

by the President so it has got political leanings. You understand that. They say, if we balance the budget, we will lower taxes, lower interest rates and also have a stronger economy as a result.

McGraw Hill, a respected think tank, an independent organization, released a study that they did for the National Association of Realtors which concluded that a balanced budget would result in a 2.7 percent drop in mortgage interest rates. What that means for a family in Illinois, in my home State, is that a family with a 30-year \$50,000 mortgage at just a little over 8 percent interest would save \$32,000 over the life of the loan. That is over \$1,000 annually. That is an even bigger tax cut just by lowering interest rates.

A college student, student loans, giving young people the opportunity to go to school, a college student borrowing \$11,000 at 8 percent interest, a lower rate than they currently would get at their local bank or through the direct lending program, would save \$2,100 over the life of the loan.

Lower taxes, lower interest rates will create a stronger economy and create jobs.

In fact, the Joint Economic Committee estimates that by lowering interest rates, brought about by a balanced budget because the Federal Government is no longer competing with our small businesses, those who want to go to school or our local families by lowering interest rates over 2 percent it would create 6.1 million new jobs over the next 10 years just because interest rates are lower.

That is the best kind of tax cut. Lower interest rates, lower taxes, better-paying jobs. That is why I stand in support of balancing the budget for the first time in 26 long years, and I am proud to say I will be casting a vote tomorrow to balance the budget and live within our means just like every American family.

Mr. TATE. I thank the gentleman. I know the hour is late. The gentleman from Washington [Mr. NETHERCUTT] would like to make some closing remarks as we finish up our evening colloquy.

Mr. NETHERCUTT. I just want to say as new Members of Congress, all of us have cast some very serious votes in this 104th Congress. It is a historic Congress. Tomorrow's vote probably will be bigger than any of the votes we will have made thus far, the last of which was on our Medicare vote.

This is an important vote. It means the future of the country for the next 7 years. It means we will balance the Federal budget in 7 years and this is the starting point as we go each year and meet our financial obligations for the country.

I think this is a proud moment for all of us as freshmen. It is a difficult moment as we all have said. This is not a perfect bill, but it has got so much good in it and so little bad, I think as you really balance it out. But I think

we have no choice but to vote for the future of the country and vote in favor of this reconciliation bill.

I thank the gentleman for his leadership on this and certainly the gentleman from Washington [Mr. WHITE], the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX], the gentleman from Washington [Mr. METCALF], and the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. WELLER] for all the work we have done as freshmen. I know there is a lot more work to do, but we will meet the task.

Mr. TATE. A few closing remarks by the gentleman from Washington [Mr. WHITE] as your reflect on tomorrow's vote.

Mr. WHITE. I cannot resist the opportunity to make a few closing remarks.

No. 1, I would like to thank the gentleman for putting together this program allowing us to have this time. I would like to tell you and the other Members that have spoken tonight how proud I am to be a part of this class. We are all freshmen, all kind of learning our job, but frankly I think by and large we make good decisions and I think we are committed to doing what needs to be done.

Finally, I would like to say we are going to take an important vote tomorrow. I think we will vote to balance the budget, but let us not forget, that that is really only the beginning of our job. Because every day for the next 7 years after this bill tomorrow, we are going to have the opportunity to bust the budget again. This is not an amendment to the Constitution and every day Congress can undo what it did the day before.

So tomorrow is very important. It is essential that we take this vote and I know that we will but let us not forget the long term. Because we are going to have to keep the faith, keep our fiscal restraint, keep the discipline every day for 7 years if we are actually going to get this job done. I am committed to that, I think a majority of the Members of the House are committed to it. I just look forward to getting through that process and actually getting to a balanced budget in the year 2002.

Mr. TATE. I thank the gentleman from Washington [Mr. WHITE]. This bill will be binding by our vigilance and how hard we work on it. I thank you for your courage and involvement in this as a leader in the freshman class.

