

But there has been a rumbling on the floor during this last week that somehow Members are being told that they are voting against their veterans in order to get bridges and highways. And that is not the intentions of Members on either side of the House.

To make that clear, I have drafted the full Veterans Benefit Act of 1998. I would like Members to think about cosponsoring this bill. It is not the intentions of Republicans or Democrats to give short shrift to those World War II veterans who fought their way across Europe, who fought their way across the Pacific, or those veterans from Korea who feel they are forgotten or those from Vietnam, Grenada, Panama or Desert Storm.

We stand up for our veterans, and we want to fully fund their benefits. So I ask the Members today to cosponsor the full Veterans Benefit Act of 1998 as we pass this BESTEA bill and send the veterans a message. The U.S. Congress is with them. We think they have earned these benefits. We think they deserve them.

NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK ACT

(Mr. SNOWBARGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SNOWBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my wholehearted support for H.R. 59, the National Right to Work Act, and to implore my colleagues to give their support as well.

H.R. 59 simply eliminates those provisions of the National Labor Relations Act and the Railway Labor Act that empower unions bosses to steal the hard-earned money of American workers.

Over 60 years ago, Congress gave union officials the so-called right to force workers to pay union dues whether they want to or not. Union officials have wielded this power far too long. It is time to reintroduce freedom into the American workplace, the freedom to choose whether or not to pay union dues, freedom from compulsory unionism.

H.R. 59 corrects a terrible injustice. The coercion of America's workers to pay union dues is immoral and against the basic values of our country and even of the founders of the labor unions themselves.

Support restoration of freedom for the American worker. Support the repeal of the power to force people to pay dues to a union against their will. Support H.R. 59.

PROPOSITION 226 BALLOT INITIATIVE

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

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer another view on the message from the gentleman who just appeared in the well.

Several weeks ago, Congress overwhelmingly rejected a bid by right-wing foundations and corporate interests that would have tilted the political balance in America. By an overwhelming bipartisan vote, the House defeated a bill that included language similar to the Proposition 226 ballot initiative in California.

Funded by extreme out-of-state interest groups and large corporate donors, this California initiative is part of a national campaign by ultra-conservative groups. Their goal: to weaken the role of working men and women who oppose their right-wing views on issues such as the Patient Protection Act, or HMO reform, increasing the minimum wage, and reforming social security.

This attempt to dilute the political power of union members, sometimes called "paycheck protection" but more aptly named "paycheck deception", failed in Congress; and it should fail in California as well.

Despite the rhetoric we heard on the floor last night, big business already outpends labor by an 11-1 margin. Prop 226 would likely give big business even greater political advantage. Fellow Californians, vote no on Prop 226 on June 2.

U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY HARMED

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, according to press accounts, the Pentagon issued a classified report in May of 1997 about the Loral-led review commission's unauthorized release to China of its report on Communist China's latest rocket crash.

The report concluded that the United States national security has been harmed. Let me repeat that. The report concluded that the United States national security has been harmed. The White House claims otherwise but offers no explanation, nothing at all.

In February of this year, despite intense opposition from his own Justice Department, President Clinton gave permission to Loral to transfer highly sensitive missile information, particularly with respect to encryption, to the Communist Chinese government. Reportedly, the Chinese could use this information to perfect their missile and rocket programs. This was allowed despite an ongoing criminal investigation of Loral for earlier transfers of missile technology to Communist China.

This leaves many unanswered questions such as, how deeply was U.S. national security harmed? Did the campaign contributions to Loral and the Chinese government affect the decision? And why does the President insist that this decision was in the best interest of the American people?

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH BILL

(Mr. STENHOLM asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I come and take this 1 minute today to alert my colleagues in the House of Representatives of a rule that we are about to take under consideration concerning the agricultural research bill that is unprecedented.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGRICH), and his leadership, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) are about to do some tremendous damage to production agriculture all over this Nation. Because of the same manner in which they wrote the farm bill in his office, they are now writing a rule that is going, as I said, to do lasting damage to production agriculture.

For the first time in my legislative life, we have the nutrition community and the production agriculture committee agree on additional funding for crop insurance and other agricultural needs and restoring of some food needs and doing it in a budget-responsible way. The rule that we are about to consider undoes it all.

I want to alert my colleagues in the House, immediately after the 1-minute, I will urge a motion to adjourn until we can discuss this. And, hopefully, the leadership will go back upstairs and rewrite the rule in a fair way to let the conference report be considered by the full House.

CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS FROM COMMUNIST CHINA TO DNC

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

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a few questions that we will never ever hear asked by most of the folks on the other side of the aisle. I would like the American people to think about these questions and then ask themselves why, why are these questions not even being asked by the liberals in Congress?

Why did Communist China apparently contribute nearly \$3 million to the Democratic National Committee during the 1996 election campaign?

Were there any changes in U.S. foreign policy?

What were the results of all this foreign money into the Democrat Party?

Now, consider the last question very carefully. The problem, of course, is that one cannot know whether a change in U.S. foreign policy was made because of these campaign contributions or because a change was made for legitimate policy reasons based on our national interest. These are the concerns that we all should have.

One last question we will never ever hear from the other side. Who in the White House knew about these contributions to the DNC? Maybe the other side does not want to know who knew.