enduring one more day on an empty stomach for the children of America's unemployed.

This trade bill is a prudent and balanced response to the unfair trading practices of our competitors; to the unreasonable restrictions on U.S. exports; and to the displaced worker who suffers from trade related unemployment. Mr. President, I hope when you gaze into that crystal ball of yours you will see the concerned faces of thousands of threatened American workers, rather than the callous hearts of those few who feel that a 60-day plant closing notice provision would be just too much of an inconvenience.

HONORING THE MEN WHO DEFENDED WAKE ISLAND IN 1941

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

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the civilian men who participated in the defense of Wake Island during the invasion by Japan from December 8 through December 23, 1941. Their heroic actions have never been properly recognized by the Congress. For this reason, I am introducing a House concurrent resolution to give these men the recognition that is long overdue.

The defense of Wake Island is a remarkable story. These civilian construction workers, using meager weapons and equipment, fought alongside members of the Marines against overwhelming odds for 16 days. Their tenacious fighting was a ray of hope in the gloom of the aftermath of Pearl Harbor.

A number of these men died in the defense of Wake Island. The majority were taken as prisoners for the duration of the war. After over 40 years, the surviving members of this group have erected a monument on Wake Island. They have asked me to dedicate the monument at a ceremony next month. I am honored they would choose me to do so.

I believe it is fitting and proper for the Congress to pass a resolution honoring these men. I would ask that each of my colleagues join with me in supporting speedy passage of this resolution.

THE TRADE BILL AND THE PRESIDENT'S VETO

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

Mr. HAYES of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join those who are call-