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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Ms. GREENE of Utah].

MORNING BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of May 12, 1995, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member except the majority and minority leaders limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. HEFLEY] for 5 minutes.

FEDERAL REGULATION IS CONSTRICTING BUSINESS

Mr. HEFLEY. Madam Speaker, I come to the House floor today to talk about a recently released survey conducted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce regarding Federal regulation and its effect on business. The results of the study are overwhelming and I commend the U.S. Chamber for their efforts.

When you look at the results of this study it's easy to see why so many freshman Republicans were elected in 1994 on the promise of less government.

Duplicative, burdensome regulation of business has caused job loss, lower wages, and in some cases increased the violation of the laws because employers are afraid to consult with the regulators and their gotcha mentality.

This country's largest employer is small business and what this study shows is if we relieve them of many of these unnecessary regulations, we will increase salaries, increase employment, increase productivity, and stimulate the overall economy.

As the study points out, currently the only people who are benefiting from overregulation are the attorneys, accountants, and compliance consultants.

It's kind of like the Federal Government's own form of trickle-down economics. We'll create more regulations which will then create a need for lawyers, bureaucrats, and inspectors. Never mind that we're ruining small businesses. Maybe that's why the trial lawyers are such major contributors to the reelection of the current President.

The most troublesome fact is one that many of us have been stressing for a long time, most recently during the debate over increasing the minimum wage. And that is, ultimately the costs incurred by the employer trying to comply with Federal regulations is passed on to the consumer which as we all know causes inflation.

Additionally, one in six survey respondents reported having to lay off employees in order to offset the costs of compliance. I sincerely hope the U.S. Chamber puts an asterisk or a star or something by that figure on the copies of the study provided to Members who support further necessary regulation.

Only 1 in 10 respondents reported learning about new regulations from the agency who enacted it. So all of the various trade associations and lobbyists are actually people who are simply trying to keep up with the hundreds of new regulations that affect their industry. In other words, the Federal Government is saying, ''We'll come up with whatever we want, and it's your job to find out what that is.''

Finally, I'd like to talk a little bit about some of the legislative efforts that I personally have, and will, be working on. In fact, when I saw the results of the study it felt as though I was looking at a mirror.

H.R. 707 is designed to reform OSHA in a manner that would move the agency's enforcement capabilities and efforts into more consultation and cooperation. Isn't it funny though how when the Democrats controlled the Congress and bills like mine were introduced the agency never even batted an eye. Now all of the sudden I've got Joe Dear, OSHA's Executive Director, calling my office saying, ''We want to work with you.'' But isn't it amazing that when they are coming up with these regulations they don't want to work with the businesses they are affecting.

H.R. 1047 would encourage for voluntary compliance with environmental rules. Currently, if a company tried to police themselves and a potential environmental problem was found they can't even seek leniency from the Federal Government for trying to fix the problem.

Last, I will soon introduce legislation that will exempt small businesses from many of these unneeded regulations. In short, we need to unchain our system of regulation and let it prosper.

In closing, I think the Chamber is to be commended for their efforts on this study and I think it clearly shows how desperately we need to ease the regulation of our businesses. And I think it's very appropriate to bring this excellent study to the floor today because the other Chamber of this body will be considering raising the minimum wage today, a measure this Chamber passed regretfully I believe. Remember, the best thing about our Federal Government is, it's always there when it needs you.

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE DOLE BOYCOTTING NAACP CONVENTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia [Ms. NORTON] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

☐ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., ☐ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

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Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, Mr. Bush and Mr. Reagan both went to the conventions of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Why is Mr. Dole boycotting this organization?

I come to the floor not to castigate the putative nominee but to ask him to change his mind. Could it be that the Dole-Canady bill is what is keeping Mr. Dole from attending the convention? That bill, of course, would abolish virtually all forms of affirmative action, and it is a tough sell to the NAACP audience.

On the other hand, I am certain that Mr. Dole would get a very polite reception. After all, it was he who saved goals and timetables in the 1980's. Throughout his career he has been a strong supporter of civil rights. It is certainly important that anyone seeking the Presidency of the United States, upon the invitation of the premier grassroots civil rights organization in the country, accept that invitation.

To be sure, the Dole-Canady bill is a grave disappointment to civil rights supporters. The bill is unnecessary, given what the Supreme Court has done to affirmative action. In order to apply goals and timetables, for example, with respect to women and minorities, there has to be a compelling government interest and goals have to be narrowly tailored, and so far we have not come upon that case, although we surely hope we will soon.

The Dole-Canady bill would not even permit affirmative action when that very narrow test is met, and it would not even allow the Supreme Court to use goals and timetables, for example, if the Court finds that a company had deliberately excluded women because they were women or had deliberately excluded blacks because they were blacks. The Court would be shorn of the ability to monitor progress in making up for that discrimination through the use of goals and timetables.