A few last comments by the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX] as we close out this evening, before our vote tomorrow.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. I just want to say I appreciate, as the others do, that you have taken a central role here in the 104th Congress in bringing forth I think the vision that you had in Washington State here to Washington, DC. That is, to get our fiscal house in order, to be accountable to people back home, and to also make sure that the services that the people truly need from their Federal Government, they will get. But they will get them with-

out the waste, without the fraud, without the abuse, without overregulating, without overspending. We can make a difference by working with both sides of the aisle, working with the President and in the end I think we are going to have a bill that starts with tomorrow's vote but will end sometime before the holidays, which I think will bring about a bipartisan effort which will be better for all of America.

I appreciate the fact that I know you will be at the table there making sure that your vision and that which the 104th Congress has to make the country stronger, fiscally more responsible will in fact be the reality.

Mr. TATE. I thank the gentleman for his kind words. I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX], the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. WELLER], the gentleman from Washington [Mr. METCALF], the gentleman from Washington [Mr. NETHERCUTT], and the gentleman from Washington [Mr. WHITE] for taking the time to come out tonight. The fact remains seniors next year will have more Medicare than they had this year. Welfare recipients are going to get back to work. There are going to be more college loans next year than there were this year. And school lunches are still going to be there. All this kind of Chicken Little, the sky is going to fall, the threats of fiscal Armageddon if these things do not pass, we have been blamed for everything but the war in Bosnia. The bottom line is we are interested in making sure our kids have a brighter future. It is about providing more jobs. It has been mentioned several times in different ways, we want to lower interest rates, not just because it feels good and it is a great accounting thing. It affects people's real lives. It provides more jobs, more opportunities and that is what it is all about, the things that we are going to cover tomorrow.

We are going to balance the budget for the first time in 7 years, we are going to save Medicare not only for seniors on it today but for our children tomorrow. We are going to reform welfare, to give people dignity again, to get them off the system that really abuses them and to provide tax relief not only for families but for economic opportunities, allow people to spend more of their money. That is what it is all about. It is about opportunity. The question really tomorrow is do we borrow or do we balance? Opportunity or fear? That is what it is all about. This Congress is going to balance. We are no longer going to continue the ways of just borrowing ourselves into oblivion. I thank the gentlemen for taking the time. I look forward to casting this historic vote tomorrow.

FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTINGS A DANGER TO MORUROA ATOLL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WELDON of Florida). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from American Samoa

[Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise again to share with my colleagues and the American people a very serious problem with France's resumption of nuclear testing in the South Pacific, which started last month despite near universal condemnation by the Nations of the world.

Mr. Speaker, the first Sunday of this month France detonated a 110-kiloton nuclear device more destructive than seven Hiroshima bombs that were dropped in Japan about 50 years ago. It was the second in a series of nuclear explosions to take place in France's test facilities in French Polynesia.

Mr. Speaker, over three decades, France has detonated in excess of 200 nuclear bombs, almost all of them taking place in the South Pacific. Yet this is still not enough to satisfy France's ambitions to become a nuclear power.

French President Chirac boldly claims that their nuclear tests have no ecological consequences and that they have nothing to fear nor to hide. President Chirac has even invited scientists from the international community to come to their testing facilities to see for themselves.

When the countries of Europe recently took Chirac up on his offer for an "open door" inspection, however, it is interesting to note the results of this so-called open door policy.

The European Union team of scientists sent to examine Mururoa Atoll has now returned to Brussels, stating that they were denied full access to test sites and radioactivity monitoring facilities. Moreover, the French authorities failed to supply necessary health and safety data requested by the European Union scientists.

Not surprisingly, the European Union team has not been able to issue conclusive findings regarding France's testing program, as they were prevented by the French government from conducting a true study.

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While the French Government claims they have nothing to hide and welcome international scrutiny of their nuclear testing program, Mr. Speaker, President Chirac's actions reveal nothing more than sheer hypocrisy not only to the good citizens of France, but to the world as well.

