

SUPPORT FOR WEI JINGSHENG

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

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I simply want to associate myself with all of those who are concerned about the news reports begun by Reuters, quote "China imposes new punishments on dissident Wei."

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As somebody who has supported opening a dialog with the Chinese Government, I simply want to say that I hope that the Secretary of State is going to make the strongest possible representation on behalf of Mr. Wei, that the United States Government is going to insist on an accounting for what is happening to him and that we are going to make clear to the Chinese Government that our commitment to human rights, our concern for political prisoners and our insistence on some standard of decency are real, run across all of American society, and that they should not assume that one vote one way or the other on a particular item indicates that they have a blank check to oppress human beings.

I appreciate the gentlewoman from California for bringing this to the House's attention. I hope that Secretary Albright will make the strongest possible representation on this issue.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SCARBOROUGH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. SCARBOROUGH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

CLINTON'S ENDORSEMENT OF THE NEW EPA AIR REGULATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. KNOLLENBERG] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my absolute disappointment, frankly disgust with the President's decision endorsing the EPA's stricter regulations on air pollution. The President says that the reason for imposing these new rigorous regulations was because he, and I, quote, thinks kids ought to be healthy. I agree with him. But I also think it is in the best interest of America's kids if their parents are able to remain employed.

And frankly, the new proposals may in fact hurt our kids. The current clean air standards already require cities to have emission-control plans to ensure the air is cleaner each year. As stated in the June 24 Wall Street Journal, current emission control plans will be thrown out while the new ones are being written. This will actually slow,

slow the clean air progress perhaps for years. And in the process our workers will be placed at risk. The unions know these standards will cost workers their jobs. That is why many are opposing the EPA's stricter standards.

I think we need to ask ourselves, when is enough enough? How many jobs must we lose to clean up the air more than it is? There is a point of diminishing returns where the cost far outweighs any benefits. Mr. Speaker, the Browner-Gore-Clinton EPA standards reaches that point.

We have made great progress in the last 20 years. Today the air is cleaner than it has ever been. When our current standards were put in place, the majority of our States and communities could not comply. Today over 96 percent, over 96 percent of our communities in nearly every State is able to comply with the current standards. Compliance has carried an expensive price tag but improving our environment and our air was necessary to protect the future of our country.

I believe we have succeeded. Now is not the time to turn the tables on these successes and apply more regulations and tougher standards on our communities, our workers and our families.

Right now, Mr. Speaker, the President is about to make perfect the enemy of good. Pushed by the most radical, including the Vice President and EPA Administrator Carol Browner, he is about to sacrifice our workers, our jobs and our economy at the altar of perfect air.

I and many others are not ready to blindly follow. I think we know the facts. We studied the circumstances and we have seen the data. For example, a New England Journal of Medicine study has said our children are harmed more by cockroaches, dust mites and mold than by our current air. Only 4 of the EPA's 21 scientists who serve on the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee actually supported the tougher standards that the President has endorsed. Even Newsweek provided a feature issue on how to protect your children from asthma. And almost nothing in that article, nothing focused on our current air standards as the problem.

The PR game has begun and the President is beginning to play his part on the bully pulpit. But I would suggest we not buy the snake oil that is being sold. His evidence is razor-thin and the costs are steep for our communities, our businesses, our workers, and our families.

Today we have a strong coalition, Republicans included, Democrats, business leaders, workers, who oppose these new regulations. I believe we need to stop the new EPA regulations before they do damage to America.

We need to commend our communities for the great progress that they have made on clean air and progress they have made. Instead, it seems President Clinton wants to reward them by punishing them with these im-

possible standards which they may never ever be able to meet.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET REGARDING CURRENT LEVELS OF SPENDING AND REVENUES REFLECTING ACTION COMPLETED AS OF JUNE 12, 1997 FOR FISCAL YEARS 1997-2001

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. KASICH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KASICH. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Committee on the Budget and pursuant to sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, I am submitting for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an updated report on the current levels of on-budget spending and revenues for fiscal year 1997 and for the 5-year period, fiscal year 1997 through fiscal year 2001.

This report is to be used in applying the fiscal year 1997 budget resolution (H. Con. Res. 178), for legislation having spending or revenue effects in fiscal years 1997 through 2001.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET,
Washington, DC, June 19, 1997.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: To facilitate application of sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, I am transmitting a status report on the current levels of on-budget spending and revenues for fiscal year 1997 and for the 5-year period fiscal year 1997 through fiscal year 2001.

The term "current level" refers to the amounts of spending and revenues estimated for each fiscal year based on laws enacted or awaiting the President's signature as of June 12, 1997.

The first table in the report compares the current level of total budget authority, outlays, and revenues with the aggregate levels set by H. Con. Res. 178, the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1997 as adjusted pursuant to 606(e) of the Budget Act for continuing disability reviews. This comparison is needed to implement section 311(a) of the Budget Act, which creates a point of order against measures that would breach the budget resolution's aggregate levels. The table does not show budget authority and outlays for years after fiscal year 1997 because appropriations for those years have not yet been considered.

The second table compares the current levels of budget authority, outlays, and new entitlement authority of each direct spending committee with the "section 602(a)" allocations for discretionary action made under H. Con. Res. 178 for fiscal year 1997 and for fiscal years 1997 through 2001. "Discretionary action" refers to legislation enacted after adoption of the budget resolution. This comparison is needed to implement section 302(f) of the Budget Act, which creates a point of order against measures that would breach the section 602(a) discretionary action allocation of new budget authority or entitlement authority for the committee that reported the measure. It is also needed to implement section 311(b), which exempts committees that comply with their allocations from the point of order under section 311(a).

The third table compares the current levels of discretionary appropriations for fiscal year 1997 with the revised "section 602(b)"