□ 1615

VETERAN BUDGET CUTS

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today with much disappointment. I am disappointed that the Republican-driven budget resolution that passed cuts, over 10 years, $14.6 in direct spending for our veterans benefits and $14.2 billion in veterans health care.

How can the Congress even consider cutting benefits to our veterans when hundreds of thousands of American men and women in uniform are currently risking their lives overseas? What will it tell them upon their return? Thanks for your service, but you are on your own?

Our veterans and our future veterans deserve a lot better. Every day I pray for the safe return of our troops, realizing that some may not come back at all. Lance Corporal Jesus Alberto Suarez del Solar is one of our heroes who was killed recently in action, last Thursday. Suarez, although not even a U.S. citizen, chose to serve our country as a Marine.

Suarez' father is a U.S. citizen, and feels, and I quote, ''both betrayed and proud.'' In the Los Angeles Times article Mr. Suarez says, ''President Bush has not demonstrated to me or to thousands of other people that this war is justified.'' These are the words of his father.

How can we send our sons and daughters off when we cannot promise them support back home? I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to reconsider these cuts.

ON THE NEED TO REVITALIZE AMERICA'S ECONOMY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SECTOR

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on the need to revitalize our economy, and particularly the telecommunications sector.

The telecommunications industry has been in a severe decline. Part of it was an investment bubble, but a big part of the decline was due to regulatory uncertainty. The Federal Communications Commission had a chance to give the industry some certainty, and instead, created even more chaos. They avoided making the tough decisions and have punted the responsibility to our States.

In fact, they have succeeded in pleasing no one and punishing every sector of the telecommunications industry. Unlike Solomon in the Old Testament, the SEC actually did cut the telecom baby in half.

This chaos immediately struck Wall Street as the telecom stocks plummeted, wiping out over $15 billion in market capital. When the telecommunications companies are already hurting, devaluing their stock makes matters much worse because they do not have that money to invest in upgrades.

Madam Speaker, it has been more than a month since the FCC released their decision on the Triennial Review, and we still have not seen the details. The FCC needs to take actions that foster investments by all parties, not create artificial competition.

I hope their final order accomplishes its goals, but I am concerned that it may fall far short.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, an issue that concerns me a great deal has come before us here this evening. That subject matter is partial birth abortion.

Given that the Committee on the Judiciary marked up the Partial Birth Abortion Act last week and that it will be debated on the floor soon, I would like to bring our attention back to the fundamental principles and facts of the issue.

I have here a picture of an unborn baby 19 weeks old. Unborn 19- and 20-week-old boys and girls are often victims of partial birth abortion, though many abortionists will abort unborn babies up to 24 weeks old and older.

At 20 weeks old, this baby's body does not need to form new parts or develop new body systems. Instead, she will use the remaining time in her mother's womb to grow over the next 4½ months. She can dream, and she has REM sleep, just like you or me. At 20 weeks, she recognizes her mother's voice. Unborn babies, born prematurely at 21 or 22 weeks, can routinely be saved. Sometimes they can be saved even younger.

If we open up the phone book, we will find in the Yellow Pages, and particularly here in Washington, D.C., advertisements offering to abort unborn babies up to 24 weeks.

Many people recognize that this unborn baby's life should be protected. States have tried to outlaw these abortions, and many States have banned late-term abortion. But the Supreme Court in Doe v. Bolton created a mandatory loophole in all State laws that protect unborn children from abortion that allows abortionists to drive a truck through. The Supreme Court added an exception for the health of the mother to Georgia's law protecting unborn children that went far beyond an abortion necessary to save the life of the mother.

Here is what they said: ''We agree with the District Court that the medical judgment may be exercised in the light of all factors—physical, emotional, psychological, familial, and a woman's age—relevant to the well-being of the patient. All these factors may relate to health. This allows the attending physician the room he needs to make his best medical judgment. And it is room that operates for the benefit, not the disadvantage, of the pregnant woman.'' That is a quote from the case.

Abortionists continue to get around State bans on late-term abortions by finding excuses and justifications relating to emotional, psychological, and familial health. However, they neglect entirely the health of the unborn baby and his or her physical, emotional, psychological, and familial well-being.

Dr. Warren Hern of Colorado, the author of the standard textbook on abortion procedures, who also performs many third-trimester abortions, has stated: ''I will certify that any pregnancy is a threat to a woman's life and could cause grievous injury to her physical health.'' Any pregnancy is a threat to a woman's life, according to Dr. Hern.

Statements like those of Dr. Hern's that any pregnancy injures a woman's health underscore the need for a partial birth abortion ban at the Federal level. I hope Members will take my words to heart as we consider partial birth abortion and the right to life for all human beings, born and unborn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO ADOLPH REED, SR., 1921–2003, PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS, PINE BLUFF; SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY, BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA; UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS, FAYETTEVILLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I was indeed fortunate as a teenager to attend the Arkansas Mechanical and Normal College, which is now the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. While this was one of the historically black colleges and universities, it did not have a great deal in the way of material supplies and resources. However, it had some of the most profound educators and education administrators this country has ever known.