

H.R. 856 or S.472 would allow the American citizens in Puerto Rico to exercise their right to self-determination. They would give the American citizens in Puerto Rico an honest choice by providing congressionally approved and constitutionally sound definitions which explicitly detail the privileges and limitation of each of the status options.

In such a contest, statehood most probably would prevail. That apparently is not acceptable for the opponents of Puerto Rican self-determination. They imagine that the voters of all the territories overwhelmingly favored statehood before entering the Union and Puerto Ricans should do likewise.

But that simply is not the case. Most territories never even held referendums on statehood and, in some instances, the progress towards incorporation was advanced or stalled by whether or not the voters accepted their State constitutions. By this measure, voters in Colorado, Wisconsin, and Nebraska were decidedly ambivalent about the prospect of statehood, yet they all became States.

In Colorado's case, Congress passed an enabling act, but the citizens of the territory resoundingly rejected their first State constitution. A second State constitution was drafted and it prevailed by a narrow majority of 155 votes. But that is just the beginning of the story. President Andrew Johnson vetoed two statehood measures because Colorado's constitution differed substantially from the enabling act. Another 9 years passed before Colorado's voters managed to ratify a constitution compatible with the statehood measure.

Nebraska, for its part, could be nicknamed the reluctant State. Its voters rejected the first proposal floated for a convention to draft a State constitution and were happy to let the matter rest there. But 4 years later, Congress seized the initiative and, without a mandate from territorial residents, passed an enabling act for Nebraska.

□ 1300

The voters wanted nothing to do with it and wasted no time in defeating the second proposal for a State constitutional convention. Two years later, in a referendum which was plagued with irregularities, Nebraskans grudgingly consented to join the Union with statehood prevailing by a mere 100 votes.

Incorporating Texas into the U.S. was a cliffhanger as well. When the Republic of Texas and the U.S. each failed to ratify a treaty of annexation, Congress jettisoned the treaty process. It adopted a different strategy, drawing up a joint resolution for annexing Texas to the United States. Even that almost failed. In the Senate, the resolution squeaked by with just two votes to spare.

Last but not least, all of the States south of the Mason-Dixon line decided to secede from the Union in the 1860s,

but they were forced to remain against their will. How can anyone claim that in order for 3.8 million American citizens to be allowed a vote and to become a State or share as partners in equal terms a simple majority is not enough?

Given the historical record, we need to abandon this pretense, this exercise in revisionist history, that this Union was conceived and expanded without thoughtful reservations on the part of all participants. We need to reject unprecedented requirements which are designated to frustrate the exercise of democracy rather than enhance it. We need to extend to the American citizens of Puerto Rico the right to self-determination in the same way it was proffered to all the territories, freely. It is the only fair and just thing to do. It is the right thing to do for Congress and for our Nation.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BALLENGER). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. UPTON) at 2 o'clock.

PRAYER

The Reverend Kathleen Baskin, Greenland Hills United Methodist Church, Dallas, Texas, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Most gracious one full of goodness and mercy, justice and righteousness, we know You ache for Your people to be one, as You are one with us. We pray today with a desperate longing for what is wrong in our lives and the life of our global community to be made right.

Children gaze dispassionately upon their distended bellies, and youths strike out unmercifully against family, friends, peers, and we, entangled in our own chaotic lives, struggle fiercely to soothe the world's troubled soul. Instill in us all, most especially in Your faithful servants of this body, the vision, the passion, the commitment to move beyond self-interest and to move toward peace for all Your people.

Thankful for Your confidence in us, we pray. 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 Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT 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.

WELCOMING THE REVEREND KATHLEEN BASKIN

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, today I have been joined by my preacher, the Reverend Kathleen Baskin from Greenland Hills United Methodist Church in Dallas, Texas, and it is especially important for me to be here today with my preacher because, Mr. Speaker, every week when I go home, I am met by those people who are members of the church, who embrace me and my family and offer the very best to me as one of the Members of Congress, and so it is wonderful that she today is a part of that which we get to do to open the House of Representatives today.

Mr. Speaker, I give thanks not only for our heritage and our freedom, but the ability to share my preacher, a woman who speaks from the Bible, the Scripture, and who has abiding faith in our country and in our government.

So I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing Kathleen Baskin and myself to be a part of that which we do today. God bless America, and God bless Texas.

KEEP THE WORKERS AND GET RID OF THE TOP DOGS AND FAT CATS

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, last year the top dog at Bank One made \$9 million. The big barker at Edison Brothers made \$5 million. The kennel master at K-Mart made \$6 million.

Mr. Speaker, if that is not enough to potty train a Rottweiler, the big Doberman at AT&T made \$26 million, and do my colleagues know what he did? He got rid of 23,000 workers at AT&T.

Unbelievable. Big dogs go to the penthouse, American workers go to the dog house.

I think these companies are all screwed up. I think they should keep the workers and get rid of the fat cats at the top.

And listen to this very carefully: I say they can hire CEO's a lot cheaper in Mexico, too. Think about that.

HUMAN RIGHTS ATROCITIES BEING COMMITTED BY BURMESE MILITARY FORCES

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of persecuted religious believers in Burma also known as Myanmar. The Burmese Government engages in horrifying human rights violations against numerous religious and ethnic minorities.

