

antienvironmental voting record of the Republicans in this Congress.

HAITI

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

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I am not going to address the subject of the environment today, but I happen to be a Republican. I believe that the environment knows no partisanship and it should know no extremism.

I think the environment is something we are all concerned about. I am proud as a Republican that under Republican leadership we have finally gotten some kind of relief for the Florida Everglades in my home State under Republican leadership, something we have been trying long to do. So there are indeed many sides of the story about who is doing what to help out the environment.

Mr. Speaker, I return to the floor to talk about Haiti today because I want to be certain that all of my colleagues are aware of the staff delegation report on Haiti that was issued last week. Although I hoped for good news for both the American taxpayers who footed the \$2 billion plus bill for United States operations in Haiti and for the Haitian people, there doesn't seem to be much. In fact, more than anything, this report reinforces the idea that the White House has been glossing over the rough spots in Haiti—hailing it as a success—and hoping that no one would dig deep enough to know the difference. The staff delegation concluded that little progress, if any, is being made on compliance with the Dole amendment regarding political murders in Haiti. In fact, they see little chance of those conditions being met in the foreseeable future. These investigations may in fact be irreparably tainted because the Haitian special investigative unit has been colonized by three American lawyers working for the Government of Haiti.

Whether or not these individuals will be more interested in protecting their meal ticket or in getting to the bottom of the killing remains open for question, but it is a question that should be asked.

Beyond these specific investigations, the report also notes that the United States embassy in Haiti continues to have a passive policy on human rights violations. One might ask why the White House does not seem to understand the actions they decried during the coup are no less unacceptable in post-Cedras Haiti.

The report also finds that there are probably more rough spots than smooth ones with regard to law and order. The Haitian National Police are not always readily accepted by the Haitian people, but nothing can excuse the heavyhanded responses we have seen from them in places like Cite Soleil.

In addition, the staff delegation reports that there are at least four other armed governmental security units with unclear chains of command, but about whom there are credible reports of serious human rights abuses.

On the economic front, the news is little better. More than 60 percent of the Haitian national budget is still sustained by foreign dollars and Haitians still rely heavily on food aid and remittances from abroad. The lack of tangible progress on privatization and other reforms, added to the pervasive breakdown in law and order, continues to act as a damper on investment. Ultimately, the staff delegation concluded that private investment in Haiti is unlikely to even reach the low baseline level of 1985 before this century ends.

In terms of United States development projects in Haiti, the delegation found that the majority of the projects they reviewed failed to meet the one test that matters: Sustainability. In other words, we are feeding Haitians fish today but we are not teaching them to catch their own for tomorrow.

There are many more issues raised in the report, but I want to draw attention to the section entitled "Clinton Administration Politicization of Haiti Policy." The Congress has long been frustrated by the lack of good information from the administration regarding United States operations in Haiti, but that is only half of the story.

The staff delegation found that the administration is going beyond mere stonewalling to scapegoating and what they called a sustained and coordinated interagency effort designed to blame the legislative branch for the shortcomings of its own policies in Haiti.

This finding is based on numerous instances when incomplete, inaccurate, and intentionally misleading information about the role that this Congress has played in Haiti was provided by the White House to staff, the AID mission, officials of the Government of Haiti, and to the Haitian business community.

This just adds to the evidence to suggest that of all of the items on the list of things the Clinton administration's policy in Haiti has lacked over the past 3 years, the most important item is candor. Whether we are fibbing to ourselves about what is happening in Haiti or to the Haitians about what is happening in Washington isn't the issue. Either way, the net effect has been to undercut genuine efforts to bring peace, prosperity, and democracy to that small Caribbean nation.

That, Mr. Speaker, is the real tragedy here and we should begin hearings based on the staff report.

REPUBLICANS AND EARTH DAY

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, April 22, was Earth Day, the 26th

anniversary of Earth Day. Because we were not in session yesterday, we had an opportunity to be in our districts and in my case in New Jersey and to celebrate the day by participating in various events and talking about some of the environmental issues that are important to America these days.

It is very unfortunate though that last year, in 1995, when Speaker GINGRICH and the Republican majority and the Republican leadership first took office and it was the 25th anniversary of Earth Day, we saw a systematic effort on the part of the Republican majority, the Republican leadership, to try to tear down 25 years of environmental progress that had been made on a bipartisan basis in this Congress and with the cooperation of Presidents, again both Democrat and Republican.

Today, because of the fact that many in the Republican leadership—specifically the Speaker—saw that the efforts, those efforts to tear down environmental protection, to weaken environmental laws, to not provide funding for enforcement and for investigation against polluters, because that effort did not meet a favorable response with the American public and because the polling the Republican leadership did showed very emphatically that the public did not like the antienvironmental tactics that the Republican majority here was taking, all of a sudden now we see Speaker GINGRICH and the Republican majority saying that, or trying to give the impression that, somehow they are pro-environment.

Today for the first time we have three or more environmentally friendly bills that are going to be brought to the floor of the House. It is no accident that it is the day after Earth Day. Just like planting trees and visiting zoos and other things that GINGRICH had suggested that Republican Members do, now he is proposing legislation on the day after Earth Day to try to basically give the impression that the GOP is environmentally friendly. They are not. Like a wolf dressed in sheep's clothing, many of the Republicans in this body are trying to give off the false appearance of concern for the environment and the health and safety of the American people. But they have worked consistently in this Congress to gut successful environmental laws such as the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, Superfund, and the Safe Drinking Water Act. They have voted to substantially reduce funding for key environmental agencies such as the EPA and the Interior Department. They have tied the hands of these agencies by attaching antienvironmental riders onto their appropriation bills.

These bills that we will be voting on today are nothing more than a figleaf being used to hide the shameful voting record of many Republican Members on the environment. Unfortunately, the leaf they have chosen just is not big enough.