Mr. Speaker, I would also note that Reuters News Agency last week reported from Brussels that a French scientist states that France's South Pacific weapons test site is unstable. There is a risk of landslides and tidal waves which could submerge islands in French Polynesia. Dr. Pierre Vincent, a volcanologist and professor at the University of Clermont-Ferrand, testified at a European Parliament hearing on France's South Pacific nuclear testing, and he said this is an unstable atoll. He was referring to the Mururoa atoll, Mr. Speaker. I would say this situation constitutes a high risk.

All the factors which we know now favor destabilization in volcanoes are gathered together at Mururoa, Dr. Vincent testified, pointing to the atoll's steep sides, fissuring in the atoll and alterations of substructure by previous tests.

Dr. Vincent further states the shock wave from a new explosion could be the trigger that would cause detachment of previously disturbed sections of rock. He said such landslides could cause tsunamis, which means tidal waves, seismic waves from undersea earthquakes or landslides which could submerge the whole of certain islands of Polynesia.

Mr. Speaker, Professor Vincent concluded it was high time to stop the nuclear testing program France is conducting now in the Pacific, but even an immediate halt to France's current series of tests in the region would not remove the risk. He said if we stop tomorrow, if that could happen, we could certainly have to continue to monitor this atoll for decades and probably a lot longer than that.

Mr. Speaker, France's resumed nuclear tests on Mururoa and Fangataufa atolls, which are actually dormant volcanic formations below sea level, has also initiated an investigation by the European Parliament and the New Zealand Government into possible connections with the recent eruptions of New Zealand's Mt. Ruapehu, a volcano dormant for the past 50 years.

Internationally Mr. Speaker, the movement against France's nuclear testing in the South Pacific is growing stronger and stronger. Over 100 nations adopted in Vienna an international Atomic Energy Agency resolution condemning nuclear testing. The United Nations General Assembly in New York is soon to pass a resolution opposing all nuclear testing, while in London the British Commonwealth is pressuring France about its insensitivity in conducting nuclear tests in the South Pacific.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope all of our colleagues in the Congress would join us in sending an urgent message to Paris to stop their nuclear nightmare in the Pacific. Mr. Speaker, I want to share with my colleagues, this is what a French nuclear bomb explosion looks like on this atoll, the Mururoa atoll in French Polynesia. I have also made an illustration of exactly what the concerns have been for the nations of the Pacific for all of these years and for many scientists.

As you can see, Mr. Speaker, this is the Mururoa atoll from the vertical as seen from an airplane. This is what the atoll looks like, and by the way, this illustration was gotten from documents of the French Government showing areas that were completely contaminated in the aftermath of the French nuclear program and the testing for the past 20 years.

This is the profile of what the Mururoa atoll, which is this green strip, which is right on sea level;

Mururoa atoll is only about 3 feet above sea level, and below this whole atoll is this volcanic formation. As you can see, Mr. Speaker, these dots, these red dots are 165 atomic explosions that have taken place on that atoll for the last 20 years.

In addition to this, France has also exploded 12 nuclear bombs above sea level, which is basically in the atmosphere. I submit, Mr. Speaker, who is going to clean up this mess if this atoll ever, ever should leak, come out of this, because of what has happened inside this atoll?

Now some people might say, well, let us not be concerned about it, because it is thousands of miles away from the State of Hawaii as well as along the Pacific Coast States. Mr. Speaker, I submit if this atoll ever breaks or starts to leak and all the nuclear contamination that is contained here after France conducting 165 nuclear explosions inside this volcanic formation that supports this atoll, I submit, Mr. Speaker, who is going to clean up this mess?

I submit also that France does not have the capability to clean up this mess if it ever does come to this within the next 10, perhaps even 50 years that this will transpire.

Mr. Speaker, this is a sad occasion, given the fact that over 60 percent of the French people themselves do not want France or President Chirac to conduct this nuclear testing nightmare, as we see it, in the Pacific. And yet the French Government persists that they do this in the name of its national interest.

Mr. Speaker, I am very concerned in the fact that President Chirac does not take into account the fact that 28 million men, women, and children, live in this Pacific region, let alone there are some 200,000 French citizens who are of Tahitian ancestry that live also in these islands, and yet we hear nothing but absolute stubbornness, and I would also submit, Mr. Speaker, perhaps you could even say arrogance on the part of the French Government, not the goodness of the French people, but the French Government to continue doing this despite the condemnation of over 160 countries throughout the world.