I met a few weeks ago with a group of Christians from Burma. Reports tell of one Karen family which fled Burma after the military forced the husband to help build a pipeline for the UNOCAL and TOTAL oil companies. The husband escaped the forced labor, but soldiers hunted him down, then tortured his wife and seriously burned their 2-month-old baby. The baby died, and the rest of the family fled to refugee camps in Thailand.

This story is not unusual for the Karen and Chin peoples of Burma.

Mr. Speaker, I have photographs which reflect the atrocities committed by the Burmese military forces. The photos show the murder of a Karen man and woman. They are too horrible to describe and show, but if any Member wishes to see them privately, they can come to my office.

Human rights violations like this must not be allowed to continue. I urge the State Peace and Development Council to immediately cease these horrible human rights abuses.

SYRACUSE'S HALL OF FAME LACROSSE COACH ROY SIMMONS JR. RETIRES

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

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to my colleagues' attention an important occurrence in the world of collegiate sports and ask that they join me in saluting one of the sport of lacrosse's modern legends. Head coach of Syracuse University lacrosse Roy Simmons, Jr., who followed his father in making SU a national powerhouse in this increasingly popular sport, has announced his intention to retire this year. The entire sports community in central New York and others across America who love the game of lacrosse recognize the impact of this momentous decision.

Roy Simmons, Jr., was named to the lacrosse hall of fame in 1992. He has coached 140 all-Americans, four national players of the year, five national championship most valuable players, while winning six national championships. The 1990 national championship team was the first ever collegiate lacrosse team to be invited to the White House, where they met President Bush.

Roy Simmons, the most successful current intercollegiate lacrosse coach, has revolutionized the game and built a program at Syracuse University which is second to none. The fans, the team, the staff will miss his wisdom and humor. We wish him the very best in his retirement.

Thanks for the memories, Slugger.

SCHOOLCHILDREN SPENDING TOO MUCH PRECIOUS CLASS TIME TAKING NATIONALIZED TESTS

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, there they go again. The Clinton administration is again attempting to force nationalized tests upon our schoolchildren. Unfortunately the President believes that our students must spend more precious class time taking nationalized tests created by some bureaucrats in Washington who think they know what is best for our children.

As a former teacher, instead of testing our children again, we should give them more time to do what they are supposed to do in school, learn. What a novel idea. For the last year and a half, a bipartisan majority of the House and Senate has expressed the will of the people and fought the administration on the creation of national tests. Congress has made it clear to the President that Americans do not want another standardized national test.

Please call the Federal bureaucrats back to their desk and out of the classrooms. Let the parents, teachers and local schools decide how best to test and educate our children.

Local control is still the best control.

URGING THE PRESIDENT NOT TO GO TO TIANANMEN SQUARE

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, last week the world commemorated the ninth anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre where an estimated 2,000 unarmed prodemocracy activists were mowed down with machine guns and tanks on the orders from the Communist Chinese dictators. Later this month President Clinton plans to be received by the Beijing regime at that very site.

By doing the dictator's bidding, President Clinton will be disgracing the memories of those oppressed Chinese men and women who only wanted to enjoy the fruits of freedom, freedom that we as Americans take for granted. His presence at Tiananmen will be a setback for that cause and a public relations coup for the tyrants who routinely make a mockery of fundamental human rights.

Mr. Speaker, the United States has long been a beacon of hope for those around the world who long for the freedom that we enjoy. By joining the Communist dictators at Tiananmen, the scene of that horrible, horrible massacre, he will be insulting those throughout the world who aspire to be free.

Do not do it, Mr. President. Do not join the tyrants at Tiananmen Square.

THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS NEVER GIVE MONEY FOR NOTHING

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, you have to look at Missilegate and ask yourself one question: Why? Why would the Chinese Communists give millions of dollars in campaign contributions to the Democrat party and not the Republican Party? What is it that the Chinese Communists want? What is it the Chinese Communist Government, what is their top priority, the one thing they desperately want that the Republicans do not want to let them have? Could it be high technology?

The response from the other side is highly revealing. They say, "Well, Reagan and Bush did it, too," but did the Reagan and Bush administration give waiver authority to the Commerce Department? No. Did the Reagan and Bush administrations have monitoring systems in place to ensure that no technology was used for military purposes? Of course they did. Did the Reagan and Bush administrations take campaign money from the Chinese Communists? Of course not.

And one thing to consider, the Chinese Communists never, never, never give money for nothing.

ADMINISTRATION MUST END POLICY OF SUPPLYING MASS DESTRUCTION TO ANYONE WILLING TO PAY FOR IT

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, last weekend a bomb exploded on a Pakistani train. Pakistan in turn immediately blamed India, its longtime adversary, for the death and destruction and vowed revenge. For many Americans now this tragedy makes a potential of a nuclear exchange between Pakistan and India a very, very real occurrence.

But, Mr. Speaker, the most alarming part of this scenario is that this administration and Communist China are responsible for helping both Pakistan and India acquire their nuclear technology that now threatens the peace in our world. Americans are just learning that this administration and its Commerce Department are responsible for selling nuclear weapons and missile guidance technology to China. Then China nearly provided this technology that Pakistan needed for its fledgling nuclear program. Meanwhile U.S. companies like Digital and IBM were playing a huge role in India's advances by supplying them with supercomputers.

Mr. Speaker, this administration has let the fire-breathing nuclear dragon out of its cage. The time has come for this administration to end its policy of promoting and licensing mass destruction to anyone who is willing to pay for it.