

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

(Mr. BARTLETT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CONGRATULATIONS TO J. KIRK SULLIVAN

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

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend a good friend and an Idahoan who has spent many untold hours working for the betterment of his community, his business, our great State of Idaho and the country.

J. Kirk Sullivan has been a leader in Idaho's business community for many years, and now he is preparing to retire. It is important to note how his achievements and interests have made a difference for so many people, not only in Idaho but throughout the country. Although Kirk was not born in Idaho, and we are going to be willing to forgive him for that, much of his career has been spent working in Idaho. He will retire as a vice president of Boise Cascade Corporation.

He has been a leader in the pulp and paper industry and spent countless hours working with government officials to ensure that business operates in the best manner possible. Most recently he led a team to negotiate the resolution to a very difficult environmental issue, a proposal called the cluster rule. The original proposal would have shut down dozens of paper mills and cost hundreds of jobs.

□ 1815

The new proposal adopted with Kirk's leadership provided continued improvement in the industry's environmental performance and saved those critical jobs upon which families across this country rely.

It is this kind of effort by Kirk Sullivan finding common sense solutions that benefit both the environment as well as the economy and the jobs that our families depend on that has made him such an important leader in Idaho.

He has been honored for his service for Idaho's business and selected by the University of Idaho for various awards, including the Honorary Doctor of Science and a Presidential citation.

His community involvement is varied and reaches from the Children's Home Society of Idaho to the board of directors for the Boise Master Chorale Board, to the Idaho Congressional Awards Program.

I might note that I just came here from the Washington, D.C. National Congressional Awards Program in which the Idaho program which Kirk Sullivan so strongly supports was recognized as the strongest State program for the congressional awards system in America.

We just awarded the Gold Metal of Honor to six of Idaho's young, bright people who have come up through the ranks because of the leadership of people like Kirk Sullivan helping to make a difference for our youth. Kirk Sullivan has always sought out the best in his community and has found ways to highlight it.

I am pleased now to congratulate Kirk Sullivan for the tremendous efforts he has undertaken. We know that this is not the end of his service to Idaho and to his country, but I am pleased to count him among my many friends.

I along with many and most of the rest of Idaho, in fact, with the many friends that Kirk has in Idaho, wish him the very best in his retirement. Congratulations, Kirk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. DeLAURO addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CAMPAIGN FINANCE INVESTIGATION

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

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor tonight as a Member of the House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight in an effort to shed some light on what we have been doing.

The Committee on Government Reform and Oversight is one of the most important committees of Congress. When I came to Congress in 1993, I selected that committee because it is really one of the most important responsibilities in Congress.

Our committee really dates back to 1808 when the Founding Fathers began to see the creation of more and more of a Federal bureaucracy and Federal agencies. They did not really trust the appropriators, and they did not trust the legislators who created programs or those who funded the programs. They set up a separate investigative panel. This goes back to 1808, and that is the genesis of the committee on which I serve, the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

It is an important committee in Congress because it is vital to our system. There are many other systems that are similar to the American system but not that have all the checks and balances that the Founding Fathers have put together.

One of our most important responsibilities is to conduct investigations. If you go out and talk to the general public, my colleagues and many people say, well, we are investigating too much, or there is too much cost to investigations; and that really is not the case in our system. That is part of our system and part of the process.

The current Committee on Government Reform and Oversight is also known as the Burton Committee. It has been very difficult to serve on that committee and do an effective job.

The gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), myself, and other members of the committee are sent here in the stead of the public and the citizens to conduct their business, to look at investigating the agencies and activities at the Federal level. We have tried to take that on with a certain responsibility and fairness; and it has been, indeed, a very difficult task, even up to today.

Since February, we have been asking for a grant of immunity for four witnesses. We go first to the Department of Justice. This is in our campaign investigation of the foreign money that came into the 1996 campaigns. But we went first to the Department of Justice and requested that we could depose and have these witnesses testify and grant immunity that, back in February, we were granted.

Ever since then, Mr. Speaker, we have seen delay. We have seen one tactic to obstruct this investigation after another. Very frustrating. Back after, again, DOJ gave us permission in February and March, the first vote was to deny granting immunity by the Democrats on April 23, a second vote on May 13.

Finally, today, on the eve of the President going to China have we obtained permission and consent to get a grant of immunity to hear these witnesses to conduct the investigation.

I am concerned about the process, the delay, and obstruction to date. It is a serious matter for the Congress because they have managed now to obstruct this investigation, our responsibility under the Constitution, and what the people sent us here for until this date.

This is the last week this House will be in session before we go on recess. We come back in mid July, and we will be here for approximately 3 weeks. So the plan to obstruct, the plan to delay, the plan to subvert the very process that our Founding Fathers has put together has, indeed, succeeded; and it is unfair, because the American people have a right to know.

The very system that has been abused in this campaign finance process, the very system that set up this investigation and review and this cleansing that takes place through a committee like the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight has, in fact, been obstructed in its responsibility.

Then we have charges that we have been too broad in our responsibilities, in our investigation. We did not create Filegate. We had to investigate it. We did not create Travelgate. We had to investigate it. We did not create this fiasco with campaign financing. We have been charged to investigate it.

We have never in the history of this republic that I am aware of had seven independent counsels. The list goes on

and on. Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed in what has taken place in an important area of congressional responsibility.

BULLETPROOF VEST ACT

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

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to congratulate the House in its bipartisan efforts in adopting this Bulletproof Vest Act. This legislation was recently signed by the President. It was worked on by principally the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKEY), the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LOBIONDO) and others like myself who are part of the Law Enforcement Caucus who championed this legislation.