Why are we doing this?

Is it not ironic, Mr. Speaker, that while we condemn germ warfare, while we outlaw chemical and biological warfare, we continue to allow not only industrial countries but the fact that we have got nuclear bombs all over the place that cause just as much, if not more, harm and damage not only to the environment but to human beings, and yet we continue to allow this.

I stated earlier that the nuclear bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima 50 years ago, Mr. Speaker, killed, maimed approximately 200,000 men, women, and children. In addition to that, 90,000 men, women, and children were also killed with the bomb that we dropped on Nagasaki. In the aftermath of this, and I would make a personal

appeal to the American people, we have got to send a strong message to President Chirac and the only way to do this, perhaps not necessarily through governmental channels, but the conscience of the American people and the conscience of the people in Japan and even in Germany to voluntarily not purchase French products, French wine, French goods, to send a strong message to the French Government that this policy of continuing to explode nuclear bombs in the South Pacific, not only is it insane but it is an outright shame for the Government of France to continue to do this in the aftermath, at least at the expense of the health and safety and the lives of those people who live in that part of the world.

The information referred to follows:

[From the Honolulu Star-Bulletin, Oct. 11, 1995]

FRENCH PAPER RUNS A PHOTO OF MURUROA CORAL CRACKS

PARIS.—Raising new questions about the safety of French nuclear tests, a newspaper published photographs today that it says show cracks in one of the South Pacific atolls where the underground explosions took place.

Quest-France said the photographs contradict government claims that the tests caused no damage to Mururoa Atoll in French Polynesia.

Critics say the nuclear tests could cause the atoll to break apart, spewing radioactivity into the water and air in what many consider to be one of the world's last paradises.

The government denied a similar report last week in the respected daily *Le Monde*. It had no immediate comment on Quest-France's claims.

Quest-France said the photos were taken in 1987 and 1988 by a diver several dozen yards under the Mururoa Lagoon.

The cracks are about 9 to 10½ feet wide and several miles long, the newspaper said.

Normally only military personnel and scientists working on the French nuclear program have access to the isolated atoll, about 750 miles southeast of Tahiti.

After the *Le Monde* report, French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette told the National Assembly that "no crack of any sort has ever been discovered" on the atoll.

Experts at the French Atomic Energy Commission said some fractures were created by the first tests carried out directly under Mururoa's reef.

But they said there had been no further cracks since tests were moved to the middle of the lagoon.

European Commission President Jacques Santer demanded Wednesday that France supply more information about the nuclear tests "without delay."

[From the Honolulu Advertiser, Oct. 5, 1995]

FRENCH DENY REPORT THAT N-TEST SITE FULL OF CRACKS

PARIS.—A report that a South Pacific island used for France's nuclear tests is full of cracks put the government back on the defensive yesterday over its underground testing program.

The Defense Ministry dismissed the report as "trivial and whimsical," and said it has the situation at Mururoa Atoll under "perfect scientific and ecological control."

The Paris newspaper *Le Monde* reported Tuesday that a 1980 French army map shows that years of nuclear pounding had cracked the atoll, site of a 20-kiloton nuclear test blast on Sept. 5.

Some scientists have warned that the atoll could break open under the force of continued test blasts or a natural disaster, releasing radioactivity and poisoning an area known for its coral reefs and crystal waters.

Gen. Raymond Germanos denied the newspaper report and accused the environmental group Greenpeace of twisting decade-old unofficial data about the atoll. He said the newspaper's map misplaced key features of the island and the test facility.

[From the Honolulu Star-Bulletin, Oct. 9, 1995]

SUSPICION CLOUDS FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTS
(By Gary T. Kubota)

PAPEETE, TAHITI.—Three of his babies were stillborn.

An infant son lived for a year before dying of leukemia.

His 1-year-old daughter died from a painful disease that blackened her skin.

