

However, we cannot adequately honor them unless we have first ensured them a safe and a healthy life-style.

Americans age 65 and older are the fastest-growing segment of our population. In just 2 years, there will be over 35 million of them in this country. Unfortunately, some of the most critical programs that provide seniors with food, health care, and living assistance are now being threatened.

The Older Americans Act has not been reauthorized since 1995. The programs are running out of funding. As a result, seniors throughout this country are suffering.

I have heard from many back home about how these cuts are affecting their lives. I have received many letters from seniors telling me their stories of having to be on a waiting list for 3 years just to get something like Meals on Wheels.

The majority party in this House must promise, and there is no better time than this month of May to get working on the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act. We must complete this work before the 105th Congress adjourns. If not, then essential programs like Meals on Wheels, nutritional services, and elder abuse prevention programs are not going to reach some of our neediest seniors.

Throughout the decades of its existence, the Older Americans Act has served our Nation's aging population well. These programs are important not only because they help seniors maintain a healthy life-style, but they also bolster seniors' independence and their sense of dignity. If we are to truly honor our Nation's seniors this month, then we must reauthorize the Older Americans Act.

**COSPONSOR HOUSE RESOLUTION  
37, MASS TRANSIT PASSES FOR  
HOUSE EMPLOYEES**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, tens of thousands of Americans are celebrating Bike to Work Day by using bicycles to get to their place of employment. They are reinforcing the notion that using a bicycle can be fun; it can provide a healthy and convenient alternative to the private automobile. It will illustrate the impact that small steps can take to improve our quality of life.

At a time when we in Congress are worried about the health of the District of Columbia, when we are concerned about the funding of the Washington Area Mass Transit Authority, when we are looking at almost a billion dollars just to replace the Wilson Bridge here in the metropolitan area, and when, in Washington, D.C., consistently, the congestion is ranked in the top five in the country, bicycles make sense.

There is another simple step that we can take to improve the quality of life, and that is using more effectively the \$10 billion investment that we have made in the Washington Area Metro System. It, too, is a way to save money, protect the environment, and improve the quality of life. It has been part of the Federal policy for years to promote the use of transit as an alternative to the single occupant vehicle.

In my community of Portland, Oregon, we promote that alternative by using transit passes as a way to make it easier for employees while we save money. There are over 60 individual companies that provide transit passes to over 45,000 people in the community.

Just this last month, the largest private sector employer in Oregon, Intel, developed a program that is providing free passes for all 11,000 of its employees because it makes sense for the company and for the community.

Here in Washington, D.C., we have over 1,000 employers in the private sector, over 100 Federal agencies that together provide transit checks for over 50,000 commuters in the metropolitan area. Even the United States Senate for the last 6 years has provided transit passes for its employees who do not get free parking.

I would suggest that it is time for us in the House of Representatives to take a step back and look at our policies to get in step with what we suggest the rest of America could do. If only 5 percent of our employees used the transit program, one-half the percentage in the United States Senate, we could eliminate this parking on the parking lot immediately adjacent to the Washington Capitol South Metro Station. We could obviously save the upkeep, the 24-hour-a-day staffing that is there to protect the cars, and we could convert that block into a higher and better use. Certainly there are a number of opportunities for one of the most valuable pieces of real estate in Washington, D.C.

I have introduced House Resolution 37; and, currently, there are over 180 of my colleagues that have cosponsored it. I would suggest that it is time for the remaining people in the House to take a step back, think about what is good for the environment, think about what is fair for our employees, to not simply provide up to \$2,000 a year of free parking but provide an alternative for our employees who decide to do the right thing, protecting the environment by using mass transit.

It is good for the environment. It is good for our employees. It is a simple step to use our land more thoughtfully. Most important, it gets the House of Representatives in step with the Senate, with the rest of the Federal bureaucracy, and with what we are telling the private sector to do.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in sponsoring House Resolution 37.

**OPPOSE ANY EFFORT TO REPEAL  
THE PRESSLER AMENDMENT**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, as you know, last week, the Republic of India conducted five underground nuclear tests. The Clinton administration imposed sanctions after the second set of tests and I believe was correct in doing so. These sanctions are extremely severe and may affect as much as \$20 billion in funds to India.

Mr. Speaker, I am also concerned now that U.S. policy proceed toward an increased dialogue with India. We have made tremendous strides in improving relations between our two countries in recent years, and we must not go back to a Cold War strategy.

Unfortunately, there are Members of this body who feel that there is a need to impose further trade and economic sanctions. There may be an attempt to attach an amendment to the House defense authorization bill that would remove Most Favored Nation's status to India on textile and apparel products.

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Mr. Speaker, imposing further economic sanctions on India is meritless and counterproductive to current relations. It would only hurt the workers in India who make the textiles. This amendment to the defense authorization bill would derail U.S.-India relations at times when dialogue between the two democracies is paramount.

I was pleased to read that, at the G-8 summit in England, President Clinton stated that, although sanctions were necessary, he did not want to isolate India.

Mr. Speaker, India cited the threat from China and Pakistan as major reasons for conducting the nuclear tests. For years, Pakistan and China have cooperated in nuclear and missile development. A recent Congressional Research Service Center study showed that the Chinese government had transferred missile technology and nuclear equipment and materials to Iran and Pakistan numerous times. All of these transfers were clearly in violation of international and U.S. law, but they were not met with economic sanctions by the administration.