There are over 300 cosponsors, Mr. Speaker. This is a high number for any bill in the House. And it is endorsed by every single major law enforcement organization in the country: Fraternal Orders of Police, the Sheriffs' Association, the National DA's Association, and rightfully so.

With 600,000 police officers in the United States, the men and women who represent us in municipal departments and county police departments and State Departments all across the country, as there are 600,000 of them, 150,000 or 25 percent do not have the bulletproof vests which are so important to make sure that we ensure the safety and security of all of our police officers.

So under this bill, the Bulletproof Vest Act, \$25 million will be designated as part of the Federal budget in a matching program, 50/50, with Federal and local contribution, making sure that all of those 150,000 officers will now have a vest.

We want to make sure in the United States that having a bulletproof vest will be as standard as having a police shield for every one of our police officers. I know that from our own district attorney where I come from Montgomery, Pennsylvania, Mike Barino said it was the most important bill of the 105th Congress, that we pass this legislation.

So I am pleased that President Clinton has joined the House and Senate in agreeing that this bill is important and has just signed it into law.

We do not have to look to the officer of my hometown Abington township, Joe Dalton, who in 1992 was, in fact, working on a case with many other officers from other departments in apprehending a fugitive who had committed a bank robbery and then proceeded in a high-speed chase through several counties, townships, and municipalities only to keep the police at bay.

Frankly, when the case was continuing, Mr. Dalton, trying to apprehend the defendant, was shot at point-blank range. Had he not been wearing his bulletproof vest, we would have gone to a

cemetery and funeral the next day. But as such, because he had the bulletproof vest, we are much richer, and the country is more safe in knowing that people like Joe Dalton can continue to serve his community and our country.

So I am very pleased to thank the House for its efforts and look forward to working on other important law enforcement and crime prevention legislation as we continue this 105th Congress.

UNITED STATES ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. NEUMANN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. NEUMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to encourage my colleagues to take a deep breath and slow down, because things are happening very, very fast out here. When things start happening very, very fast in Washington, D.C., what happens is we lose track and we lose sight of what is going on; and the next thing you know, the taxpayers' money starts disappearing like it has done for a generation out here, and it starts disappearing very, very fast.

When this gets out of control, when spending gets out of control in this city, when we forget what had happened before 1995, we quickly get to a point where the idea of reducing taxes or paying off debt or restoring Social Security become impossibilities.

So I rise tonight, and I have not done this presentation in quite some time, but I think it is important, I think it is very important that we remember where it is we are at in this Nation; and that, even though we have come a long way, we have still got some problems facing our country.

This first chart that I brought with me tonight shows that the debt from 1960 to 1980 did not grow very much. But from 1980 forward, this debt has grown right off the wall. Although we made some good progress on it, now we need to remember that, even when we get to a balanced budget, we are here in this picture, and it is still a very, very, very serious problem facing our Nation. When we start talking about spending bills in this community, we cannot let ourselves lose sight of the fact that we are still deeply in debt.

For those that have not seen the number, we are currently \$5½ trillion in debt. The number looks like this. It is 5,500, and then it has three, six, nine more zeros after that. It is a huge, huge number.

I used to teach math, and I tried to translate this number so it would mean something to an average person watching this presentation and to my colleagues. If you take that number, 5½ trillion, and you divide it by the number of people in the United States of America, if every, man, woman, and child in the United States were going

to pay off just their share of this debt, it would be \$20,400 for every man, woman, and child in the United States of America.

For a family of five like mine, I have got three kids, and of course my wife at home, they have literally borrowed \$102,000 and again basically over the last 15 years.

Let me put that another way. In this community, they have made the decision to spend \$102,000 for every family of five more than they collected in taxes basically over the last 15 years.

The kicker is this bottom number down here, because, you see, this is not just funny money in Washington, D.C. They have to pay interest on this money. The average family of five in the United States of America today is paying \$580 a month every month to do absolutely nothing but pay the interest on this Federal debt.

When we think about the mess that we have been given or what has happened in this country, in this legacy that we are about to pass on to the next generation, it is this idea that we are paying this \$580 a month; that money belongs out there in the families. It should be the American people's money. When somebody goes to work to earn that money, it is their money. We should not be using it to pay interest on this debt that has been run up.

A lot of people go, well, shoot, that is not me. I do not have to worry about it. I do not have to pay \$580 a month in taxes, so it is not me. The reality of this is that, when you look at what you do in society, when you go in the store and buy a loaf of bread, when you buy your kids a pair of shoes, the store owner makes a profit selling the pair of shoes or selling that loaf of bread; or at least we hope they do, because if they do not, they are going out of business.

When they make a profit selling that loaf of bread or selling that pair of shoes, part of that profit gets sent out here to Washington D.C. in taxes. In fact, every group of five people in the United States of America, every family of five or every group of five is in fact paying \$580 a month one way or another to allow the interest on this debt to be paid.

When I came out here in 1995, when I was first elected, I came out of the private sector. I came out to this office, the first office I ever held of public office. In the private sector, I was a home builder. I started as a math teacher, and then we started a business in the basement of our home. We wound up building 120 homes a year, providing about 250 job opportunities here in America. It is really what our country is all about.

When I came out here, I came out here with an idea. I came out here with the idea, if we could get government spending under control, we could fix this problem. That idea was very different than the people that were here before.

What I brought with me is a chart that shows the old Gramm-Rudman-