Edwin Haoa, 57, believes his five children died from illnesses related to a change in his body that produced defective sperm, a result of radioactive contamination while he worked at nuclear testing sites in French Polynesia.

Haoa said he can't prove he was contaminated, nor confirm his suspicions about his children's causes of death, because the French have refused to release his medical records for his period of work from 1963 through 1977.

While the French government claims the radioactive fallout was too little to harm workers or islanders, some experts say the lack of medical information tells them France has no proof the nuclear testing is safe.

Critics say the failure to provide answers to workers such as Haoa undermines the government's credibility in French Polynesia, where more than 80 percent of the 212,000 residents are Polynesian or part-Polynesian. It has also contributed to growing worldwide opposition to the current underground testing, which began with a first test Sept. 5 at Mururoa atoll, 750 miles southeast of Tahiti. A second test was done beneath Fangataufa atoll Oct. 1. The French plan up to eight tests through next spring.

More than 10,000 civilians and military personnel worked at Mururoa and Fangataufa atolls, the site of 41 nuclear atmospheric tests between 1966 and 1974. But bound by a code of silence they signed while applying for jobs, most have avoided publicity.

Haoa and 53 other former workers who witnessed the nuclear tests stepped forward recently, when France announced its resumption of nuclear tests in French Polynesia.

"Some of them have seen their friends die of unknown causes," said Oscar Temaru, mayor of the poor working-class district Faaa.

CANCER RATES HIGHER

A report by the group "Centre de Documentation & Recherche sur la Paix et les Conflits," which translates center of documentation and research on peace and conflict, indicates leukemia and thyroid cancer rates were significantly higher in French Polynesia than other Pacific island nations.

The group's facts come from compiling cancer incidence rates from the South Pacific Commission. Among French Polynesian women the incidence of thyroid cancer was 17.6 cases per 100,000 population in 1989-90, compared with 8.6 for Fijian women in 1990 and 10.5 for Hawaii women from 1978-1982.

Maire Masson, 38, a Tahitian woman who had a thyroid operation at 19, wants to know if her illness and similar health problems in her family are hereditary or a result of nuclear fallout.

"When I ask one doctor, he says, 'It's hereditary.' When I ask another, he says, 'No, it's not hereditary.'" Masson said.

Haoa said the doctors at the French government hospital did not list the cause of deaths for his five children—and when he told them he thought it was due to his work at the nuclear sites, they told him he was crazy.

But he recalled one physician taking him aside and saying that if he wanted the real answers, he would have to get them at medical facilities in a different country.

RECORD-KEEPING CRITICIZED

While France has spent millions of dollars on nuclear tests, its gathering of health statistics in French Polynesia during the early years of nuclear testing has been sorely lacking, critics say.

The official cancer registry of French Polynesia has existed only since 1985. As late as 1988, only 60 percent of cancers were being recorded in French Polynesia, critics say.

Death certificates became compulsory after 1981 but the cause of death is not always listed.

"The statistics are very badly gathered and very badly used," said Marie-Therese Danielsson, author of the book "Poisoned Reign," published in 1986.

Until 1985, the main hospital in French Polynesia was controlled by the military. Patients who had major medical problems were flown to France.

The physicians group *Medecins Sans Frontieres*, has charged that the French government failed to fulfill its ethical responsibility toward those potentially at risk from atmospheric testing.

The group, in its review of information this year, said no reliable health statistics were available to see if people were adversely affected as a result of 41 atmospheric tests.

"If such data do exist, they are not available in the public domain," the group said.

The group in July recommended French Polynesia improve its registry of cancer patients, publish all available facts on the health of French nuclear workers, and track the health of the general population.

It also called for improving health care access for residents of Gambier and Tureia, islands close to Mururoa.

Roger Ducouso, director of radiological protection for the French defense department, said he doesn't think medical tests for the people in French Polynesia are necessary.

Ducouso said the radioactive fallout was so low in dosage that there is no possibility of chromosome damage.

Ducouso said the high rate of thyroid cancer among Polynesians in French Polynesia is an ethnic characteristic and is common among Polynesians in Hawaii, New Caledonia and New Zealand. He said during the years of testing at Mururoa and Fangataufa, no one died or got sick from radioactivity.