Interestingly, business says it is going to continue to do affirmative action anyway because it knows that it lives in a country where increasingly women and minorities are the majority in the work force. And, of course, business has used goals and timetables precisely because they protect business from liability. To the extent that they are correcting their own discriminatory practices, they do not face the certain probability of a lawsuit.

Most disappointingly, the Dole-Canady bill would set us back decades because it would allow the exclusion of women for certain jobs based on privacy concerns. Been there, done that, overcome that hurdle, do not need to go there again.

This is a disquieting time for race relations in this country. There is a spate of torching of black churches. This is the time for any man or woman who wishes to lead this country to go to black people and reassure them and their premier organization that the laws will be followed and that the laws will be executed fairly.

I come not to praise Mr. Dole and not yet to criticize him, because the convention is not over, but to say that I think there is still time to go and make an appearance before the NAACP to help dissolve some of the terrible racial polarization that is building up on both sides, because if he does become President, he will surely have to use that bully pulpit in order to try to do what he can on his watch, should it be his watch, to bring this country together racially.

We are all too comfortable in our black and our white sides of the country. This is one country. We have to come together and say that. Read my lips, we are all Americans. This is one country. Anyone who wants to be President of the United States should relish the opportunity to go before the NAACP and say those words.

FREEDOM RALLY IN OMAHA, NE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. CHRISTENSEN] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take a moment to talk about an event we had this week in Omaha, NE, over the Fourth of July holiday. We celebrated what was called the Freedom Rally.

In a day of increasing cynicism, the Freedom Rally was intended to bring people together in a moment of faith. It was intended to honor our Nation, and it was also intended to honor a very special man, Pastor Elmer Murdoch. Pastor Murdoch and his wife Nancy founded Trinity Interdenominational Church over two decades ago. That church has grown to the ministry size of over 3,000 people.

The event was led by Pastor Al Toledo of Glad Tidings Church. We heard inspirational music by Wayne Watson and the uplifting words of African-American Kay James, who rose from the projects of Richmond, VA, to the corridors of the White House, where she last worked, and currently serves the State of Virginia as secretary of Health and Human Services there.

The Freedom Rally was a great success. The Governor of Nebraska was there, the mayor, myself, local officials. It was truly a bipartisan event where pastors and people of all of Nebraska came and prayed together for our country, prayed over the elected officials. It was truly an inspiring opportunity for all of us.

During that time Kay James had an opportunity to read during her speech a poem called ''I Am a Nation,'' which formed the central theme of the Freedom Rally. I would like to enter into the RECORD ''I Am a Nation.'' I do not know who it was written by, but I believe it echoes the sentiment of our country.

As a nation we face tremendous challenges. We face ever mounting debt that is strangling our future. We face terrifying crime that is dominating our streets. That is why on the Fourth of July we come together to commit to work hard to change our country.

We came together because we dream of the day when this country will no longer be spending away its children's futures. We dream of a day when out of control courts, and slick, rich criminal trial lawyers no longer seek to manipulate our justice system to free the guilty through legal loopholes. We want a country where children can play in parks again without fear and where adults can walk across those parks at night with ease, where working people are praised and not penalized by their Government. We want a country where the American dream is within everyone's reach.

At the Freedom Rally, we recognized that together we can put the country back on the right track. Together, with prayer, we can save the American dream. This Fourth of July our Nation came together to reaffirm its belief in its founding tenets. The Freedom Rally was one beacon of light in that great display. It was truly a privilege and an honor to be there and to serve the State of Nebraska and the Second District as its elected representative.

Madam Speaker, in addition to my thoughts on this past Independence Day weekend, today in the Senate they are discussing the minimum wage. I ran across a great article by a man from my district in the American Enterprise. Recently at a public hearing held by the Joint Economic Committee of the U.S. Congress, entrepreneur and Godfather chairman, Herman Cain, delivered an interesting argument against the minimum wage hike.

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Herman Cain is probably most recognized for his taking on the Big Government health care, socialized health care program that Hillary and Bill Clinton tried to get through a couple of years ago. He took on the President in a debate that I think everyone recognizes as the keystone argument that probably defeated this bad idea to nationalize one-seventh of our economy.

Now Herman Cain has written this article about how forcing up the minimum wage hurts those who need the help the most. I would like to enter it into the RECORD, as well, so that everybody across this country would have an opportunity to read what Herman Cain says about the minimum wage.

Madam Speaker, I include the following for the RECORD:

I am a nation. I was born on July 4, 1776, and the Declaration of Independence is my birth certificate. The bloodlines of the world run in my veins, because I offered freedom to the oppressed. I am many things, and many people. I am the nation.

I am 250 million living souls—and the ghost of millions who have lived and died for me.

I am Nathan Hale and Paul Revere. I stood at Lexington and fired the shot heard around the world. I am Washington, Jefferson and