

disastrous tragedies of broken homes and children languishing in foster care. This is not just a handful of stories. There are many, many, many from all across the country.

Madam Speaker, this issue did not just develop overnight. I have been trying since the beginning of this Congress to get the Committee on Resources and the native American community to help me to address this issue. If the Indian community is affronted, I am sorry. I wish they would have answered my letters and come to my meetings. But, as it is, we did the best that we could to try to develop a fair solution.

Madam Speaker, as was said before, this is a happy bill. It is a good day for this Congress. I would urge all my colleagues to cast a vote in strong support of adoption and in support of keeping loving families together. Vote "yes" on the rule and the bill, and vote "no" on any attempt to weaken this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my concerns regarding the modified closed rule for H.R. 3286. While I applaud the fact that this legislation would make it possible for more families to provide a loving and permanent home for adoptive children, I am concerned that this bill might not recognize that cultural sensitivity, without delaying adoption, is important to give the child the full measure of their background.

Madam Speaker, approximately one-half of the children awaiting adoption today are minorities. In my home State of Texas, the number of children under the age of 18 living in foster care in 1993 was 10,880. This represents an increase of 62.4 percent from 1990, and the number continues to climb. Similarly, the number of children living in a group home in 1990 was 13,434. Approximately one half of these 13,434 children are minorities. There are wonderful foster care parents but these numbers of children in non-permanent homes are way too high.

The sponsors of this legislation argue that current law, which states that race cannot be used as the sole factor in making an adoption placement but can be used as one of multiple factors in the decision, has resulted in adoptions being delayed or denied because of race. This of course is the result of local agencies misinterpreting the law. Should we not penalize directly the agencies incorrectly using the law? According to the sponsors, because of the inherent bias among many social workers, the real-world outcome of current law is that race ends up becoming the sole factor when placements are made. I have worked with social workers and they consistently over-all try to work in the best interest of the child.

While I do not believe that race should be the sole criteria in adoption placements, I do believe that we should be sensitive to cultural backgrounds. Had I been permitted, I would have offered an amendment to this bill which would have required that in making adoptive parent placements, the State or appropriate entity shall make every effort to ensure that a prospective adoptive parent is sensitive to the child's ethnic or racial background. It should not, however, delay drastically such adoption.

Adoptive parents and children need not be of the same race. However, it is important that

adoptive parents are sensitive to the cultural backgrounds of the children they adopt. It is important that such children grow up in an environment that is respectful and appreciative of the child's heritage. Unfortunately, our society is not color blind, and therefore States and agencies must ensure that adoptive parents of a different race from the minority and Indian children are sensitive to the issues that may arise as the child gets older, including discrimination and questions the child may have about his or her cultural background.

In no way, however, should this policy result in children languishing in foster homes for extended periods of time or in adoptions being delayed or denied when loving, caring parents are ready to adopt.

I urge my colleagues to consider these issues so that we can make better adoptions for all children, including minority children, while not delaying or denying adoptions.

Ms. PRYCE. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3230, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997

Mr. SOLOMON, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-570) on the resolution (H. Res. 430) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3230) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1997 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 1997, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING AMENDMENT PROCESS FOR BUDGET RESOLUTION

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

Mr. SOLOMON. Madam Speaker, the Budget Committee is expected to order the budget resolution reported later tonight. Copies of the resolution approved by that committee will be available for review in the office of the Budget Committee.

The Rules Committee is planning to meet next Wednesday, May 15, to grant a rule which may limit the kind of amendments offered to the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1997.

Members are strongly advised to submit only amendments in the nature of a substitute which provide for a balanced budget not later than the year 2002.

Any Member who is contemplating an amendment to the budget resolution should submit 55 copies and a brief explanation by noon on Tuesday, May 14,

to the Rules Committee, room H-312 in the Capitol.

Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel and the Congressional Budget Office to ensure that their amendments are properly drafted and should check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain their amendments comply with the rules of the House.

ADOPTION PROMOTION AND STABILITY ACT OF 1996

Mr. ARCHER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 428, I call up the bill (H.R. 3286) to help families defray adoption costs, and to promote the adoption of minority children, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 428, the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the bill is adopted.

The text of H.R. 3286, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 3286

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Adoption Promotion and Stability Act of 1996".

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—CREDIT FOR ADOPTION EXPENSES

Sec. 101. Credit for adoption expenses.

TITLE II—INTERETHNIC ADOPTION

Sec. 201. Removal of barriers to interethnic adoption.

TITLE III—CHILD CUSTODY PROCEEDINGS AFFECTED BY THE INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT OF 1978

Sec. 301. Inapplicability of the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 to child custody proceedings involving a child whose parents do not maintain affiliation with their Indian tribe.

Sec. 302. Membership and child custody proceedings.

Sec. 303. Effective date.

TITLE IV—REVENUE OFFSETS

Sec. 400. Amendment of 1986 Code.

Subtitle A—Exclusion for Energy Conservation Subsidies Limited to Subsidies With Respect to Dwelling Units

Sec. 401. Exclusion for energy conservation subsidies limited to subsidies with respect to dwelling units.

Subtitle B—Foreign Trust Tax Compliance

Sec. 411. Improved information reporting on foreign trusts.

Sec. 412. Comparable penalties for failure to file return relating to transfers to foreign entities.

Sec. 413. Modifications of rules relating to foreign trusts having one or more United States beneficiaries.

Sec. 414. Foreign persons not to be treated as owners under grantor trust rules.

Sec. 415. Information reporting regarding foreign gifts.

Sec. 416. Modification of rules relating to foreign trusts which are not grantor trusts.

Sec. 417. Residence of trusts, etc.