CASE MAY BE HARD TO PROVE

Haoa disagrees but doesn't know if he'll ever be able to prove it. He knows information about his health was recorded while he was working at the nuclear test sites. He said he took a physical every three weeks, including a blood test.

Haoa, who claims he witnessed more than 30 atmospheric tests, recalled viewing one from about 45 miles away that produced a mushroom cloud rising more than 1,300 feet.

He and other workers would return to the test sites a few hours to a few days later, depending on the wind direction. He wore a special suit to shovel sand over contaminated areas. Later, he and other workers built walls and bunkers over the sandy areas.

At Fangataufa, employees who arrived by air went into an enclosure and entered a bus

to travel to parts of the atoll. Signs outside warned workers not to walk across the lagoon. One day, a friend did. That night, his friend died, Haoa recalled.

[From the Honolulu Star-Bulletin, Oct. 9, 1995]

FRANCE CLAIMS NO RADIATION INCREASE
FROM TEST

PARIS.—France said today that its recent test of a nuclear warhead with the explosive force of just below 110,000 tons of TNT had not raised radiation levels at its Fangataufa atoll testing site in the South Pacific.

Measurements taken at the site in French Polynesia found the same low "background" level of radioactivity after the Oct. 1 test as before the blast, European Affairs Minister Michel Barnier wrote to EU Environment Commissioner Ritt Bjerregaard.

The level of radioactivity on the atoll corresponds to weak natural background levels, Barnier said in his letter to Bjerregaard, which was sent on Friday.

A copy of the letter has been released by the French Foreign Ministry.

Bjerregaard has complained that France prevented European Commission experts from visiting Fangataufa and refused to turn over data on radioactivity in the water and marine life around the Mururoa atoll, where the first French nuclear test in the current series took place on Sept. 5.

Barnier, in his letter, dismissed her complaints, saying the commission experts were allowed to visit more sites than had initially been planned and were given all the data they sought.

[From the Congressional Research Service, the Library of Congress, Washington, DC]

Source: *Le Monde*, August 2, 1995, n.p.

PARIS PUBLISHES FIRST LIST OF ITS NUCLEAR
TESTS

François Mitterrand was the first French President to authorize a greater number. More than two hundred shots since 1960, three caused initial contamination.

France has just published for the first time a complete and detailed list of her nuclear tests since 1960, the date of the first test in the Sahara. This list, which contains the code name for each operation, the hour of the explosion, place and explosive power released has been published in a general survey (three volumes and a fourth in preparation) of nearly 670 pages published jointly by the Administration of Military Applications (DAM) for the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and the management of the Centers for Nuclear Experimentation (DIRCEN). It appears that in toto France has had 240 launches, of which 12 are classified. It was François Mitterrand who was the one of all the heads of state during the Fifth Republic to order the—by far—the greatest number of tests.

In the Sahara between February 1960 and February 1966, France initiated 17 launches in all (four atmospheric tests and 13 underground tests at the bottom of a mine in a mountain. In Polynesia, between July 1966 and July 1991, France undertook 175 tests (41 in the atmosphere and 78 underground ones in shafts dug in the crown of coral atolls and 56 underground ones in shafts sunk into the lagoon.) The Mururoa Atoll was used for the greatest number of shots (163). There were also 12 tests carried out on Fangataufa, about 40 kilometers away.

TWELVE "SECURITY" SHOTS

Of all the tests three were of the same kind: It concerned dropping a life-size weapon from a plane (a Mirage IV, a Mirage III-E, and a Jaguar) in July 1966, in August of 1973, and in July, 1974 several dozen kilo-

meters away from Mururoa Atoll. These gravitational weapons were the NA-22 (60 kilotons) and the AN-52 (20 kilotons) then in use in the French Air Force. There were replaced by the ASMO missile, weighing 300 kilotons.

