

inappropriate to do it until after the congressional recess. Now we are told, well, maybe after Memorial Day. Justice is being delayed and justice is being denied because some people are unwilling to make the hard choices, the hard choices that demand that an independent counsel act without political bias to evaluate these charges, to decide whether they have merit.

Anyone, be they old or new, ought to support that very old concept of impartial justice. Looking at these charges, seeing that they are resolved only through an independent counsel will that be done and we need that action immediately.

FOREIGN AID

(Mrs. WALDHOLTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. WALDHOLTZ. Mr. Speaker, Secretary of State Warren Christopher said in January of this year, "The current structure of the foreign affairs agencies developed in a world much different from today's. It must change to meet the demands of the next century." He was right. And that is exactly what we are beginning today.

Today we begin the debate on the American Overseas Interests Act which will streamline the maze of foreign aid bureaucracies, reduce foreign aid spending and help set new priorities. It is also an important part of the Republican commitment to balance the budget in a way that makes sense.

Under our plan, three foreign aid bureaucracies and dozens of programs are eliminated and reformed, and we save \$21 billion over the next 7 years while continuing to meet our commitments to our friends and allies.

As every aspect of the budget comes under scrutiny, foreign aid, however well-intentioned, cannot be excluded. We need to reexamine how and why every dollar is spent, setting new priorities for a new world. I look forward to a debate that can only improve our foreign aid programs.

OUTSIDE COUNSEL NEEDED IN SPEAKER'S ETHICS CASE

(Mr. STUPAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply disappointed that the House Ethics Committee has refused to hire an outside counsel to investigate the five ethics charges against the Speaker. Without an outside counsel, the ethics charges will have to be investigated by House Members. That means we will have politicians investigating politicians.

Being a former law enforcement officer, I believe, and I have always voted, that professional law enforcement officials should do investigations of other Members of this House, not politicians. Five dark clouds of doubt hang over this Chamber. Let us have a special

outside counsel to investigate the ethics charges hanging over the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we need an outside counsel to do a professional investigation, not politicians. Let us remove the five dark clouds of doubt and appoint a special outside counsel now.

FOREIGN AID AUTHORIZATION BILL

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

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, today the House will take up consideration of this country's foreign aid authorization bill in which we establish our foreign policy priorities.

Last year as I campaigned throughout Georgia's Eighth District, I heard from folks who are very concerned about the amount of money we spend overseas while we have so many problems here at home, and I share that concern.

Mr. Speaker, for those residents of central and south Georgia and for all citizens of this country, the new majority has shown its commitment to taking a fresh look at everything the Government does. Foreign aid is no exception. This bill today moves us in the right direction and will cut \$1 billion from foreign aid spending in the upcoming budget.

We must not lose sight, however, of the very real and numerous threats around the world to the freedoms we enjoy. As a member of the Committee on National Security, I have seen those threats. True, the cold war is over but the world has not magically become a safe place.

For the first time in many years, this foreign aid bill today represents a measured attempt to prioritize our influence and interests abroad. The United States is truly the leader of the world and our foreign aid policy must reflect that role by supporting our friends and deterring our foes. I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

OUTSIDE COUNSEL NEEDED IN SPEAKER'S ETHICS CASE

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

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, last week on this floor I was told by the Speaker of the House, NEWT GINGRICH, that as a freshman I should learn the rules. This weekend I have been studying and what I have studied has discouraged me a lot.

What I have found is that, according to the Washington Post, all five Republican members of the Ethics Committee broke with 15 years of bipartisan tradition and voted unanimously to block an independent outside counsel to investigate the charges that have been leveled against Speaker GINGRICH.

We need to go back to the way the Democrats did it. Under Democratic

leadership, the Ethics Committee has appointed an outside counsel to investigate every major ethics case since 1979. I urge the Ethics Committee to do the same in this case. What is to be hidden? What is to be gained? If there is nothing there, let an outside counsel clear the air.

TRIBUTE TO LES ASPIN

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

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, America lost a real public servant this last weekend in the death of Les Aspin.

Les Aspin was a young man. He was only 56 years old. He served 22 years of those 56 years here in the Congress. He was also our Secretary of Defense.

He was a summa cum laude at Yale, he attended Oxford, and MIT, so not only did he have a great deal of political savvy but he was also very much academically gifted. From his first close race against a person by the name of LaFollette, a magic name in Wisconsin, to the time he left to become Secretary of Defense, Les Aspin never lost a single political race.

I remember the first time I was here on the floor with an amendment, Les Aspin helped me get the amendment passed. In an age when the Pentagon got everything it wanted, there was one person who started to holler, "No, halt," and that was Les Aspin. "Let's take a closer look," he would say, "at defense spending."

Mr. Speaker, we in this House have not only lost a good friend but we have also lost a true public servant. Not only has America lost a good public servant and we in Congress, but also Marquette University, because Marquette is where he started teaching and Marquette is where he worked when he passed away.

It is only appropriate that Marquette will be the place on Friday where we will say our last good-bye to Les Aspin. America truly has lost a wonderful public servant.

TIME FOR AN OUTSIDE COUNSEL IN SPEAKER'S ETHICS CASE

(Mr. BONIOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, why is the Ethics Committee making the special exception in the case of Speaker NEWT GINGRICH?

In every single high-profile ethics case since 1979, both the Democrats and the Republicans on the committee have voted to appoint an outside counsel. But last Sunday, according to the Washington Post, all five Republican members of the Ethics Committee broke with 15 years of bipartisan tradition and voted to make a special exception for NEWT GINGRICH and block an outside counsel.