

people want the Brady law to keep saving lives.

The American people will fight to keep it.

#### SAVE THE SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, obviously I am not going to talk about the Brady bill, being from Texas.

But let me talk about school lunch programs and the importance of making sure that we save that program.

In the Houston Independent School District next year we would lose a half-million dollars for the school lunch and breakfast program. In the State of Texas, we would lose \$261 million in a 4-percent cut. The first round of cuts included the school breakfast and lunch programs. The second round of cuts last week from the Committee on Appropriations included funding for safe and drug-free schools.

I think this is a war on schools and a war on education and a war on children, and I would hope that we would then look at this Contract With America and see whether providing increased funding, including \$11 million for two new airplanes the Army did not request, \$20 million for a new runway for a base that is on the Base Closure Commission, \$1 million for a bike trail in North Miami Beach, I think we see the priorities have changed.

We are taking money away from breakfast and lunch programs and providing it in this new Contract on America.

#### PROVIDING VFW MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY TO VETERANS WHO SERVED IN SOUTH KOREA

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of the Senate bill (S. 257) to amend the charter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars to make eligible for membership those veterans that have served within the territorial limits of South Korea, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I shall not object at a later time, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. HYDE], the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, for an explanation of the bill.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, this is genuinely noncontroversial legislation. S. 257 would amend the Federal charter of incorporation granted by Congress to the Veterans of Foreign Wars in 1936.

Specifically, this legislation would amend the eligibility requirements for membership in the VFW, so as to include those servicemen and service-women who served "honorably on the Korean peninsula or in its territorial waters for not less than 30 consecutive days, or a total of 60 days, after June 30, 1949." This would recognize the heroic service and sacrifice of the American troops who have served in Korea, including those stationed in the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea.

This measure has already passed the other body on February 10, 1995. The principal sponsors of the counterpart House bill (H.R. 623) are the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. STUMP], the distinguished chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee; the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON], the distinguished chairman of the Rules Committee; and the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. MONTGOMERY], the distinguished former chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. All of these colleagues have been instrumental in moving this legislation forward.

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. STUMP], the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 257, a bill to amend the congressional charter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Recently, I introduced identical legislation in the House, H.R. 623, along with my good friends, SONNY MONTGOMERY and JERRY SOLOMON.

This legislation would allow virtually all veterans who have served in Korea to be eligible for VFW membership. We are all familiar with the extremely dangerous nature of duty along the DMZ and the constant threat of war in Korea. Clearly, those veterans of Korean service after June 30, 1949, who served honorably for not less than 30 days or a total of 60 days, should be able to belong to the VFW.

But under the VFW's current charter, only veterans who received an expeditionary badge are eligible to belong to the VFW. Many veterans who served honorably in Korea cannot belong to the VFW because they did not receive the required expeditionary badge due to restrictive DOD eligibility criteria. The VFW's initiative to include these veterans of Korean service among its membership is most commendable.

Mr. Speaker, today I mostly want to take time to thank the distinguished chairman of the Judiciary Committee, HENRY HYDE, and his staff for their expeditious consideration of this bill.

The Judiciary Committee has been working extremely long hours for several weeks. I sincerely appreciate their taking the additional time to consider this matter of great importance to the VFW.

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I

rise in support of this measure and commend the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. HYDE] and the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. CONYERS] for expediting the vote on this measure.

As they are well aware, I joined the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. STUMP] and the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON] in sponsoring this bill which is now before us.

Mr. Speaker, the Veterans of Foreign Wars is one of the most highly regarded of the many veterans' service organizations that exist today. The VFW is a volunteer organization, and this bill would simply make more veterans who served overseas in Korea eligible to join the organization.

Mr. Speaker, with that brief statement, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

S. 257

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That section 5 of the Act of May 28, 1936 (36 U.S.C. 115), is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 5. A person may not be a member of the corporation created by this Act unless that person—

"(1) served honorably as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States in a foreign war, insurrection, or expedition, which service has been recognized as campaign-medal service and is governed by the authorization of the award of a campaign badge by the Government of the United States; or

"(2) while a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, served honorably on the Korean peninsula or in its territorial waters for not less than 30 consecutive days, or a total of 60 days, after June 30, 1949."

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### RISK ASSESSMENT AND COST-BENEFIT ACT OF 1995

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 96 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 1022.

□ 1145

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1022) to provide regulatory reform and to focus national economic resources on the greatest risks to human health, safety, and the environment through scientifically objective and unbiased risk assessments and through the consideration of costs and benefits in major rules, and for other purposes, with Mr. HASTINGS of Washington in the chair.