To the above total must be added 12 security experiments on Mururoa between July 1966 and November 1989. The security shots were intended to verify whether the weapon was safe, i.e., that it would not explode inopportunistly when subjected to external pressures of shock, uncontrolled vibrations, or fire. Security bolts are thought to be able to stop the launching of the weapon. These bolts also have a more political purpose, as the head of the government is the one who in the last resort would be the one to start the nuclear conflagration—if need be—by raising the bolts by remote control.

Most of the tests, including the Sahara ones, were moderate- or low-energy ones. So, just to stay with Polynesia, 63 tests (18 atmospheric tests and 45 underground ones) developed a force of between 5 to 20 kilotons (the energy emitted at Hiroshima was about 18 kilotons). Likewise 56 tests (11 atmospheric and 45 underground) were between 20 and 200 kilotons. Finally 54 tests (10 atmospheric and 44 underground) emitted energy between 150 and 1000 kilotons. Only three atmospheric shots (the first in May of 1968 on Fangataufa, and the second in August of the same year on Mururoa) developed very high energy, higher than a megaton.

The tests, according to AEC engineers caused initial contamination. The first, named "Ganymede" was an atmospheric shot under a balloon on Mururoa in July 1966. The second, called "Rigel" was an atmospheric (the bomb was put on a barge) in September 1966 on Fangataufa. The third one, called "Parthenope" was an atmospheric shot under a balloon [sous ballon] in August 1973 on Mururoa. The areas had to be decontaminated, i.e., surface sediments freed from radioactivity.

The comparisons undertaken afterwards by French technicians with the news being broadcast at the time by the New Zealanders—at the time France issued no statements concerning the testing—show that the method of detection using seismic sensors at a distance from the explosion is not reliable.

THREE TIMES MORE THAN DE GAULLE

If the error in assessing energy is greater than 100 percent in 20 percent of cases, which means that the detection by New Zealand stations of the shock caused by the underground test overestimated by a factor of two the actual power of the bomb tested in Polynesia. This method of oversight is, at present, the only one available, if you exclude direct espionage on test sites themselves or in the laboratories which subsequently use the results obtained. Its non-reliability could prove to be disturbing in the long run during discussions on the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty in Geneva, in dealing with countries likely to carry out clandestine low-energy tests in areas difficult to reach or prohibited from any one site control.

A final observation may be made from this information, published for the first time from an official French source. Between February of 1960 and August of 1968 (there were no tests in 1969), General De Gaulle authorized 30 shots: the 17 recorded in the Sahara and 13 more in Polynesia. Between July 1981 and July 1991 (the moratorium was declared in April 1992), Francois Mitterrand ordered 86 tests. During a period of time comparable enough for the two men, give or take a few months—Mitterrand undertook roughly three times the number of tests than did the founder of the Fifth Republic and theoretician of dissuasion.

However, despite this pronuclear zeal, history will no doubt remember that in 1992, Mitterrand decreed without prior consultation with the administration, chiefs of staff or AEC officials a unilateral suspension of French tests, which General de Gaulle defied the international community by deciding in 1960 to launch the first French tests in the Sahara, while the United States (and hence Great Britain, which tested on American territory) and the ex-Soviet Union were observing a joint moratorium.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WELDON of Florida). The Chair at this time before entertaining a motion to adjourn, will declare a recess.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the House will stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 54 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DREIER) at 1 o'clock a.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2491, 7-YEAR BALANCED BUDGET RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1995

Mr. SOLOMON, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-292), on the resolution (H. Res. 245) providing for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2491) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 105 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1996, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to proceed out of order for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DREIER). The Chair wishes to inform the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON] that after midnight, it is not in order to proceed for 5 minutes under the special order arrangement, but the gentleman is recognized for 1 minute and the Chair would like to inform the gentleman that he will be very generous with the 1 minute.

Mr. SOLOMON. I thank the Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the rule that we have just filed is the enabling legislation to bring the so-called reconciliation bill to the floor, which will guarantee that this body is going to act fiscally responsible for the next 7 years and bring about a balanced budget.

Mr. Speaker, the Chair knows, and I know, that the single most serious problem facing this Nation today is the