Mr. Speaker, China is a nuclear-armed dictatorship that had a border war in 1964 against India. Much to India's concern, China continues to maintain a nuclear presence in occupied Tibet and a large military force in Burma. It is unfortunate that the administration and Members of this body continue to overlook these facts.

India's nuclear tests must be understood in the context of the huge threat posed by China. The United States should be taking the military and nuclear threat from China's dictatorship more seriously.

Mr. Speaker, It is important that the United States continue dialogue with the Indian government at this time. We must urge the Indian government to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty immediately, without conditions. By signing the treaty, India could assume leadership on international negotiations on capping the accumulation of weapons-grade fissile terms.

It is also important that we not encourage an arms buildup in south Asia. I would urge Members of this body to oppose any effort to repeal the Pressler amendment. Repeal of the Pressler amendment would allow for the delivery of 26 F-16 jet fighters to Pakistan.

U.S. national security adviser Sandy Berger confirmed that the delivery of fighter jets was one of the proposals made to the Pakistan government recently to prevent them from conducting their own nuclear tests, and this is very bad policy. The repeal of the Pressler amendment and the delivery of the F-16 fighters would only increase tension within the region. The U.S. cannot help bring peace to south Asia if it continues to fuel an arms race in that region.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge President Clinton to continue with his plans to visit India later this year. It has been over 20 years since an American President has visited India. The President has not said he would cancel the trip, but I suppose there is some doubt about that. The President's trip would accelerate negotiations and dialogue on nuclear nonproliferation. Furthermore, it would show to the Indian people that the United States wishes to maintain a long-term relationship with India.

Mr. Speaker, now is the time to continue our dialogue with India and try to get India involved in signing the test ban treaty and trying to promote peace in south Asia. Let us move forward. Let us proceed with a dialogue. Let us not move backwards with our relations with India. We have come a long way, and this is the time now to show there can be restraint on both sides.

#### NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT TO STOP NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) is recognized during morning hour debates for 2 minutes.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, India, the world's largest democracy, detonated five nuclear weapons tests last week in the name of national security. This shocked the world and demonstrated in graphic fashion the perceived unfairness and inherent weakness of the international nuclear nonproliferation system now in place.

We can expect Pakistan to reciprocate and go nuclear, and I would not be surprised to see other countries like North Korea, Iran and Libya to resume their nuclear programs.

Mr. Speaker, this madness and insane rush towards nuclear proliferation is inevitable as long as we continue to perpetuate a 24-year make-believe situation that India could not explode a nuclear bomb, and 28 years of a highly discriminatory and one-sided world of nuclear haves and have-nots. If we are serious about stopping nuclear proliferation, the United States and the nuclear powers must take the first step and commit to a concrete timetable for nuclear disarmament and a verification process.

One of America's finest military officers, former Commander of the U.S. Strategic Command General Lee Butler, said,

Proliferation cannot be contained in a world where a handful of self-appointed nations both arrogate to themselves the privilege of owning nuclear weapons and extol the ultimate security assurance they assert such weapons convey. A world free of the threat of nuclear weapons is necessarily a world devoid of nuclear weapons. The United States should make unequivocal its commitment to the elimination of nuclear arsenals and take the lead in setting an agenda for moving forthrightly toward that objective.

Mr. Speaker, at this important time of peace, we should pay close attention to General Butler's concerns and foresight.

Mr. Speaker, whether we like it or not, India is now an official member of the so-called "Nuclear Club." But do not blame India for this. Blame our one-sided and faulty policy towards nuclear nonproliferation.

#### REAUTHORIZE THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT NOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is recognized during morning hour debates for 1 minute.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I have in my hand a sampling of hundreds of plates that I have received from senior citizens in my district when I visited them at centers or they have mailed them to me. The plates make a point. They are really about the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act. This act has not been reauthorized now for more than 2 years.

For 30 years, this act has provided the provisions for food, for health care and for a number of services that are very, very important to senior citizens. It allows them to have a quality of life in their homes, without which they would not have.

So I urge our colleagues, during the month of May, which is Senior Citizens Month, to make sure that they consider the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act.

We should not be feeding our senior citizens on paper plates. We really should be feeding them on fine China, because they have given their life for the betterment of their communities.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 12 noon.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 21 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 12 noon.

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#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON) at 12 noon.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

O gracious God, from whom we have come and to whom we belong, we are grateful for all Your blessings, for family and friends and colleagues, for freedom and opportunity, for the responsibilities we have as citizens.

We pray, O God, that we will be steadfast custodians of the resources of the land and use our time, talents and treasure in ways that promote the noble ideals that we hold dear. We especially pray for those who work for understanding and reconciliation among all peoples. May we see Your vision, gracious God, of a time when our communities and the world will enjoy a bounty of peace.

And now may Your blessing, O God, that is new every morning, be with us this day and evermore. Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GIBBONS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### DISPENSING WITH CALL OF PRIVATE CALENDAR

Mr. HYDE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the call of the Private Calendar be dispensed with.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.